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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

31 October 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence  
FROM : John N. McMahon  
Deputy Director for Operations  
SUBJECT : USSR GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSONS : Reconnaissance  
in Front Offensive Operations

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 reference materials used by students in planning and organizing reconnaissance in front offensive operations against NATO's Northern Army Group.

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 N. McMahon

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## Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR

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DATE OF  
INFO. 1977

DATE 1 October 1980

SUBJECT

GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSON: Reconnaissance in Front Offensive Operations

SOURCE Documentary

### Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of TOP SECRET and SECRET documents used in the Soviet General Staff Academy as reference materials to assist students in planning and organizing reconnaissance in front offensive operations. The first is a sample report of the chief of intelligence of the "Coastal Front" giving the order of battle of NATO ground, air and naval units in the Northern Army Group area for an operation run in September 1977. The second provides the scenario and reconnaissance resources and data prepared in December 1977 for a separate exercise of the "Western Front" set in the same general area in January 1978.

End of Summary

Comment:

Further detail on front reconnaissance resources and capabilities may be found in Lesson 9 of this series, disseminated as FIRDB-312/01830-80.

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REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF THE INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE OF THE FRONT STAFF  
(variant)

1. The military-political situation in Europe became sharply aggravated in the second half of August. Since 2000 hours on 30 August, NATO troops and those of national subordination in Europe have been in condition /DEFCON/ "military vigilance." All this indicates that West has begun direct preparations to unleash a war in Europe against East.

2. In the zone of the Coastal Front, the Northern Army Group and the 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force are preparing for combat actions. The Northern Army Group is capable of establishing attack groupings within a limited time, and with air support can initiate combat actions with surprise, either with the use of nuclear weapons or with conventional means of destruction. These troop groupings may amount to approximately 30 divisions, more than 1,100 means for the delivery of nuclear weapons (including 36 Pershing missile launchers, 32 Lance missile launchers, 104 Honest John free-rocket launchers, 470 atomic artillery pieces, and 537 aircraft), 7,021 tanks, approximately 5,000 guns and mortars, and 3,779 antitank means.

The above-mentioned grouping may have approximately 700 nuclear warheads.

The probable axes of the enemy attack are HAMBURG-SZCZECIN and HANNOVER-BERLIN. The following attack groupings of troops may be established on these axes:

a) On the HAMBURG-SZCZECIN axis -- three army corps (the Brown 4th and 6th army corps in the first echelon and the Lilac 1st Army Corps in the second echelon): a total of 10 to 12 divisions (including one tank division), six Lance missile launchers, four Sergeant missile launchers, 46 to 50 Honest John free-rocket launchers, 2,500 to 3,000 tanks, 1,600 to 2,000 guns and mortars (including more than 200 atomic artillery pieces), and over 1,500 antitank means.

This enables the enemy to maintain a density of one division for each eight to ten kilometers of frontage, and 30 to 32 tanks, 20 to 25 guns and mortars, and approximately 20 antitank means for each km of frontage;

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b) On the HANNOVER-BRUSSELS /sic for BERLIN/ axis four to six army corps (the Brown 1st Army Corps and the Blue 1st Army Corps in the first echelon, the Brown 5th Army Corps and the Lilac 2nd Army Corps in the second echelon, and the Blue 2nd Army Corps and Violet 2nd Army Corps in the Northern Army Group reserve): a total of 18 to 19 divisions (including six tank (armored) divisions), 36 Pershing missile launchers, 18 Lance missile launchers, four Sergeant missile launchers, 36 Honest John free-rocket launchers, 3,600 to 4,000 tanks, approximately 3,000 guns and mortars (including more than 250 atomic artillery pieces) and approximately 2,200 antitank means. Accordingly, the density may be: one division per seven to eight km of the front, and 32 to 35 tanks, more than 20 guns and mortars, and eight to 20 antitank means for each km of front.

Thus, the enemy may have in his first operational echelon four to five army corps (14 to 16 divisions, including six tank (armored) divisions), 36 Pershing missile launchers, 24 Lance missile launchers, four Sergeant missile launchers, 44 to 58 Honest John free-rocket launchers, 216 to 240 atomic artillery pieces, 3,820 to 4,570 tanks, 2,000 to 2,600 guns and mortars, and 1,500 to 1,800 antitank means.

The ground forces large units and units are located in garrisons 100 to 350 km distant from the state border and in exercise areas. One to two days will be needed, from the moment the combat order (signal) is received, for them to move forward and deploy in the departure position for the offensive.

c) The grouping of air forces includes units and large units of the 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force, which are based at 25 airfields at a distance of 150 to 700 km from the state border. The main air forces grouping is positioned in the OSNABRUCK, MÜNCHEN-GLADBACH, MALIN /?MALLER or MALLING/ area. It totals more than 800 combat aircraft, of which approximately 360 are delivery aircraft. During the operation, the air forces grouping may be reinforced by Green and Blue aviation and by the activation of up to seven Brown, Lilac, and Violet squadrons having overall as many as 235 combat aircraft (including approximately 180 delivery aircraft). West may have up to 100 airfields in the zone of the front, which makes it possible to disperse aircraft down to one squadron per airfield.

