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31 March 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : John N. McMahon
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : The Principles of the Organization and
Control of a Combined Fleet in a Theater

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is a translation from Russian of an apparent draft of a SECRET Warsaw Pact document which examines the wartime organizational structure and system of control of the combined fleets formed in the Baltic and Black Sea theaters from the naval forces allocated to the Combined Armed Forces. In this, measures for cooperation among the forces of the national navies are stressed, including the use of standard documents and a common communications and observation system, to ensure coordinated actions of the combined fleets. The main tasks of the command of the combined fleets both in peacetime and wartime also are listed.

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/WARSAW PACT



DATE OF INFO. Current

DATE 31 March 1978

SUBJECT

The Principles of the Organization and Control of a Combined Fleet in a Theater

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of an apparent draft of a SECRET Warsaw Pact document which examines the wartime organizational structure and system of control of the combined fleets formed in the Baltic and Black Sea theaters from the naval forces allocated to the Combined Armed Forces. In this, measures for cooperation among the forces of the national navies are stressed, including the use of standard documents and a common communications and observation system, to ensure coordinated actions of the combined fleets. The main tasks of the command of the combined fleets both in peacetime and wartime also are listed.

End of Summary

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The Principles of the Organization and Control of a Combined Fleet in a Theater

1. In peacetime, the large units and units, support units, and control and rear services organs of the navies of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, and of the Baltic and Black Sea Fleets of the USSR that have been allocated to the Combined Armed Forces and designated to conduct combined actions, are directly subordinate to the national ministries.

The commanders of the national navies are responsible for their forces' status, technical equipping, combat readiness, military and political indoctrination, the creation of reserves of authorized materiel, and rear services support. They are also responsible for creating conditions of dispersed basing, defending and protecting the naval forces, preparing the coast as a part of the theater of military operations, and maintaining a favorable operating routine in their zones of responsibility.

2. In wartime, in order for the navies to carry out operational tasks successfully, the Warsaw Pact member states combine the efforts of their navies and form combined fleets in the Baltic and Black Sea theaters.

The combining of the fleets takes place prior to the start of combat actions, sufficiently well in advance to have the necessary time to organize the combat control of the forces. It is implemented by a decision of the Supreme High Command, depending on the military-political situation in the theater, and, as a rule, when the Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact member states go over to increased levels of readiness.

3. The control of the Combined Fleets in the theaters is concentrated in one operational organ, and created for this already in peacetime is a combined command with its control organs (the commander and staff of the combined fleets), which are in constant readiness to assume command of the naval forces.

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4. ~~The command of the Combined Fleets is exercised by the commanders of the Soviet fleets; the functions of the staffs of the combined fleets are entrusted to the respective staffs of the USSR Baltic and Black Sea Fleets, which have permanently attached to them from each national navy deputy commanders of the combined fleets for cooperation along with their necessary organizational apparatus.~~

5. The commanders of the national navies, though subordinate to their own national ministries, are operationally subordinate in wartime to the commander of the combined fleets. They are his deputies and are in direct command of their own naval forces or their own forces and a part of the forces of the combined fleets, in accordance with the decision of the commander of the combined fleets.

In accordance with the general concept of the conduct of combat actions in the theater, they also command those forces of the national navy that were not included in the Combined Armed Forces.

6. ~~The organizational structure of the staffs of the USSR Baltic and Black Sea Fleets must ensure the commanders of the combined Fleets the control of their own naval forces and the operationally subordinate forces of the allied navies at the outset and during the course of a war. To do this, it is necessary to carry out several table-of-organization changes, establishing from the national navies deputies for cooperation and their organizational apparatus to assist the command of the combined fleets in ensuring the coordinated actions of the allied forces, maintain stable communications between the staffs, and more rapidly resolve the various problems of cooperation arising during the course of the combined actions of naval forces of different national affiliation.~~

The personnel of this organizational apparatus of the national navies must be able to carry out the functions of transmitting combat tasks, ensure their correct comprehension, participate in monitoring the execution of the tasks, and provide information about the situation.

