

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)  
SUBJECT Information on the DDR Railroad System

REPORT NO. [Redacted]  
CD NO. 25X1  
DATE DISTR. 9 June 1952  
NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [Redacted]  
DATE OF INFO. [Redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW) 25X1  
SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1 [Redacted]

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1. [Redacted]

2. [Redacted] 1,000 km of trackage were scheduled to be electrified. [Redacted] the railroad lines in the Halle railroad district, which had been operated electrically until the electric equipment was dismantled by the Soviets, will be affected by this measure. The equipment is to be furnished by the Soviets. [Redacted] the main difficulty for the realization of this project would be the limited capacity of the power stations available.

3. [Redacted] the Directorate General, Railroads, Berlin, had made available two special relief trains for use in cases of disaster. Each of these trains, which were modeled after the former relief train "Bavaria", consists of 10 four-axle baggage cars, converted to their special purpose at the railroad car factory in Goerlitz, and including an operating room, coach and a delousing station. Each of the trains, which were put in operation on 5 March 1952, is equipped to care for 6,000 persons. (2)

4. Three fire-fighting trains, provided with generators, were being built at the Delitzsch railroad repair shop for the Schwerin railroad district. Each railroad district of the Soviet Zone was to be provided with such a train by 31 March 1952. [Redacted] the trains would be assigned to the Bahnbetriebswerke (railroad maintenance headquarters) and carried in the category of special trains. In February and March, fire protection procedures were particularly stressed and the status of all available water reservoirs had to be checked. (3)

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET [Redacted]

25X1

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5. On 14 November 1951, the Cottbus regional railroad headquarters issued an order, according to which, all tabulations of axle pressures and maps up to a scale of 1:100,000 were to be treated as classified material. (4)

6. [redacted], in December 1951, railroad stations in Thuringia had to turn in reports on roads to the stations, local population figures, load capacity of railroad bridges, parking facilities for vehicles, etc. In March 1952, two Soviet Army officers travelling by inspection trolley through the railroad district checked on the correctness of these reports. The officers declared that the Buttstadt and Rossleben railroad station would have to be given priority. The Erfurt regional railroad headquarters was ordered to have the ramps of these stations reconditioned without delay. In connection with this order, these railroad stations were enlarged, approach roads reinforced and facilities for the loading and unloading of vehicles improved. (5)

7. By order of the SGC, Department I of the Directorate General, Railroads, Berlin, has initiated a campaign for the prevention of accidents and sabotage. A special committee has been formed. It was to have been ready to function by late March. (6) According to another order of the SGC, the Materials Procurement Division of the Directorate General, Railroads, was to report, by the middle of March, on the storage capacity of all filling stations and fuel or oil tanks.

## [redacted] Comments.

- (1) This statement confirms information [redacted] according to which a 25X1 second series of 20,000 former German freight cars was to be returned by the U.S.S.R. The electrification of the lines also confirms the previous report, which reported that the electrical equipment required, including 100 electrical locomotives, was to be furnished by the U.S.S.R.
- (2) The so-called relief train Bavaria in use prior to World War II consisted of motor vehicles which were equipped for medical care and for feeding large numbers of people in the event of disasters. Contrary to this mobile relief installation, the relief trains mentioned, which can be used for both civilian and military purposes, consist of rail cars only. 25X1
- (3) These measures will also be of value, in the event of war, within the framework of civilian defense. Apart from that, there is nothing unusual in them.
- (4) It is believed that this order was issued with a view to [redacted] measures [redacted]
- (5) These measures were connected with a command post exercise of the GDRG held in this area during the period from 1 through 20 March. The railroad stations mentioned were the main detraining and entraining points for the Soviet units involved.
- (6) Measures designed to prevent accidents and sabotage were discussed at the Transportation Conference held in Leipzig in February 1952.

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