The majority of the airfields have shelters for the aircraft.

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The grouping of army and line-unit aviation includes squadrons and regiments of divisions (motorized infantry divisions, tank divisions, and armored divisions) and the command and wings of army corps. There is a total of up to 1,000 army aviation helicopters, including up to 350 fire support helicopters.

d) The grouping of naval forces may include more than 460 different combat ships, submarines, and boats, including one or two strike carriers and approximately 340 combat aircraft and helicopters.

The first echelon of the striking fleet may consist of a carrier strike large unit made up of one Green strike carrier and one Blue strike carrier, carrying up to 150 combat aircraft, including approximately 60 delivery aircraft.

Of this number, up to 40 aircraft, including up to 20 delivery aircraft, may be allocated for strikes against the front's troops and installations. In addition, it is possible that one nuclear ballistic-missile submarine will be used (16 missiles with 48 nuclear warheads). To counter the landing of our amphibious forces and to provide fire support for his own troops, the enemy may allocate up to 200 surface ships and up to 130 Brown naval aircraft and NATO striking fleet carrier-based ground-attack aircraft.

The presence of more than 30 landing ships and a large number of transport vessels in the complement of the allied naval forces makes it possible for the enemy to land an amphibious force up to one division in strength.

e) The air defense means include 16 Hawk and Nike-Hercules surface-to-air missile battalions (regiments) and four air defense squadrons. They have approximately 468 Hawk and Nike-Hercules surface-to-air missile launchers and 72 fighters.

The air defense system is made up of two echelons: in the first echelon are the Hawk surface-to-air missile means, at a depth of 50 to 70 km; in the second echelon, the Nike-Hercules and Bloodhound surface-to-air missile means, at a depth of 70 to 150 km.

The areas most heavily covered by surface-to-air missile means are LÜBECK, GEESTHACHT, HAMBURG, WAHLSTEDT; LÜNEBURG, UELZEN, BREMEN; GIFHORN, SALZGITTER, HANNOVER; and the RUHR industrial area.

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The radiotechnical system for detecting air targets and controlling the air defense means include three control and warning /control and reporting/ centers, five control and warning posts, and up to 20 observation and warning posts, which make it possible to detect air targets at ranges up to 60 to 90 km at low altitudes, and up to 200 km at medium altitudes.

f) The enemy's radio communications system consists of more than 700 radio nets (links), including up to 200 command radio nets. The most important of these are:

-- the radio communications controlling missile/nuclear weapons units and nuclear munitions storage subunits;

-- the command radio communications of the army corps, the Northern Army Group, and the air and air defense forces of the 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force;

-- the radio communications of the radioelectronic warfare units, including the radio nets of the Brown 51st Communications Battalion, the Brown 120th, 420th, and 620th radiotechnical battalions, the Blue 13th Radio Regiment, the Blue 5th Communications Wing and the Blue 2nd and 226th radio squadrons.

The enemy's radioelectronic warfare units are able to conduct periodic surveillance of 80 percent of the front's most important radio nets, and to monitor the locations of the staffs of large units and formations every two hours during the operation. Using radio jamming means, the enemy is able to neutralize more than 50 percent of the front's main communications links at the tactical level.

3. The West maintains its strategic nuclear forces, the nuclear means of the Northern Army Group, the 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force, and its ground forces at a high level of combat readiness. This makes it possible for it /West/ to prepare and initiate combat actions by surprise with the massive use of nuclear weapons in a comparatively short time (three to four days).

To unleash a war using conventional means of destruction alone, one must assume that the enemy will need up to seven or eight days for the additional deployment of ground forces reserves and chiefly for conversion of the rear services to wartime status.

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If West unleashes a war employing nuclear weapons, it can, to participate in an initial massed nuclear strike, allocate out of the nuclear attack means it has in the zone of the front more than 350 different means (36 Pershing missile launchers, 28 Lance and Sergeant missile launchers, 44 Honest John free-rocket launchers, 160 tactical delivery aircraft, 16 army delivery aircraft, and approximately 80 atomic artillery pieces) and employ approximately 370 nuclear warheads. Following the nuclear strike, /West's/ ground forces groupings can go over to the offensive on the SZCZECIN and BERLIN axes, with the task of splitting the Coastal Front troop grouping into parts, destroying it, seizing the city of BERLIN, and arriving at the ODER River in five to six days of combat actions.

The main thrust of the Northern Army Group will most probably be in the direction of HANNOVER, BERLIN.

