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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

9 May 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : John H. Stein
Acting Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : USSR GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSONS : The Preparation
and Critique of the Front Operational Directive
for an Offensive Operation

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on a collection of 29 lessons, classified TOP SECRET, prepared in 1977 for use in the Soviet General Staff Academy. The lessons are broken down into two parts: the first 19 lessons deal with the staff preparation of a front offensive operation with conventional and nuclear weapons, the remaining 10 lessons deal with the conduct of an offensive employing conventional weapons at first with a transition to the use of nuclear weapons. This report is a translation of the lesson outlining the content of the front operational directive for an offensive that the students are to draft and submit.

2. Because the source of this report is extremely sensitive, this document should be handled on a strict need-to-know basis within recipient agencies.

John H. Stein

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Intelligence Information Special Report

Page 3 of 6 Pages

COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT

GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSON NO. 3 : The Preparation and Critique of the
Front Operational Directive for an Offensive Operation

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of a lesson, classified TOP SECRET, prepared for use at the General Staff Academy of the Armed Forces of the USSR. This brief lesson is to instruct students, in the role of front chiefs of staff, in the preparation for and development of the operational directive for an offensive operation. It outlines the study references, the content of the directive, and the lesson director's function.

End of Summary

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Lesson No. 3

I. Subject: 'The Preparation and Critique of the Front Operational Directive for an Offensive Operation'

II. Estimated time for working out the lesson.

Time allocated		Total
Group training period	Individual study by students	
4	7	11

III. Training objectives of the lesson:

-- to study with students the content of the front operational directive for an offensive operation;

-- to teach the students to independently develop the front operational directive for an offensive operation.

IV. Method of conducting the lesson: group exercise.

V. Methodological recommendations on preparing the students for the lesson.

At the beginning of the individual study period the director of the lessons will hold a briefing on the procedure in developing the front operational directive for an offensive operation.

Following this, the students must take care to study the recommended literature (Field Service Manual for Staffs, pages 94-96 and Appendix No. 1) and guided by Collection of the Forms of Combat Documents for Operational Formations, develop with timeliness the operational directive for an offensive operation of the Coastal Front and prepare themselves to report its contents during the lessons.

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FIRDB-312/01228-80

Page 5 of 6 Pages

In the course of the students' development of the operational directive, /the director/ will study its content and prepare comments for the critique during the lesson.

IV. Procedure for the conduct of the lesson -- 4 /sic/ hours (180 minutes).

1. Theoretical matters -- 10 minutes.

2. Content of the front operational directive for an offensive operation -- 160 minutes.

Operational time: 1800 hours 1 September.

Students in the role of the chief of staff will report the content of the draft operational directive for an offensive operation that they have prepared, as follows:

-- the conclusions from an estimate of the enemy's grouping and the possible nature of his actions;

-- the tasks to be fulfilled by the Supreme High Command in support of the front, and the tasks of adjacent forces and the boundary lines with them;

-- the purpose and tasks of the front in the operation;

-- the concept of the front operation;

-- the combat tasks of the first-echelon armies, setting forth their strength, reinforcement means, number of nuclear warheads allocated, flight resources, and location of the command posts and boundary lines;

-- the tasks of the second-echelon armies and corps setting forth their strength, concentration areas, zones of movement, day halt areas, lines and times of commitment, reinforcement means, number of nuclear warheads allocated, flight resources, and location of command posts in the concentration area and when committed to battle;

-- the tasks of the airborne and amphibious landing forces and measures for their support;

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FIRDB-312/01228-80

Page 6 of 6 Pages

-- the tasks of the front rocket troops, of the air army, and of the air defense troops;

-- the composition of the reserves and their tasks;

-- the time of troop readiness;

-- the places and times for the deployment of control posts and the axis of relocation of the command posts;

-- the times for the submission of reports.

3. Assessment of the results of the lesson -- 10 minutes.

The director of the lessons will announce the subject and the training objectives and how these objectives have been achieved.

The director will rate the students' reports and point out their positive aspects and deficiencies.

The director will analyze the content of the front operational directives for an offensive operation that were developed by the students.

/He/ will give examples regarding the procedure for the transmission of tasks to the troops based on the experience of the Great Patriotic War and on postwar exercises.



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