

SECRET

EGIA-263

Chief, EE

19 August 1957

Chief, CACROZE

Info: COS  
POB

Operational/CALL/Liaison

RNMELLATE Views of GDR Forces

REF: EGIA-254

*W. Gen. Govt.*

ACTION REQUIRED: None. For your information.

DATE INFO ACQUIRED: 9-13 August 1957

1. The armed forces of the GDR cannot expand in size without general conscription. However, due to the critical manpower shortage RNMELLATE opined that the GDR cannot afford conscription without causing an economic crisis. Thus in spite of the threatening propaganda from the GDR, no change in numerical force is anticipated in the foreseeable future.

2. Reportedly the GDR forces are considered untrustworthy as front line troops by the GDR regime and the Soviets. In the event of a conflict, these forces are expected to assume the responsibility for the take-over of immediate administration of conquered territories, carrying out of arrests of Fed Rep wanted list types and installing their own people in leading positions.

3. In order to prevent Fed Rep/GDR border incidents leading to conflagration, it has been decided that no Fed Rep troops will be assigned to the immediate border areas. RNMELLATE assumes the GDR has not assigned their troops to the immediate border areas for the same reasons.

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