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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Lead Thuringia SSD office is on Kurtstrasse, Weimar. Chef-Inspekteur Fritz Benzol is the commanding officer. Kommandeur (Cm) Koch, who lives in Rudolstadt, is chief of the interrogation section which occupies rooms 26-38 on the second floor of the building. Oberrat Riedel (aka Oberlander) is deputy chief for Thuringia. Polizeirat Wagner, Polizeirat Lorenz and ten others are members of the interrogation staff.
 2. The dimensions of the Kurtstrasse building are about 250 by 40 meters. It has three stories. Immediately behind the building is a courtyard which is surrounded by a wall. The SSD motor pool and garage are in this courtyard.
 3. There are three guard sections at the Weimar office: the gate watch at the right exit from the building to the courtyard, the personnel guard to the right of the main entry, and the cellar prison guard. The ground floor is barred and guarded by sentry posts. There are direct, barred stairs from the basement to the second floor.
 4. There are ten cells in the basement of the Kurtstrasse building. Cells number 1 through 5 are at times occupied by up to five people. Cell six is partly under water and is reserved for the most severe interrogations. Numbers 7 through 10 are individual cells. Guards are stationed near Cell 1; their telephone extension is No. 45. Chief of the guard detail, numbering twelve men and one woman, is VP-Heister Tiger.
 5. The Weimar jail has an average of 35 to 40 prisoners, who are, for the most part, charged with political and economic crimes. Only persons who undergo the most searching interrogation are imprisoned there. The cells have cement floors, no windows, artificial ventilation, and are spotlighted day and night. It is prohibited for prisoners to sleep on the wooden beds during the day. With the exception of guards and occasionally interrogators, prisoners do not come in contact with anyone. Shoe laces and trouser buttons are cut from the clothing of new arrivals.
 6. Interrogation of prisoners is mostly conducted during the night. All prisoners are led to interrogation with their hands bound behind their backs. Officers of the Soviet Control Commission in civilian clothes participate in the questionings. Each interrogator has a cover name.

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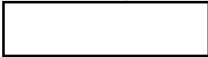
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- 7. In cases in which the Soviet Control Commission takes control, the prisoners are transferred to the Soviet jail on Thälmannstrasse, Weimar.
- 8. Prisoners who have been thoroughly interrogated by the SSD are sent from Kurtstrasse to the criminal police jail on Marienstrasse, Weimar. There is an average of 50 to 70 inmates in Marienstrasse. Transfers occur on Monday and Saturday of each week. For this purpose, two special police vehicles are used, each with seven cells (sic). The trucks are painted green and bear VP license plates.
- 9. The Erfurt SSD office is located on Strasse der Einheit. The Saalfeld office is on Sonnebergerstrasse. There is a twenty-cell prison for political prisoners in Erfurt, at Andreasplatz. This contained some former members of the Volkspolizei who had been accused of organizing a resistance group, as well as a number who were accused of aiding the Free Jurists. There were also about 50 prisoners from the Wismuth AG, Saalfeld, who had participated in the riots of 16-17 August 1951. They are to be tried before the supreme court in East Berlin, presumably in February 1952.

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10. Following are [redacted] SSD personnel, Thuringia:

- a. Chef-Inspekteur Fritz Menzel [redacted]
- b. Kommandeur Koch [redacted]
- c. Oberrat Böbel (aka Oberländer) [redacted]
- d. VP-Rat Wagner [redacted]
- e. Hauptwachtmeister Bruno Müller, Eisenach [redacted]
- f. VP-Meister Tigor [redacted]
- g. Oberrat Lorenz [redacted]
[redacted] Chief of SSD Saalfeld office.
- h. Colonel Schur, Chief, SCC, Weimar, Interrogation Section [redacted]