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Internal Ref No.

19971-2
Top Secret Control Section
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Auth. of Propaganda Bulletin (T. 10, 2) Jan. 60.
by A.R. Stirling, CWO, W-4 USA
date 30 MAR 1960

Copy No. 109

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(SOVIET INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY)

X Maj Gen P.A. DIBROVA

Source: A clandestine source of established authenticity.

I. Preface

The following summary of information on Maj Gen Petr Aleksandrovich DIBROVA includes previously reported and unreported information available from source as well as certain information obtained from other sources. DIBROVA was fairly well known to source over a period of months prior to 19 Apr 56, when he (DIBROVA) left his duties in BERLIN to undergo medical examination in MOSCOW. Apparently for reasons of health DIBROVA never fully resumed his dual role of Chief of the Directorate of the Military Commandant of the Soviet Sector of BERLIN, and Chief of the Central Military Kommandatura of the Soviet Sector, City of BERLIN, positions which source reports DIBROVA held since at least 1952. In mid-June 1956, according to another source, DIBROVA was replaced by Maj Gen A.S. SHAMOV.

II. Subordination and Duties

The positions of Garrison (or Military) Commandant and Central Kommandatura Chief called for DIBROVA to supervise border control on the Ring-round-BERLIN, liaison with the East Germans and Western representatives in BERLIN, and fulfillment of logistic requirements of other Soviet military elements in the city. He was also asked to meet visiting Soviet dignitaries.

Prior to the down-grading of the GSFG Frontier Control Directorate to a department in January 1956, DIBROVA often discussed border control operations and policy with the directorate Chief, Gen MALYI; thereafter DIBROVA's contacts with the Special Service Department, of the GSFG Operations Directorate under the GSFG Chief of Staff (Col Gen A.P. TARASOV), which supplanted the directorate, were less numerous. Presumably MALYI too was under the GSFG Chief of Staff. DIBROVA was also often in touch with Marshal A.A. GRECHKO (CinC, GSFG) by means of a "V.Ch" telephone, i.e. one regarded by the Soviets as a secure means of communication, and he has worked within the framework of border control directives issued by the CinC. DIBROVA occasionally received directives from the GSFG Chief of Staff's office.

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DIBROVA was in daily contact with senior officers of the five independent garrison battalions (referred to by the Soviets as "Commandant's Battalions") under the Central Kommandatura and of battalion control points encircling the Western Sectors of BERLIN.* Matters ranging from the detention of Allied soldiers to border-crossing by dogs on a clandestine mission received his personal attention. A conversation on 15/17 Jan 56, which indicated the nature of his duties as well as certain personal characteristics, was one of several dealing with infringements of the Soviet Sector by Western troops.** DIBROVA reportedly issued instructions for establishing Soviet Sector boundaries and setting up boundary stones in 1952, but the work was interrupted in 1954 and still was unfinished in February 1956. When the wife of Maj Gen F.E. ROME, British GOC, BERLIN was scheduled to pass through a Ring-round-BERLIN control point en route from MARIENBORN on 11 Apr 56, DIBROVA repeatedly urged the control point commander to salute, permit no hold-up in her passage, and to make the meeting "cultured."

Officers under DIBROVA made representations to Allied authorities regarding East-West incidents in BERLIN; these incidents were particularly numerous soon after the handover of some BERLIN Garrison functions to the East Germans (DIBROVA disapproving) following the signing of the USSR-CDR State Sovereignty Treaty in September 1955. During this period DIBROVA was beset with border control problems, for a final order delineating Soviet and East German responsibilities had not been issued. But although he was consulted on border control policy matters and despite his "lobbying" with the Chief of Staff and other high-ranking GSFG officers, DIBROVA's recommendations, like those of Gen MALYI, were ignored in the final directive signed by Marshal GRECHKO in early December 1955. In March 1956 again DIBROVA's objections were over-ridden by GRECHKO, who this time deleted portions of a directive which would have required special documents for "our missions."