An offensive of ground forces attack groupings with the use of conventional means of destruction alone can begin after a massed air strike in which up to 600 combat aircraft may take part, and also /after/ a fire strike by artillery and army aviation.

The most important West targets in the front's offensive zone south of the FLENSBURG, WESTERLAND line and east of the NORDEN, DORTMUND line, whose destruction could lead to a significant degradation of the enemy's combat capabilities, are: the 2nd Pershing Missile Wing, the 150th and 650th Lance missile battalions, the 24th and 50th Lance missile regiments, and the 450th Sergeant Missile Regiment; 15 to 16 airfields for basing tactical and naval aviation, and 15 to 20 nuclear weapons depots; seven to eight Nike and Hawk surface-to-air missile battalions and 15 to 18 divisions of the first and second operational echelons; the command posts of the Northern Army Group, the 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force, and the army corps; and the control and warning centers and posts and the electronic warfare centers.

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GENERAL SITUATION IN WESTERN THEATER OF MILITARY OPERATIONS  
FOR 25 JANUARY

1. West, in the month of January, gave the military-political situation in Europe an abrupt turn for the worse, stepped up secret preparation to start a war against the Warsaw Pact member countries, and launched extensive anti-Soviet propaganda.

In the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), revanchist forces demanding liquidation of the GDR and revision of the existing borders of Poland, the Soviet Union, and Czechoslovakia have come to power in the Bundestag as the result of elections. In the FRG, Greece, Italy, and Turkey, incidents of neo-Nazi attacks on Soviet consulate and trade delegation employees, Aeroflot representatives, and employees of other Soviet and international organizations abroad have become more frequent. Counterintelligence procedures have been strengthened in all of the NATO countries. Secret mobilization has begun in the FRG. All civil aviation flights on international airlines have been canceled, and the hasty removal of its /FRG/ vessels from ports of the socialist countries has begun.

As of 20 January, West, under the guise of exercises, began drawing troops up to the national borders and is deploying combat ships in areas of operational assignment. The FRG, Belgium, Holland, and Denmark have begun deploying reserve large units and territorial defense troops. In the areas adjoining East's borders, the conduct of air reconnaissance has been stepped up, including the violation of East's airspace. More frequent verification of the readiness of communications and control means of the NATO allied armed forces has been noted.

Exercises of West's naval forces are being conducted in the Baltic straits area, including work on problems of antilanding defense and mining of the straits.

2. East, in view of the deterioration of the international situation and the military preparations of West, as of 20 January has strengthened reconnaissance of all types and is carrying out exercises and measures to increase the combat readiness of troops. Measures are being carried out in the fleets to demothball ships of the reserve and put them into operating

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condition and to build up combat duty forces in the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea.

In response to West's measures, German Democratic Republic (GDR) authorities, as of 25 January, sharply restricted the movement of motor transport from the FRG to West Berlin and back.

II

PARTICULAR SITUATION FOR 0900 HOURS 25 JANUARY

1. Troops of the newly deployed 1st Western Front (2nd, 3rd, 4th separate armies, 1st Tank Army, 1st Air Army, 11th and 12th front missile brigades, 3rd and 5th rocket launcher brigades, 10th and 15th artillery battalions of the Reserve of the Supreme High Command /RVGK/, 25th and 26th antitank artillery brigades of the RVGK) are at permanent garrison points and engaged in combat and political training. The troops have been brought to increased combat readiness, and duty subunits are on combat alert.

The large units and units of ground forces belonging to the front average 95 percent of authorized wartime strength in personnel, armament, and combat equipment, and also materiel.

The large units and units of the 1st Air Army are based at the primary airfields and engaged in combat training, with part of the forces on combat alert. In each fighter regiment there is one squadron of fighter-interceptors in Readiness No. 1 in the daytime, and one flight at night.

2. The Combined Baltic Fleet is based at naval bases with ship forces dispersed, and aviation is on the airfields.

Since 20 January three submarines and two radiotechnical reconnaissance ships have been performing combat duty in the North Sea, and two submarines are in the straits approaches. In the Baltic Sea, antisubmarine aviation and antisubmarine ships are conducting a systematic search for West's submarines. The detail of duty forces and means at bases and airfields has been strengthened.

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3. Front reconnaissance forces and means. The operational agent reconnaissance units of the front -- the 10th Reconnaissance Center (RTs), the 20th and 30th Reconnaissance Posts (RP), and the 5th Separate OSNAZ Radio Center (ORU OSNAZ) -- are in permanent garrison points at authorized wartime strength in personnel, armament, and combat and special equipment. The active agent net is performing reconnaissance of enemy targets according to peacetime routine. Agents of the agent and special reconnaissance reserve are living and working at enterprises and facilities in the GDR. (They have not been put together into agent groups.)

