

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

TELETYPED INFORMATION REPORT

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CLASSIFICATION <div style="text-align: center;">S-E-C-R-E-T</div>	DISSEMINATION CONTROLS
DATE DISTR. 21 FEBRUARY 1958	PRECEDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROUTINE
COUNTRY EAST GERMANY/USSR	PLACE ACQUIRED USSR
SUBJECT GSFG COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY MARSHALS MALINOVSKIY AND GOLIKOV	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> APPROVED FOR RELEASE HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS DIVISION HR-70-14 4-18-2012 </div>
DATE OF INFORMATION 6 AND 7 FEBRUARY 1958	REFERENCES
APPRAISAL OF CONTENT (TENTATIVE) 3	
SOURCE (EVALUATION DEFINITIVE) A USUALLY RELIABLE SOVIET SOURCE SOVIET MINISTER OF DEFENSE MARSHAL [RODION YA.] MALINOVSKIY AND MARSHAL [FILIP I.] GOLIKOV, CHIEF OF THE CHIEF POLITICAL DIRECTORATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, WERE IN EAST GERMANY IN EARLY FEBRUARY. ON 6 AND 7 FEBRUARY THEY PARTICIPATED IN A COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE WHICH WAS HELD BY THE POLITICAL DIRECTORATE OF THE GROUP OF SOVIET FORCES IN GERMANY (GSFG). THIS MEETING WAS OPENED BY GEN. LEYB. [PAVEL I.] YEFIMOV, CHIEF OF THE GSFG POLITICAL DIRECTORATE AND A MEMBER OF THE GSFG, MILITARY COUNCIL, WITH A THREE-HOUR SPEECH ON THE STATE OF POLITICAL TRAINING IN THE GSFG. IN THEIR CAPACITY AS DELEGATES TO THIS CONFERENCE, MALINOVSKIY, GOLIKOV, AND ARMY GENERAL [MATVEY V.] ZAKHAROV, COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE GSFG, ALSO SPOKE. 2. MALINOVSKIY COVERED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS IN HIS SPEECH: A. HE REVIEWED BRIEFLY AND IN GENERALITIES THE INTERNAL USSR AND FOREIGN SITUATION AND CITED SOVIET TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUPERIORITY. B. HE DISCUSSED THE COMBAT READINESS OF THE GSFG IN THE LIGHT OF ITS ROLE AS ADVANCE POST IN EVENT THE WESTERN POWERS ATTACK. WHEREAS THE COMBAT EFFICIENCY OF THE GSFG FOR 1957 WAS RATED AS "SATISFACTORY," TWO OR THREE DIVISIONS, PARTICULARLY	
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MECHANIZED DIVISIONS, WERE RATED "UNSATISFACTORY". HE STATED THAT OFFICERS HAVE NOT LEARNED TO EMPLOY NEW WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT PROPERLY. A MAJOR TASK FOR THE GSEFG IS TO IMPROVE TRAINING WITH NEW MATERIEL AND TO EMPLOY IT PROPERLY IN CONDITIONS OF ATOMIC WARFARE. COMMANDERS NEGLECT THE USE OF ATOMIC WEAPONS WHEN CONDUCTING MANEUVERS IN WHICH ATOMIC WEAPONS ARE THEORETICALLY PRESENT. THE GSEFG MUST ALSO DEVELOP EFFICIENT TECHNIQUES FOR NIGHT OPERATIONS.

C. HE ALSO DISCUSSED THE STATE OF DISCIPLINE IN THE GSEFG, AND STATED THAT THERE WERE MANY BREACHES OF DISCIPLINE WHICH REFLECTED BADLY ON SOVIET-GERMAN RELATIONS. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE STATED THAT A SOVIET SOLDIER KILLED A RESIDENT OF A SMALL GERMAN TOWN, WHEREUPON THE ENTIRE TOWN RESIGNED MEMBERSHIP IN THE HOUSE FOR SOVIET-GERMAN FRIENDSHIP. CONSEQUENTLY THE HOUSE HAS NOW STOPPED FUNCTIONING. MEMBERS OF THE GSEFG WERE ALSO CALLED UPON TO SHOW GREATER FRIENDSHIP FOR THE DDR NATIONAL PEOPLES' ARMY.

D. MALINOVSKIY URGED MORE SELF-CRITICISM IN THE SOVIET ARMY. AS AN EXAMPLE, GEN. LEY. [IVAN I.] YAKUBOVSKIY, FIRST DEPUTY TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL, GSEFG, AND THE CHIEF OF THE GSEFG ARTILLERY DIRECTORATE WERE CRITICIZED FOR RUDE BEHAVIOR TOWARD SUPERORDINATES.

3. MALINOVSKIY WAS QUESTIONED FROM THE FLOOR OF THE CONFERENCE CONCERNING THE ABSENCE OF ANTI-ATOMIC WEAPONS IN THE GSEFG AND THE WEAKNESS OF SOVIET ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY. THE QUESTIONER POINTED OUT THAT THE LATTER WEAPONS WERE AVAILABLE ONLY IN 37 AND 57 MM CALIBERS, WHICH WERE INEFFECTIVE AGAINST MODERN AIRCRAFT WHICH FLY AT ALTITUDES OF FIFTEEN KMS. MALINOVSKIY PROMISED THAT THE GSEFG WOULD RECEIVE MORE MODERN WEAPONS FOR ADEQUATE ANTI-AIRCRAFT PROTECTION. COMMENT: THE GSEFG IS KNOWN TO HAVE AA GUNS LARGER THAN 37 AND 57 MM.]

4. INFORMANT CHARACTERIZED THE MALINOVSKIY SPEECH AS TOTALLY POLITICAL AND

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LACKING IN ANY DETAILS OF REAL MILITARY VALUE. SOURCE BELIEVES MALINOVSKIY MAY HAVE GIVEN A TALK TO A RESTRICTED AUDIENCE ALONG PURELY MILITARY LINES, BUT INFORMANT MENTIONED NOTHING ABOUT SUCH A TALK.

5. ARMY GENERAL ZAKHAROV ALSO SPOKE ON DISCIPLINE, AND HE TOUCHED SPECIFICALLY ON INCIDENTS RESULTING IN CASUALTIES, WHICH REFLECT ADVERSELY ON SOVIET-GERMAN RELATIONS AND VIOLATE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE DDR. ON THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY TRAINING, ZAKHAROV STATED THAT ANTIQUATED STANDARDS ARE BEING USED IN CONDUCTING MANEUVERS, TROOP MOVEMENTS ARE TOO SLOW, AND THERE IS CLUMSINESS IN MANEUVERABILITY. HE CRITICIZED THE TEMPO FOR DISPERSAL AS TOO SLOW, AND POINTED OUT THAT IT IS NOT YET UNDERSTOOD THAT MODERN COMBAT TAKES PLACE UNDER ATOMIC WARFARE CONDITIONS.

COMMENT: EVALUATION REQUESTED OF ARMY AND OCL.

END OF MESSAGE

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