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HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS
DIVISION
HR-70-14
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*Soviet
Atomic Energy
Department*

APR 9 1954

HR70-14

MEMORANDUM

To: The Under Secretary

Via: S/S

Subject: Soviet Manual on Tactical Employment of Atomic Weapons

For your information, CIA has distributed (on a highly restricted basis) a report describing in some detail a Soviet "Manual on Organization and Conduct of Combat Operations under Conditions in Which Atomic Weapons Are Employed", issued by the USSR Ministry of Defense in 1953. While there is good reason to believe from other sources that the Russians have issued a manual on this subject, it is by no means certain that the present report is authentic, primarily because of certain discrepancies in the scientific information presented. The latter may, however, result from errors in transmission--the information was obtained through a clandestine operation--and it may be possible to clarify the questionable points through further questions to the source.

The Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee (JAEIC) is studying the report from the scientific point of view but does not believe that any conclusions can be drawn at this time with respect to Soviet progress in the development of atomic weapons. On the tactical side, G-2 has concluded tentatively that, if the report is authentic, the Soviets have adopted tactical doctrines for the employment of the rifle corps which are radically different from those of World War II.

W. Park Armstrong, Jr.

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