The 10th Reconnaissance Center is performing agent reconnaissance in the zone of the impending offensive of the front. The 20th Reconnaissance Post is performing reconnaissance in the zone between the KATTEGAT, SKAGERRAK, and North Sea coast on the right and WITTSTOCK, VERDEN, ENSCHEDE, and TILBURG on the left. The 30th Reconnaissance Post has the zone between WAHREN, LÜNEBURG, BREMEN, ALMELO, and ROTTERDAM on the right and the left demarcation line of the front on the left.

While the front troops are being brought to full combat readiness, the agent reconnaissance units are deployed as follows:

10th Reconnaissance Center primary area is a forest two kilometers east of RATHENOW (25 kilometers northwest of BRANDENBRUG); the alternate area is a forest five kilometers west of NAUEN (25 kilometers northeast of BRANDENBURG);

20th Reconnaissance Post primary area is a forest five kilometers south of SCHWERIN; alternate area is a forest five kilometers east of LUDWIGSLUST;

30th Reconnaissance Post primary area is a forest five kilometers east of BURG; alternate area is a forest three kilometers east of TANGERHÜTTE;

5th Separate OSNAZ Radio Center is in the disposition areas of the 10th Reconnaissance Center.

The 1st Special-Purpose Brigade has been brought into increased combat readiness and is located in permanent garrison points and engaged in combat and political training. The first-line special-purpose reconnaissance groups are prepared to move into the enemy rear.

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The special-purpose brigade is at full authorized peacetime strength. It has:

- five special-purpose detachments, with 12 special-purpose groups or 24 sections and a communications company in each detachment;
- a special-purpose staff company made up of three special-purpose groups, with three sections in each group;
- a special weapons detachment having three companies of RPG-7D grenade launchers and a company of 9P111 antitank guided missiles;
- a radio and radiotechnical reconnaissance company having two radio reconnaissance platoons and two radiotechnical reconnaissance platoons;
- a special radio communications detachment (the communications center of the brigade).

The 1st OSNAZ Brigade is performing radio and radiotechnical reconnaissance in the zone of impending actions of the front to the entire depth of the theater of military operations. Radio reconnaissance subunits are monitoring the operation of the radio nets and radio links of the NATO air and ground forces. Radiotechnical reconnaissance subunits are monitoring the operation of the radioelectronic means of the air bases and airfields of US and NATO tactical, military transport, and army aviation, as well as the operation of airborne radar systems for air defense and control of aviation in the air and the operation of surface-to-air missile guidance radar.

The OSNAZ brigade consists of a command post, two radio intercept battalions, two radiotechnical battalions, a radio emissions research laboratory, a communications battalion, five separate radio direction finding centers, and five separate radiotechnical centers.

The forces and means of the brigade enable it in the ultra-shortwave /sic/ range to deploy 64 audio /slukhovoy/ radio intercept posts (an audio radio intercept post can keep one or two radio nets/links under continuous monitoring or four to eight radio nets/links under periodic monitoring), 40 radio printer intercept posts (a radio printer intercept post can keep one or two radio links under continuous monitoring), and three (four) radio direction finding nets (a radio direction finding net can take fixes on up to 30 radio sets per hour).

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In the ultra-shortwave /VHF/ range there can be deployed six posts for radio intercept of tropospheric and radio-relay stations (a tropospheric and radio-relay intercept post can perform intercept of one or two stations), four to eight posts for radio intercept of ultra-shortwave radio nets of the air forces and ground forces (an ultra-shortwave radio intercept post can perform continuous monitoring of one or two radio nets/links of the air forces or ground forces or periodic monitoring of four to eight radio nets/links).

It can also deploy radiotechnical direction finding groups to perform radiotechnical reconnaissance: six radiotechnical direction finding groups for reconnaissance of ground radar and six radiotechnical direction finding groups for reconnaissance of airborne radar (a radiotechnical direction finding group can detect and monitor 25 to 30 sources /of emission/).

In connection with the shifting of front troops to increased combat readiness, the subunits of the 1st OSNAZ Brigade have been placed on a two-shift operating routine in order to strengthen radio and radiotechnical reconnaissance posts.

The reconnaissance units and subunits of the 1st Air Army of the 1st Western Front are at authorized wartime strength in flight personnel and materiel and are located at the primary airfields, engaged in scheduled combat training, and part of the forces of the operational air reconnaissance regiments are doing systematic radiotechnical, radar, and oblique photographic reconnaissance through flights along the national borders and over neutral waters of the Baltic Straits zone without violation of West's airspace.

The average daily rate of flights for reconnaissance without violation of airspace is three or four sorties of YAK-28R's and MIG-25RB's.

The reconnaissance units of the Combined Baltic Fleet are at full strength in personnel and materiel, located at places of permanent garrison, and they have been brought into increased readiness.

