

Copy No. 46

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
27 October 1956

TO : Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Military Activity Connected with the Hungarian
Crisis

Soviet Forces in Hungary

Major elements of at least four Soviet divisions totaling approximately 40,000 men are now within the borders of Hungary. In addition to the two mechanized divisions normally stationed in Hungary, major elements of the Soviet division at Timisoara, Rumania arrived in the vicinity of Budapest by mid-day on 24 October. Early on 27 October an unidentified element of a unit normally stationed in the Carpathian Military District, USSR, [redacted] near Miskolc in Northeastern Hungary. This element could represent units of either or both of two mountain rifle divisions and their corps headquarters stationed on the USSR-Hungarian border.

The 2d Gds Mech Div normally stationed in Kecskemet and the Soviet division from Rumania have borne the brunt of the fighting to date. In contrast to the heavy fighting and casualties that these units have reported, [redacted] the 17th Gds Mech Div at Szombathely reflects normal operating procedures except for the dispatch of an element to the vicinity of Budapest. Seriously wounded are being evacuated by air from Tokol airfield in Budapest to Lvov in the USSR. Fresh replacements from the USSR were reported arriving in Szolnok on 26 October [redacted]. Throughout the period of action heavy expenditure of ammunition and difficulties of resupply have been noted.

There has been no firm evidence that the USSR is using military aircraft to provide other than logistic support of ground units. On 26 October, altitude restrictions and flight bans were imposed along the route Moscow-Kiev-Lvov-Budapest, probably to facilitate high priority flights.

Approved for [redacted]
Date, [redacted]

22 1956

(22)

[REDACTED]

On 24 October, the alerting of Soviet Long Range Air Force units was suggested [REDACTED]

There has been no evidence of participation by Aviation of Airborne Forces. At least 51--possible 89-- aircraft which participated in a large airborne exercise in the Lithuanian SSR from 18 to 25 October apparently have now returned to their bases in western USSR.

Hungarian units

Except for [REDACTED] elements of the 5th Hungarian Rifle Div, the 7th Hungarian Mech Div and an unidentified unit in the VI Rifle corps, [REDACTED] Hungarian military and border guard units fail to reflect the civil unrest. [REDACTED]

Status of forces elsewhere

All East German military and security units are on a high grade degree of alert. All Soviet units in East Germany also appear to be on alert status. Troop rotation continued through 22 October with 18 loaded trains going through Poland to the USSR and 18 loaded trains returning. Only two major fall exercises were observed in the Soviet Zone of Germany and since 25 September there have been no further major exercises. Soviet Units in Poland have returned to their garrison areas [REDACTED]

Military units in the three western USSR military districts were alerted during the 19-21 October period and the Carpathian military district continues to reflect this alert status. [REDACTED]

Orig: [REDACTED]

Dist: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]