Logistic and administrative support was provided by DIBROVA for other GSFG components stationed in BERLIN, including the 28th and 49th Special Purpose Radio Regiments and at least three detachments, all subordinate to the GSFG Intelligence Directorate. Members of one detachment were known to have been on the ration strength of the Garrison; DIBROVA sometimes talked with the heads of the detachments; some telephonic communications with the two signals regiments were routed via the Garrison battalion at TELTOW when the regiments were stationed at BERLIN/Stahnsdorf; and a proposal was made in August 1955 for DIBROVA to establish a reception center for voluntary defectors.***

DIBROVA presumably was representing the Soviet Garrison when he met visiting Soviet officials in BERLIN. At the request of Marshal GRECHKO, DIBROVA on 24/25 Nov 55 was to meet an "important guest" and his wife, coming in the marshal's personal car from Hq, GSFG, to BERLIN for a tour of the city apparently to be conducted by DIBROVA.**** When Army Gen A.S. ZHADOV, Deputy CinC, Ground Forces, Ministry of Defense, and Col Gen I.T. KOROVNIKOV, Chief of Motor Transport Directorate, Ministry of Defense, were in BERLIN during

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* The battalions are located at GROSS GLEINICKE, TELTOW, KARLSHORST, BERNAU, and KOENIGSWUESTERHAUSEN.

** The verbatim text of this conversation is attached as Appendix A.

*** This reception center may have been operationally controlled by the Intelligence Directorate.

**** Although the identity of the "important guest" was not divulged, he may have been Soviet Minister of Agriculture MATSKEVICH, who arrived in East Germany on 24 Nov 55.

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early April 1956, they visited DIBROVA. The Commandant balked, however, at the suggestion that he meet four Ministry of Defense officials, among them one marshal, at SCHOENEFELD Airfield in BERLIN on 6 Oct 55; it was not his responsibility, claimed DIBROVA, unless Marshal I.Kh. BAGRAMYAN, Deputy Minister of Defense, was a member of the party.


The zeal with which DIBROVA protected his authority from encroachment by others was shown not only by his reluctance to turn over certain border control duties to the East Germans. Thinking that Gen MALYI was interfering with the nomination of a replacement of an officer at a control point, DIBROVA on 13 Dec 55 exclaimed: "What business is it of his? I have my men, and I know my men. This is my responsibility." During the course of a lengthy criticism of the GSGF Frontier Control Directorate on 30 Dec 55, DIBROVA asserted: "It is our business to know most about BERLIN." Told by a GSGF Barracks Service officer on 1/6 Apr 56 that a question had arisen about returning a swimming pool to the Germans, DIBROVA protested: "No! What are we to have -- another boss in the compound!" After thrice saying "on no account," DIBROVA eventually agreed.

III Health

Not feeling well, DIBROVA in November 1955 entered a GSGF hospital, where he was advised to take three day's rest. Shortly thereafter he booked leave starting on 1 Jul 56. In late January and early February he was again on sick leave. DIBROVA said on 8/9 Mar 56 that he had been "chased into a hospital" for examination but there had refused to take an intravenous injection of "colouring matter." He showed annoyance with the hospital authorities for having released him without a proper diagnosis and especially for their having written in his book that he had refused the injection. Apparently indignant over their failure to make a firm diagnoses of what he believed might be a floating kidney, DIBROVA called them "horse doctors" and said he thought they might kill him. A full report on the matter, he added, would go to the CinC. The seriousness of his illness, probably cancer of the stomach, did not become apparent until April 1956, and even then Maj Gen V.Z. CHERTOV, Chief, GSGF Medical Directorate, seemed to withhold his diagnosis from DIBROVA.

In a long talk with CHERTOV on 11/12 April, DIBROVA showed signs of nervousness over his illness. At the hospital in East Germany where the trouble had been diagnosed as a tumor "behind the peritoneum," it had been recommended that DIBROVA go to MOSCOW for further examination as "two heads are better than one." CHERTOV attempted to raise DIBROVA's spirits, saying that since the symptoms were of such long standing the operation could be nothing serious and that it was a 100-to-1 chance of the operation not being successful -- DIBROVA should not "let such an idea enter your head." DIBROVA agreed but added that at times the thought did enter his mind. With permission granted by the CinC, DIBROVA left on 17/18 April for an unspecified "academy" in MOSCOW. Subsequently CHERTOV stated the trouble was the "same as Aleksandr Pavlovich's," i.e. Col Gen Aleksandr Pavlovich TARASOV, GSGF Chief of Staff, who underwent an operation for stomach cancer.