Since 20 January increased reconnaissance is being carried on in the Baltic and North seas by submarines, surface ships, and reconnaissance aviation.

Measures are being carried out to shift reconnaissance units to full combat readiness and strengthen the combat duty service in the North and Baltic seas.

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COMBAT STRENGTH AND COMBAT READINESS OF RECONNAISSANCE AVIATION  
OF THE 1ST AIR ARMY OF THE 1ST WESTERN FRONT

Item	Reconnaissance units and subunits	Number and type of combat-ready aircraft	Number of combat-ready crews			Basing airfields (areas)	
			Total	Trained for actions at night and in poor weather conditions	Trained for actions in daytime and fair weather conditions	Primary	Alternate
<b>A. Manned aircraft</b>							
1	19th Operational Reconnaissance Air Regiment	20 YAK-28R 10 MIG-25R	33	15 10	33	Friedland (20 km NE Neubrandenburg)	Kluppenow (30 km N Neubrandenburg)
2	40th Operational Reconnaissance Air Regiment	23 YAK-28R 9 MIG-25R	33	20 10	33	Templin (50 km N Berlin)	Stegelitz (65 km NE Berlin)
3	48th Tactical Reconnaissance Air Regiment	38 MIG-21R	45	5	45	Oranienburg (15 km N Berlin)	Koenigs /sic/ (25 km NW Berlin)
<b>B. Drones</b>							
4	23rd Separate Long-Range Reconnaissance Drone Squadron	4 launchers (as many as 9 launches per day)	--	--	--	Woldegk (25 km SE Neubrandenburg)	Canzow
5	20th Separate Tactical Recce Drone Squadron	4 launchers (as many as 16 launches per day)	--	--	--	Dreilützow (20 km SW Schwerin)	Gadebusch
6	21st Separate Tactical Recce Drone Squadron	4 launchers (as many as 16 launches per day)	--	--	--	Cheinitz (20 km NW Magdeburg)	Klötze
7	22nd Separate Tactical Recce Drone Squadron	4 launchers (as many as 16 launches per day)	--	--	--	Seehausen (20 km W Magdeburg)	Eilsleben

Note: Non-T/O&E reconnaissance air squadrons of the air army large units are based at the primary airfields of their airfield complexes.

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III

SUPPLEMENTARY RECONNAISSANCE DATA

Reconnaissance of all types has established:

1. The command of West's allied armed forces in Europe has planned to conduct a large operational-strategic exercise in the near future with involvement of the commanders and staffs of the Northern Army Group, Central Army Group, 2nd and 4th Allied Tactical Air Forces, and the civil defense agencies of the FRG, Holland, Belgium, and Denmark in order to check existing plans to convert the armed forces from peacetime to wartime status. At the same time, plans have been made to conduct a large exercise of West's striking fleet in the North Atlantic.

2.

 from 15 through 20 January US armed forces representatives conducted a monitoring check of the condition of stored nuclear warheads.

3. On 23 January, condition "military vigilance" was introduced among NATO troops.

4. In the areas of LÜNEBURG (40 kilometers southeast of HAMBURG), UELZEN (30 kilometers southeast of LÜNEBURG), GIFHORN (25 kilometers north of BRAUNSCHWEIG), and WATENSTEDT, engineer works to prepare demolitions centers have been noted since 20 January. According to the status on 25 January, 70 prepared chambers for the placement of nuclear land mines had been detected on territory of the FRG on the JUTLAND axis, and around 400 in the zone of the Northern Army Group. Placement of nuclear mines in the chambers has not been noted.

5. Reserve officers assigned to the 51st and 52nd infantry brigades of the 5th Reserve Infantry Division of Holland were called up on the morning of 20 January to the city of APELDOORN for a 20-day training assembly.

6. The US 1st Mechanized Division and 2nd Armored Division are being prepared for transfer from the USA to Europe to participate in exercises. Troop and cargo transports and landing ship docks are being concentrated in the ports of BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA, BALTIMORE, and NORFOLK. The

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concentration of troop and cargo transports is noted in ports on the southern and southeastern coasts of Great Britain.

The 506th Army Security Agency Group has been activated in the continental USA. At 2300 hours on 20 January, the group arrived in the territory of Holland and unloaded in forests north and south of HAARLEM.

On 22 January, up to 50 percent of the units of the FRG 1st Army Corps were located at training grounds and in training areas.

8. Heavy traffic of railroad trains with military cargoes is noted in the territory of the FRG, Belgium, and Holland.

9. On 20 January in BRUSSELS there was a meeting of the chiefs of staff of the armed forces of the NATO bloc member countries. The meeting, conducted under conditions of strict secrecy, was attended by the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of France.