The work methods of the staff of the Combined Fleets must ensure speed in the collection, collation, and processing of information, as well as ensure the preparation of operational and combat documents and the transmittal of tasks to their executors with a minimum expenditure of time.

7. A series of measures of an operational and organizational nature is carried out for the effective control of the forces of the Combined Fleets.

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The command posts of the Soviet fleets are supplied with modern technical means ensuring the control of the forces of the allied navies down to and including the tactical ship group. The command posts of certain national navies are additionally equipped as reserve command posts of the combined fleets. Standard operational-tactical documents are prepared; a common communications and observation system and a rear services support system are formed in the theaters; and other coordinated measures are carried out to prepare the allied naval forces for combined actions.

8. The command of the Combined Fleets carries out the following main tasks in wartime:

- accepts in operational subordination the national naval forces allocated to the Combined Armed Forces, and forms the combined fleets for the combined conduct of combat actions;
- develops a control and communications system for the control of the forces of the combined fleets;
- plans the operations and combat actions of the naval forces in conformity with the tasks assigned to the combined fleets by the High Command in the theater of military operations;
- determines the tasks of each fleet, plans the actions of the forces for the areas and axes in accordance with the decision for and overall plans of the operation;
- organizes and carries out cooperation among the allied navies, the other branches of the armed forces, and the forces operating on the main axes in the interests of achieving the assigned objectives;
- carries out the formation of the groupings of forces and their deployment into the combat assignment areas;
- controls directly or through the fleet commanders the combat actions of the allied naval forces in the course of an operation and combat actions;
- organizes all types of support in the course of an operation and combat actions of the naval forces;

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-- coordinates the efforts of the allied navies for monitoring and protecting civilian shipping in the theater;

-- constantly monitors the execution of assigned tasks by its subordinates.

9. In peacetime, the command of the combined fleets, together with the commanders of the national navies and on the basis of the requirements, orders, and directives of the Combined Command of the Warsaw Pact member states, carries out measures directed toward further increasing the combat readiness of the naval forces allocated to the Combined Armed Forces to carry out the tasks assigned to them.

In the process, the command of the combined fleets carries out the following main tasks:

-- participates in the planning of the development of the allied naval forces and of the system of basing and rear services support for the purpose of creating and maintaining the numerical superiority of the forces over the enemy's navy;

-- participates in the preparation of documents for the cooperation of the naval forces, standard documents on cooperation communications, identification, the navigation regime and warning system in the theater, and other combined documents;

-- on the basis of a coordinated plan, coordinates the actions of the allied naval forces performing combat duty in the theater in peacetime. The control of the combat duty forces in the zones of responsibility is carried out from the command posts of the national navies;

-- maintains cooperation with the allied navies and the coastal large units of air defense forces on matters of the clarification of the submarine, surface and air situation in the theater, as well as on mutual warning and informing;

-- directs the individual combined measures of the operational and combat training of the navies in accordance with the plan of combined undertakings of the Combined Armed Forces;

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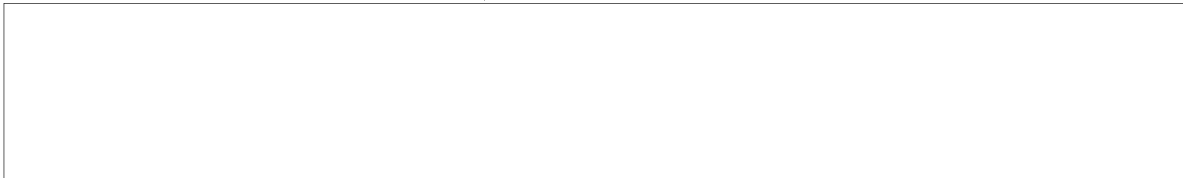


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-- carries out the planned training of the command post team of the combined fleets, employing the operations groups of the national navies to carry out the functions of controlling the combined naval forces in wartime;

-- in accordance with coordinated plans, develops a system of control, cooperation communications, and command posts in carrying out the main operational tasks;

-- maintains cooperation among the navies on matters of navigational-hydrographic support and the navigation regime of the naval forces.



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