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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT
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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 28 November 1952

SUBJECT Flight Training of German and Soviet Personnel at Cottbus Airfield

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1. On 25 September, the rear party of the Soviet airforce unit formerly stationed at Cottbus departed from the airfield in five trucks for an unknown destination.
2. The new Soviet airforce unit at the field numbers approximately 84 officers and 400 enlisted men. All the enlisted men were wearing blue-black shoulderboards. The Soviet flight trainees wore three gold bars on their shoulderboards.
3. The German Volkspolizei at the airfield consists of 200 officers, who are flight trainees, 70 other officers and 700 enlisted men. The flight trainees wore blue uniforms; the others earth-brown uniforms.

Flying Activity

4. Soviet enlisted men and German Volkspolizei officers were receiving instruction from Soviet instructors. The Volkspolizei officers were allowed to climb into the aircraft only under the supervision of a Soviet instructor. The Soviet and German pupils were divided into four groups:
 - a. Those receiving lectures on the aircraft (Germans and Soviets)
 - b. Those practicing elementary take-offs and landings, and flying a left hand circuit over the airfield (Germans and Soviets)
 - c. Those practicing aircraft taxiing (Germans and Soviets)
 - d. Those taking part in formation flying and aerobatics (Soviets only).
5. On 27 September, a group of approximately 20 Soviet and German pupils were seen receiving lectures on two parked Yak-11's. The German trainees wore blue uniforms.
6. A total of eight Yak-11's were seen at the airfield on 27 September.

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