10. Since 23 January, three to five flights of EC-135 aircraft have been noted daily over the territory of Belgium and the FRG. On 23 and 24 January, the landing of C-135 and RB-52 /sic/ aircraft was noted at airfields in Great Britain and Spain. The landing of C-141 military transport aircraft has been noted at airfields and air bases of Great Britain (WOODBIDGE, IPSWICH, FELIXSTOWE, HARLOW, and NEWMARKET).

11. West's carrier striking forces have been found:

-- 401.1 Carrier Strike Group (multipurpose carrier Saratoga and six escorts) 90 miles west of TRONDHEIM (Norway);

-- 401.2 Carrier Strike Group (attack carrier Ark Royal and five escorts) in the central part of the North Sea;

-- 401.3 Carrier Strike Group (multipurpose nuclear carrier Nimitz and seven escorts) in the Bay of Biscay;

-- the multipurpose carriers Forrestal and Roosevelt and eight escorts in the region of the Azores;

-- the multipurpose carrier America and four escorts in the region of the Bermuda Islands.

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12. On the night of 24 to 25 January, the 1st and 2nd motorized infantry brigades of the 1st Zealand Infantry Division were placed on combat alert and moved out of permanent garrison points. By the morning of 25 January all units had returned to barracks.

13. In the period from 20 through 24 January, unidentified submerged submarines were detected in the Baltic Sea on the approaches to the naval bases of BALTIYSK, LIEPĀJA, GDYNIA, and ŚWINOUJŚCIE.

14. On the islands of ZEALAND and FALSTER, engineer works are being prepared to improve the antilanding defense system in the water and on the shore.

15. Surface strike groups of West are being noted in the areas of KØGE, FAKSE, MØN Island, and the southern part of THE SOUND.

16. Six of West's submarines are operating east of BORNHOLM Island.

17. On the island of ZEALAND, operations are underway to depreserve forts and shore batteries.

18. Enemy ship patrols have been detected in the areas of FREDERIKSHAVN, the northern and southern parts of the LANGELAND BELT, south of Cape GEDSER, east of MØN Island, in the southern part of THE SOUND, in the BORNHOLMSGAT, and west, east, and south of BORNHOLM Island.

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STRENGTH AND DISPOSITION OF WEST'S NAVAL FORCES ON 25 JANUARY

Ship classes	Denmark					FRG					Norway
	Total	Rønne	Copenhagen	Århus	Korsør	Kiel	Wilhelmshaven	Flensburg	Eckernförde	Cuxhaven	
Guided missile destroyers	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-
Destroyers	8	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-
Frigates	17	2	2	2	-	2	-	-	4	-	5
Submarines	35	-	-	-	-	2	6	-	6	6	15
Minelayers	12	1	1	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	5
Missile boats	33	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	12
Torpedo boats	54	4	2	2	2	24	-	-	-	-	20
Minesweepers	74	4	4	-	4	18	16	6	8	8	6
Shore-based ASW aircraft	35	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	9

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IV

At 0900 hours on 25 January, the commander of the 1st Western Front, guided by the directive of the Supreme High Command, conducted an operational briefing, from which the chief of the intelligence directorate of the front ascertained the following.

The 1st Western Front is ordered to prepare and conduct an offensive operation on the North German strategic axis for the purpose of defeating West's troops in the offensive zone of the front in cooperation with the 2nd Western Front and the Combined Baltic Fleet and removing the FRG, Holland, Belgium, and Denmark from the war. During the operation the front must support the entry of the forces of the Combined Baltic Fleet into the North Sea.

In the initial nuclear strike, the front will: destroy the enemy's means of nuclear attack, the main Nike-Hercules and Hawk surface-to-air guided missiles and detected nuclear munitions depots; inflict damage on the large units, especially the armored divisions, of the first echelon of the Northern Army Group; disorganize troop control and the air defense system; and knock out the most important rear services installations.

In the event West starts the war with the use of nuclear weapons, the Strategic Rocket Forces will deliver strikes and destroy enemy troops and targets north of the VEJLE (200 kilometers north of HAMBURG), ESBJERG line and west of the EMDEN (180 kilometers west of HAMBURG), LINGEN (60 kilometers northwest of MÜNSTER), MÜNSTER, DORTMUND line.

The immediate task of the front is to defeat the troops in the Baltic Straits area and those of the Northern Army Group and, on the sixth or seventh day of the operation, to take the WILHELMSHAVEN, NORDEN, LEEUWARDEN, ZWOLLE, ENSCHEDE, HAMM line on the HANNOVER-BRUSSELS axis; and the VEJLE, ESBJERG line and the island of FYN on the JUTLAND axis. The islands of LOLLAND and ZEALAND are to be taken in conjunction with the forces of the Combined Baltic Fleet by the end of the third day of the operation.

