

~~SECRET~~

CSM No. 377

15064

Copy No. 30
27 April 1956

CURRENT SUPPORT MEMORANDUM

"SOVIET PATRIOT" CALLS FOR
IMPROVED SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This report represents the immediate views of the
originating intelligence components of the Office
of Research and Reports. Comments are solicited.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED
1998

~~W - A - R - N - I - N - G~~

~~This document contains information affecting the national defense of
the United States, within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18
USC, Sections 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which
in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.~~

1.
~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

"SOVIET PATRIOT" CALLS FOR
IMPROVED SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE

Articles in a new Soviet newspaper, "Soviet Patriot", are publicizing Soviet civil defense to increase public awareness of the threat of modern weapons and facilitate recruitment of civil defense workers. In an important article for the new paper, Marshall Semyon Budenny declared that the homefront defense problem had grown immeasurably and that atomic and chemical defense training now directly concerned every Soviet citizen.

Heretofore civil defense has not been publicized extensively in the USSR. 1/ The appearance of the new newspaper and statements of Soviet leaders seem to indicate that any supposed easing of international tension will not be permitted to weaken Soviet Bloc defense attitudes.

The appearance of this paper follows Zhukov's call for increased emphasis on civil defense in his speech to the 20th Congress. 2/ Before this, the commander of the Kiev Military District said that assistance should be given to civil defense units in "reorganizing their activities in accordance with present day requirements." 3/ It is probable that a decision was made last year to reorganize the civil defense system of the USSR, influenced by Soviet nuclear weapons tests and the "wide scale research... on questions of protecting people," announced by TASS at the time.

In the past civil defense in the USSR has generally stressed the use of air raid shelter in dwellings and places of work, the use of existing facilities and organizations for civil defense, and wide-spread training of civilians in first aid, and air and chemical defense. 4/ Reported preparations were more appropriate for defense against weapons of the type used in World War II than against present-day nuclear weapons. Information on atomic weapons disseminated to the Soviet public during 1954 and 1955 5/ apparently was limited to knowledge of the low yield weapons which were used against Japan during World War II.

Analyst:

1. CIA. FBIS, DR, 12 Apr 56, p EE-1, OFF USE
2. CIA. FBIS, Survey of USSR Broadcasts, Vol. IX No. 5, 1 Mar 56, p 10, C
3. CIA. FBIS, DR 35, USSR/EE, 20 Feb 56, p DD-1, OFF USE
4. CIA. RR/PR-75, 24 Sep 54, p 2, S
5. State, IR 6775, 17 Dec 54, OFF USE
Air, AFOIN-1A1, IR 365-55, (AF671156) Jun 55, U

27 April 1956

CURRENT SUPPORT MEMORANDUM 377

Page 2

~~SECRET~~