IV Associates

DIBROVA number  his professional contacts:

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A. Senior Officers

Marshal GRECHKO - CinC, GSFG. What transpired between DIBROVA and GRECHKO in their "V.Ch." telephone conversations and in their face-to-face meetings is not known, except that twice DIBROVA's recommendations on border control matters were turned down by GRECHKO in issuing directives. DIBROVA occasionally procured special items for the CinC; on one occasion, in October 1955, he was called upon by one of Marshal GRECHKO's aides to supply two brands of American cigarettes, admittedly not for sale on the East German market. With the marshal's aides DIBROVA was on friendly terms, although he was taken aback when one member of the CinC's staff confided that he would like a "plum" in the BERLIN Garrison rather than to remain with Marshal GRECHKO; the officer, who believed that he did not have an opportunity for promotion in his present position, eventually was transferred to the KARLMARKSTADT area. Nina (or Yanina) Vladimirovna DIBROVA, wife of the commandant, was on exceptionally good terms with Mrs. Klavdiya Vladimirovna GRECHKO. On 19 Apr 56 it was stated that Mrs. DIBROVA had carried out "the commission", presumably the procurement of certain goods in BERLIN, on behalf of Mrs. GRECHKO.

Gen MALYI - Chief, Frontier Control Directorate, GSFG. Their cordial professional association, which never extended to a personal friendship, was climaxed in January 1956 when MALYI left East Germany upon the down-grading of his directorate to a department. The news of this reorganization was given DIBROVA by MALYI on 10 Dec 55. DIBROVA jokingly offered MALYI his job, but MALYI declined with the explanation that he did not have the suitable "exterior" which he obviously felt DIBROVA possessed.* In dealing with the British and French, explained MALYI, one did not want to "look up to them" -- the job required "presence."

DIBROVA [laughing]: "I see -- a fool perhaps, but a tall one."

MALYI: "You know yourself that it's the same in MOSCOW. A man may be an arch-genius but if he hasn't a suitable figure, he'll never be the commandant of MOSCOW."

Congratulating Gen CHERTOV on his youthful appearance, DIBROVA once insisted that "looks are everything, they are the deciding factor," not age, but on another occasion DIBROVA maintained to the diminutive Gen MALYI that the "head is the most important, the deciding factor." Despite their amicable relations, DIBROVA sharply criticized the Frontier Control Directorate on 20 Dec 55 for making several errors in a list of border control points, "not for the first time and not only on one occasion," according to the Garrison Commandant. He also attacked MALYI for taking a hand in the assignment of an officer at one of the Ring-round-BERLIN control points.

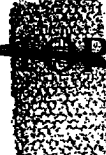
Maj Gen E.P. PITOVVRANOV** Concerned that East Germans might be killed by PITOVVRANOV's hunting for boar at night with infra-red sights, DIBROVA called the general "a fool" on 9 Oct 55.

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* According to another source DIBROVA is approximately 5-8 to 5-10 in height; he was born about 1900-1904. The name MALYI, like "DIBROVA" of Ukrainian origin, literally means small.

** PITOVVRANOV is identified by other sources as Chief of the KGB Residentura in East Germany and First Counsellor at the Soviet Embassy, BERLIN.



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Lt Gen P.T. LUKASHIN - Chief, Political Directorate, GSFG. LUKASHIN had urged him not to allow anyone through a Ring-round-BERLIN control point without proper documentation. DIBROVA said on 7 Apr 56. The Political Directorate Chief had even "threatened" to report DIBROVA and have him punished if he did otherwise.

Maj Gen V.M. DOMNIKOV - Chief, Cadres Directorate, GSFG. Perhaps in an official capacity, DOMNIKOV contacted Mrs DIBROVA a few days after her husband had left to undergo medical examination in MOSCOW in mid-April 1956.