The subsequent task of the front is to develop the offensive on the BRUSSELS axis, make an assault crossing of the RHINE from the march, inflict decisive damage on the enemy reserves, and get to the northeastern borders of France on the 12th or 13th day of the operation; and on the JUTLAND axis to defeat the enemy reserves and completely take the JUTLAND

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peninsula. As the front troops get to the coast and take the islands of the straits zone, antilanding defense of these is to be organized in conjunction with the Combined Baltic Fleet.

The Combined Baltic Fleet is to destroy West's carrier and other ship groupings in the North and Baltic seas and the southern part of the Sea of Norway; to disrupt West's maritime shipments in the operational zone of the fleet; and in conjunction with the troops of the 1st Western Front, to take the islands of the straits zone and Baltic Sea and assist them in taking the JUTLAND peninsula and the southeastern coast of the North Sea; and to prevent the landing of enemy amphibious landing forces. During the operation after seizing the Swedish-Danish straits zone, the Combined Baltic Fleet will move ship forces into the North Sea.

On the left, the 2nd Western Front will prepare an offensive operation to defeat the troops of the Central Army Group.

The line of demarcation from the 2nd Western Front is GUBEN (40 kilometers south of FRANKFURT-AM-ODER), HALBERSTADT (45 kilometers southwest of MAGDEBURG), BECKUM, LIEGE, PHILIPPEVILLE (75 kilometers south of BRUSSELS).

The commander of the 2nd Western Front is responsible for the juncture.

The allocated combat strength of West's armed forces in the zone of the impending offensive of the 1st Western Front is in accordance with the status for 25 January. See GRU Intelligence Summary, accession No. 36944.

- Assignment:
1. All participants in the exercise are to study the mission and the map of the initial situation and be ready to execute functional duties in accordance with the position held in the exercise.
  2. Conclusions from assessment of the enemy and proposals on the use of the reconnaissance forces and means of the front are to be prepared and reported by 1000 hours on 26 January.

CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE DIRECTING BODY

28 December 1977

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**COMBAT STRENGTH OF 1ST WESTERN FRONT ON 25 JANUARY**  
(Main large units and units)

Formations & separate large units	Ground forces divisions		Rocket troops & artillery large units & units		Air defense large units & units	Air large units & units	Reconnaissance units & subunits
	Motorized rifle divisions	Tank divisions	Rocket troops	Artillery			
2nd Army	1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th	2nd	2nd Army Missile Brigade 2nd Army Mobile Missile Technical Base	2nd Army Artillery Brigade 2nd Army Antitank Artillery Regiment	2nd KRUG SAM Brigade 2nd Air Defense Missile Technical Base 2nd Army SAM Technical Base	2nd Separate Helicopter Regiment	2nd Separate OSNAZ Radio Battalion 2nd Separate OSNAZ Radio-technical Battalion 2nd Separate Special-Purpose Reconnaissance Company
3rd Army	9th, 10th, 11th, 12th	6th, 7th	3rd Army Missile Brigade 3rd Army Mobile Missile Technical Base	3rd Army Artillery Brigade 3rd Army Antitank Artillery Regiment	3rd KRUG SAM Brigade 3rd Air Defense Missile Technical Base 3rd Army SAM Technical Base	3rd Separate Helicopter Regiment 3rd Separate Helicopter Squadron	3rd Separate OSNAZ Radio Battalion 3rd Separate OSNAZ Radio-technical Battalion 3rd Separate Special-Purpose Reconnaissance Company
4th Army	17th, 18th, 19th	20th, 21st	4th Army Missile Brigade 4th Army Mobile Missile Technical Base	4th Army Artillery Brigade 4th Army Antitank Artillery Regiment	4th KRUG SAM Brigade 4th Air Defense Missile Technical Base 4th Army SAM Technical Base		4th Separate OSNAZ Radio Battalion 4th Separate OSNAZ Radio-technical Battalion 4th Separate Special-Purpose Reconnaissance Company
1st Tank Army		8th, 13th, 14th, 15th	1st Army Missile Brigade		1st SAM Brigade 1st Air Defense Missile Technical Base 1st SAM Technical Base	1st Separate Helicopter Regiment 7th Separate Helicopter Squadron	1st Separate OSNAZ Radio Battalion 1st Separate Special-Purpose Reconnaissance Company
1st Air Army						2nd, 3rd, 4th fighter divisions 6th, 15th fighter-bomber divisions 7th Bomber Division 1st Composite Air Regiment 7th Separate Helicopter Regiment 1st Separate SPETSNAZ /JAMMING/ Radio Regiment	19th, 40th operational reconnaissance regiments 48th Tactical Reconnaissance Regiment 20th, 21st, 22nd separate tactical recce drone squadrons 23rd Separate Long-Range Recce Drone Squadron
Large units and units subordinate to front	30th, 35th, 32nd 8th Assault Landing Brigade	16th, 24th, 36th	11th R-300 Front Missile Brigade 12th R-900 Front Missile Brigade	10th, 15th Artillery Battalions of Reserve of Supreme High Command 3rd, 5th Rocket Launcher Brigades 25th, 26th Tank-Destroyer Artillery Brigades of Reserve of Supreme High Command	31st KRUG Surface-to-Air Missile Brigade 36th, 37th S-125 Surface-to-Air Missile Regiments 16th S-75 Surface-to-Air Missile Regiment 3rd, 6th KUB Surface-to-Air Missile Regiments 7th Air Defense [Missile Technical Base] 1st, 2nd Front Surface-to-Air Missile Technical Bases		10th Reconnaissance Center 20th, 30th reconnaissance posts 1st Special-Purpose Reconnaissance Brigade — 1st OSNAZ Brigade