(?Maj) Gen I.I. UDAVIKOV - Chief, Motor Transport Directorate, GSFG. The Garrison Commandant on 26/27 Mar 56 made a personal plea to UDAVIKOV for ten POBEDA's in connection with the expected arrival of Col Gen KOROVNIKOV in BERLIN.

B. Subordinates

While Col P.G. KRYMSKII was Chief of the Kommandatura Department at Hq, GSFG, he was sharply rebuked by DIBROVA who said on 19 Dec 55 that the colonel fell asleep and smelled of liquor during a Communist Party conference; even more indignant when KRYMSKII denied the charge, DIBROVA was substantiated in his accusation by Gen MALYL. On 20 Dec 55 DIBROVA asked why "this simple matter" of the list of border control points had not been referred to him instead of "that cobbler, [Col N.K.] POMAZANOVSKII," then on the Frontier Control Directorate staff. A stroke of bad luck therefore seemed to have befallen DIBROVA when these two officers were assigned to him, KRYMSKII as a deputy and POMAZANOVSKII as Chief of Staff, with the down-grading of the directorate in January 1956. But DIBROVA made the best of a bad bargain; although they were never on friendly terms, DIBROVA treated them with consideration and was on a first-name basis with both.

Little is known of DIBROVA's relationships with Col I.A. KOTSYUBA, whom he described on 15/17 Apr 56 as "my deputy for diplomatic affairs," or with Col A.G. BODEI, another deputy who was transferred to the Belorussian Military District in mid-January, presumably making room for Col KRYMSKII. When DIBROVA was ill in late January and early February 1956, some of his duties, including the signing of passes, were assumed by KOTSYUBA.

V. Family and Residences

DIBROVA maintained a residence in BERLIN/Karlshorst and another at 109 Leningradskoe Chaussee, MOSCOW (Telephone No. D-7 4794). His wife lived with him in Karlshorst, rather than in MOSCOW, and he took her to the Soviet officers' spa in KARLOVY VARY (KARLSBAD), Czechoslovakia, for the month of August 1955 because of her ill health. The couple have at least two children. One son was attending the Suvorov (Military) Academy in KIEV in February 1955; another, Vladimir DIBROVA, was assigned to an Intelligence Directorate detachment at ERFURT until April 1956, when his father arranged his transfer to another unit by unorthodox means.

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VI Personality, Character, Habits

DIBROVA speaks with a MOSCOW accent despite the fact that he once described himself as a Ukrainian, and sometimes he lapsed into Ukrainian when talking with his very close personal friend, Lt Col P.V. KHLIUBKO, of the GSFG Finance Department. (Another personal friend with whom DIBROVA often spoke was Col BEISHOV, of the Foreign Trade Organization office at Hq, GSFG.) He was less addicted to swearing than most other high-ranking officers. Except when provoked, DIBROVA was uncommonly good-natured with colleagues and subordinates, whom he addressed in such terms as "my very good friend." The Garrison Commandant was extremely kind and considerate with a major, temporarily serving as commander of a battalion, in answering questions on comparatively minor points in connection with the new duties.

Source has indicated that DIBROVA was cooperative, easily approached, educated, cultured, positive in manner, vigorous, quick to act, and usually calm and has a good sense of humor. These traits made him liked by his associate and created a favorable impression on source.

Nevertheless, he was a severe disciplinarian and as harsh as any contemporary in dealing with shortcomings. "There must be no appeasing," no "coddling of troops," DIBROVA once said. Unhappy when all of his female interpreters were taken away, he described the remaining males as "bumpkins" on 15 Apr 56. He was quick to seize upon cases of indiscipline and mistakes of officers and other ranks, and when DIBROVA sentenced a soldier to 20 days' imprisonment for incorrectly permitting a car to go through a control point, a subordinate officer remarked the sentence was "the minimum he gives." An impatient DIBROVA dressed down an officer for a slow and inaccurate report of a border incident on 22/23 Mar 56; on 4 Apr 56 he spent much time trying to locate a soldier who had disappeared; he demanded on 6 Apr 56 a report on two drunken soldiers. As in the case of an officer who suggested an intricate system for signalling East German border guards, DIBROVA was abrupt with subordinates who made proposals he considered impractical.

DIBROVA's own attitude toward higher authority was not necessarily consistent with his strict adherence to regulations and his attitude toward subordinates who disobeyed. Notified on 9 Mar 56 of a reduction in GSFG working hours, DIBROVA was skeptical, recalling that a previous order which terminated the working day at 1800 hours had been short-lived; he added: "You people there [at Hq, GSFG] begin to respect laws -- for how long?" Unless Marshal BAGRAMYAN were in the party, DIBROVA was disinclined to meet a group of MOSCOW officers holding ranks higher than major general.

As a Communist, DIBROVA was incensed when Col KRYMSKII fell asleep during a Party conference in December 1955, and he took part in political meetings of the Garrison. It was said on 6/7 Apr 56 that at one of the Garrison battalions DIBROVA was to give a lecture similar to one previously presented by a Garrison political officer.

Outside of his Garrison/Kommandantura and Communist Party work, DIBROVA's main interest was in hunting -- hence perhaps the outburst against FITOVANOV. He and the commander of a Garrison battalion on 3 Mar 56 planned to leave on a hunting expedition in the Lake Seddin area before 8 a.m. the following day in order to forestall the commandant of the POTSDAM Kommandantura.

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DIBROVA sent one of GRECHKO's aides some hare he had shot. He frequently invited friends to wild-bear hunts, and he enjoyed exchanging hunting yarns with Col KHLIYURKO.

Finally, DIBROVA appeared to pay particular attention to outward appearances. On the occasion of Maj Gen ROME's wife going through a Ring-round-BERLIN check point, he insisted that she should be treated in a "cultured" manner. On another occasion DIBROVA offered the Deputy Chief of the GSPG Barracks Services Directorate two seats in the diplomatic box at a concert that night in the Metropol Theatre in BERLIN commemorating the tenth anniversary of the founding of the German Youth Organisation (FDJ). Col POMAZONOVSKII would also be there with his wife. The Barracks Services officer was not to go alone, said DIBROVA, but should bring his wife or "somebody else's wife" - someone "presentable like yourself." Accepting the offer, the Barracks Services officer said he would bring along a colonel or more likely some woman whom he would tell to dress properly.

VII Appendices

Attached to this report as Appendices A and B, respectively, are a translation of a conversation involving DIBROVA and a list of personalities appearing in this report. Appendix C is a digest of biographic information on DIBROVA, obtained from other sources.

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Appendix A to MPU No. 694

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DIBROVA-SKRYABIN-KOSTYLEV Conversation

In mid-January 1956 a U.S. Army sergeant driving from BERLIN to FRANKFURT/Oder passed through the Soviet control point on the Ring-round-BERLIN en route to MARLENBORN, but returned to the control point over three hours later. In the interim he had mistaken a route sign and had nearly exhausted his fuel supply. DIBROVA's 15/17 Jan 56 conversation with Lt Col B.S. KOSTYLEV, Chief of Frontier Control for the BERLIN Garrison, and with Sr Lt SKRYABIN, who commanded the control point, follows:

D: Where is this American who was detained?

S: He is here, Comrade General, in NOWAWES.

D: Is he released yet?

S: Not yet. We are preparing documents.

D: No release! Drag him over here. Tell the lieutenant colonel and bring him over here.

S: Yes, sir.

D: And these guys who came to meet him -- let the devil's mother take them! Get KOSTYLEV to the telephone. [to himself] What an outrage! They certainly thought it up, all right.

K: I am listening, Comrade General.

D: Who came for this American?

K: Liaison officer KARLINSKII.

D: [by this time extremely angry] Why did you start negotiations with him?

K: We did not talk to him. He was here prior to our arrival [from the Soviet Garrison]. He was already talking to the detained sergeant.

D: You should not be doing that. Send them away. Grab him and bring him over here and let him proceed on his way. How can you do a thing like that?

K: Shall I bring him over with the car?