## STRENGTH AND DISPOSITION OF COMBINED BALTIC FLEET FOR 25 JANUARY

Large units and units	Number, type, and class of ships (aircraft)	Basing area or location	Remarks
<u>A. Submarine large units</u>			
<u>27th Submarine Division</u>			
39th Submarine Brigade	12 Project 613 submarines	9 at Liepaja 3 in North Sea	
40th Submarine Brigade	9 Project 613 submarines	9 at Riga	
41st Submarine Brigade	10 Project 613 submarines	4 at Paldiski 4 at Baltiysk 2 in Baltic Sea	
72nd Submarine Brigade	6 Project 613 submarines	Gdynia	Polish Navy
<u>B. Fleet aviation</u>			
16th Naval Recce Air Regt	28 TU-16 (20 delivery aircraft and 8 jammers)	Šiauliai	Fleet aviation has dispersal airfields
17th Naval Recce Air Regt	28 TU-16 (20 delivery aircraft and 8 jammers)	Vilnius	
18th Naval Recce Air Regt	26 TU-16 (20 delivery aircraft and 6 jammers)	Sovetsk	
43rd Separate Long-Range Recce Air Regiment	24 TU-22R 2 AN-12RR	Chkalovsk	
27th Separate Antisubmarine Air Regiment	28 BE-12	Baltiysk	
25th Separate Antisubmarine Helicopter Regiment	32 MI-4M	Chkalovsk	
77th Fighter-Bomber Regiment	28 SU-7B	Kamień Pomorski	
<u>C. Surface ship large units</u>			
51st Missile Ship Brigade	2 light cruisers 6 destroyers	Baltiysk	
53rd Antisubmarine Brigade	8 large ASW ships	Baltiysk	
71st Destroyer Brigade	6 destroyers	Gdynia	
80th Destroyer Brigade	6 destroyers	Rostock	
52nd Missile Boat Brigade	6 small missile ships 6 large missile boats 12 torpedo boats	Baltiysk " "	



Large units and units	Number, type, and class of ships (aircraft)	Basing area or location	Remarks
73rd Missile Boat Brigade	6 large missile boats 12 torpedo boats	Gdynia "	
81st Missile Boat Brigade	6 large missile boats 12 torpedo boats	Wismar	
65th Landing Ship Brigade	3 large landing ships 12 medium landing ships	Sassnitz	
75th Landing Ship Brigade	3 large landing ships 12 medium landing ships	Świnoujście	
84th Landing Ship Brigade	3 large landing ships 12 medium landing ships	Warnemünde	
161st Offshore Defense Brigade	16 small subchasers 9 fleet minesweepers 12 coastal minesweepers	Sassnitz	
125th Offshore Defense Brigade	24 small subchasers 12 coastal minesweepers	Świnoujście	
83rd Offshore Defense Brigade	24 small subchasers 12 coastal minesweepers 9 fleet minesweepers	Warnemünde	
<u>D. Fleet missile units</u>			
25th Coastal Missile Regt	REDUT system	Kołobrzeg	
81st Coastal Missile Regt	REDUT system	Rügen Island	
35th Coastal Missile Regt	REDUT system	Bad Doberan	
<u>E. Naval infantry</u>			
204th Naval Infantry Regiment	1519 men, 44 tanks, 18 self-propelled artillery pieces	Sassnitz	
79th Naval Infantry Regiment	1519 men, 44 tanks, 18 self-propelled artillery pieces	Kamień Pomorski	Polish Navy
<u>F. Fleet reconnaissance units</u>			
201st Radiotechnical Reconnaissance Ship Brigade	6 OKEAN class	2 in North Sea 2 in Baltic Sea 2 at Świnoujście	
12th Naval Reconnaissance Detachment		Zelenogradsk	
222nd Naval Reconnaissance Detachment		Rostock	
15th Naval Recce Regiment		Kaliningrad	
13th Naval Offshore Reconnaissance Regiment		Parusnoye /sic/	