D: Yes, with the car, with everything. What an affair! Honestly, how can they do it like that! [slams the receiver]

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Appendix B to MFU No. 694

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Personalities

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
X BAGRAMYAN, I.Kh.	Marshal	Deputy Minister of Defence.
X BEISHOV	Col	Foreign Trade Organisation, HQ, GSFG; a personal friend of DIBROVA.
X BODEI, A.G.	Col	Former deputy to DIBROVA; now serving in Belorussian Military District.
X CHEKTOV, V.Z.	Maj Gen	Chief, Medical Directorate, GSFG.
X DIBROVA, Nina/Yanina Vladimirovna		Wife of Maj Gen DIBROVA.
X DIBROVA, Petr Aleksandrovich	Maj Gen	Former Commandant of the Soviet Garrison, BERLIN, and former Chief, Central Military Kommandatura, Soviet Sector of BERLIN.
X DIBROVA, Vladimir	?officer	Reassigned in April 1956 from a GSFG Intelligence Directorate detachment in ERFURT; son of Maj Gen DIBROVA.
X DIBROVA (fnu)	unknown	In February 1956 a student at the Suvorov Academy, KIEV; a son of Maj Gen DIBROVA.
X DOMNIKOV, V.M.	Maj Gen	Chief, Cadres Directorate, GSFG.
X GRECHKO, I.N.	Marshal	CinC, GSFG.
X GRECHKO, K.V.	-	Wife of Marshal GRECHKO.
X KHLYUBKO, P.V.	Lt Col	Finance Department, GSFG; a personal friend of DIBROVA.
X KOROVNIKOV, I.T.	Col Gen	Chief, Motor Transport Directorate, Ministry of Defence.
X KOSTYLEV, B.S.	Col	Chief, frontier control, Soviet Garrison, BERLIN.
X KOTSYUBA, I.A.	Col	A deputy to DIBROVA, who described him as "my deputy for diplomatic affairs".
X KRYMSKII, P.G.	Col	Former Chief, Kommandatura Department, HQ, GSFG; later a deputy to DIBROVA.
X LUKASHIN, P.T.	Lt Gen	Chief, Political Directorate, GSFG.
X MALYI (fnu)	Gen	Former Chief, Frontier Control Directorate, GSFG; transferred to the USSR in January 1956
X MATSKEVICH	-	Minister of Agriculture.
X PIPOVRANOV, E.P.	Maj Gen	[collateral: Chief, KGB Residentura in East Germany, and First Counsellor, Soviet Embassy, BERLIN]
X POMAZANOVSKII, N.K.	Col	Former member of the GSFG Frontier Control Directorate staff; later Chief of Staff under DIBROVA.
X ROME, P.E.	Maj Gen	[collateral: GOC, British Garrison, BERLIN]
X SHAMOV, A.S.	Maj Gen	[collateral: Succeeded Maj Gen DIBROVA in June 1956]
X TARASOV, A.P.	Col Gen	Former Chief of Staff, GSFG.
X UDAVIKOV, I.I.	(?Maj) Gen	Chief, Motor Transport Directorate, GSFG.
X ZHADOV, A.S.	Army Gen	Deputy CinC, Soviet Ground Forces.

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Appendix C to MPU No 1

Biographic Information on Maj Gen DIBROVA* 1110

- (6.) 1916 - An agricultural labourer, according to a 1956 statement attributed to him.
- 1943 - Appointed major general of intendance; probably transferred from intendance to infantry.
- 1944 - Participated in Baltic Front breakthrough southeast of RIGA.
- 1952 - Appointed "Commander of BERLIN".
- 1953 - Awarded Order of Red Banner for successful execution of battle tasks and outstanding results in battle, and for political training and education of troops; moved with staff from POTSDAM to Soviet Control Commission area in BERLIN/Karlshorst.
- 1955 - In Marshal GRECHKO's entourage during British CinC's visit to ZOSSEN/WUENSDORF.
- June 1956 - Succeeded by Maj Gen SHAMOV.
- July 1956 - Left for MOSCOW.

Personal Details: Reported by one defector as being not very severe, by another as being demanding, feared by all officers, and very strict. Member of the Communist Party. Medium build; 5'8" to 5'10" in height; about 155 pounds; dark blond hair. Wife in BERLIN.

* This information has been obtained from other sources.

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