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SOVIET UNION MILITARY-ECONOMIC REPORT

Translated from the German Report 5/7

Dated: 25 July 1943

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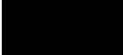
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## PREFACE

During the Second World War the German Signal Intelligence Control Center of the Staff of the Chief of Army Signal Service (HNW, LNA) issued a series of reports to show the USSR military-economic situation as reflected in Russian internal plain language traffic. These reports appeared at short, irregular intervals, usually six per month, for the period October 1942-March 1943. Eighty-three of these reports have been translated and issued by [REDACTED] FOIA b2a

It is planned to issue a complete set of translations of the reports beginning with the most recent and working back- FOIA b2a  
FOIA b3a but omitting those already translated by [REDACTED] FOIA b2a  
[REDACTED] The numbering of the items was added by the translator since the [REDACTED] FOIA b2a  
FOIA b3a did this only in the last eighteen reports, [REDACTED] inclusive. Since the original material was in Russian, an effort has been made when translating the German to determine the original Russian term wherever possible. This is facilitated by the Russian fondness for abbreviations. In these translations into English the probable meaning of the abbreviation will be given in parenthesis the first time it occurs in each report.

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25 July 1943

## The Soviet Union

## Military-Economic Report 5/7

(Based on domestic radio traffic)

## Individual Messages

1) Personnel Situation

(1) According to a report from Aktyubinsk, bureau assistants are being called up irrespective of age. Complaints are being rejected with the statement that their return is possible only after special approval from the military authorities, and in particular, only for technical and management personnel.

(2) The authorities for the Civil Reserve ("Mobilization Directorate") in Moscow proposed to the military chiefs of the Tatar SSR to prevent to the utmost the calling up of employees of the River Fleet by all local military authorities.

(3) Technical personnel are needed for ship repair. A few NKRF offices were ordered to make available the required technical people from among their management personnel.

(4) The following preliminary plans of individual NKRF offices were noted with regard to the personnel situation and wage fund for the third quarter (wage fund in thousand rubles):

- I management personnel
- II landing place personnel
- III technical communications personnel
- IV steamship agency management personnel

| Office     | I      |       | II     |       | III    |       | IV     |       |
|------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
|            | Number | Wages | Number | Wages | Number | Wages | Number | Wages |
| Kujbyshev  | 3150   | 5713  | 1040   | 1351  | 260    | 234   | 135    | 260   |
| Stalingrad | 4431   | 6973  | 1500   | 1818  | 165    | 140   | 132    | 265   |
| Molotov    | 4752   | 7305  | 850    | 1163  | 175    | 152   | 138    | 278   |
| Gorkij     | 6644   | 9646  | 2000   | 2500  | 440    | 418   | 185    | 374   |
| Kirov      | 2140   | 1667  | 270    | 344   | 34     | 33    | 49     | 108   |
| Uralsk     | 547    | 811   | 65     | 92    | 23     | 23    | 36     | 82    |

Possible bonuses must be paid from the wage fund.

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Security Information2) Food Situation

(5) On 21 July the following order (extract of original message) was sent to all NKRF offices with respect to the approaching harvest of 1943:

"As a basis for the competition in the coming harvest, employees of the River Fleet (see reports of February 1943) must fulfill their duty to Comrade Stalin. To carry out the harvest work, the entire rural population capable of work who belong to sovkhoses of the River Fleet as well as family members of employees of the River Fleet are to be called upon. The required number of mechanics, tractor drivers and other technical personnel is to be made available to the agricultural enterprises for the entire period of the harvest. The labor force needed for the harvest pool is to be mobilized from the city population. For the time being, the smooth course of the harvest work is the most important military-economic problem."

(6) The additional food allotments cannot be undertaken by individual NKRF offices because of insufficient supply. For example, Kamuste cannot supply ship's personnel of passing ships with additional food rations. The Ural Steamship Agency cannot supply the workers of their ship repair shops with the increased bread allotment of 800 grams. They are receiving 600 grams of bread daily as before.

(7) Uralsk-NKRF cannot receive any allotment of sugar for canning purposes. As a result, the canning of fruit is to be carried on without sugar.

(8) The results of the plan for agricultural work in Kustanai for the first six months have not been satisfactory. Above all, poor results were noted in the dairy economy and poultry slaughter. In addition, Kustanai cannot yet begin with the harvest, since the fields are so completely soaked from the last rain that the threshing machines cannot operate.

(9) The following authorizations of feed grain for NKRF offices were noted:

| <u>Consignee</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Consignor</u>          | <u>Remarks</u>                      |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Gorodets         | 1 ton           | Gorkij, Grain Procurement | In July for timber procurement work |
| Semipalatinsk    | 1               | ---                       | In July for timber procurement work |
| Molotov          | 3               | ---                       | In July for ship repairs            |
| Gorkij           | 2               | ---                       | " "                                 |
| Yaroslavl        | 1               | ---                       | " "                                 |
| Kazan            | 1               | ---                       | " "                                 |
| Sheboksary       | 1               | ---                       | " "                                 |
| Stalingrad       | 2               | ---                       | " "                                 |
| Samaratov        | 1               | ---                       | " "                                 |
| Novosibirsk      | 1               | ---                       | " "                                 |
| Ufa              | 4               | ---                       | For Bashkir Oblast'                 |

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### 3) Metal Supply

(10) Intercepted messages during the report period were few in number. In addition to a few reports on scrap procurement not carried out or poorly carried out and similar insufficiencies, there are two messages which show that the Soviet Union is importing sheet metal also. Tiflis received 553 tons of imported sheet metal from Baku and Astrakhan-NKRF delivered 8 tons of imported sheet metal from its stocks to Plant "Pamyat Kirova" in Arkul. The type of sheet metal cannot be further identified.

(11) In the first half of July the Transcaucasian Railway shipped 771 carloads with 16539 tons of manganese ore, presumably from Chiaturi. Simultaneously the railway stated that its daily performance of transporting manganese to Magnitogorsk on 13 July was 35 carloads, i. e. 720 tons.

(12) Kujbyshev-NKRF reports a serious shortage of cast iron, coke and ferrosilicon. The foundry which must fulfill important orders is in danger of shutting down.

(13) Omsk-NKRF urgently requires axes, which are not being delivered, for timber procurement work. Attempts are to be made to manufacture axes and saws at one's own enterprise. Likewise old files are to be rebuilt.

(14) In arrears with scrap iron collections are Astrakhan-NKRF with 300 tons and Omsk-NKRF. As of 19 July Groznyj has procured 294 tons of scrap iron and 6 tons of non-ferrous metal scrap. 110 tons were brought in and 134 tons shipped.

Authorizations, requirements and deliveries noted:

#### 1. Authorizations

|      | Consignee                   | Quantity | Type       | Consignor                                | Remarks |
|------|-----------------------------|----------|------------|--|---------|
| (15) | Gorkij, NKRF                | 20 tons  | Scrap iron | Chief Directorate of Metal Sales, Gorkij | ---     |
| (16) | Chistopol, Ship Repair Yard | 80       | Cast iron  | Kujbyshev, NKRF                          | ----    |
| (17) | Kirovakan, Chemical Plant   | 30       | Iron       | Chelekensk, Chemical Plant               | ---     |

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|      |                    |         |                   |         |
|------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| (18) | Astrakhan, 12 tons | Steel   | Gorkij            | ---     |
|      | "Volgatanker"      |         |                   |         |
| (19) | Blagoveshchensk 1  | Section | Chief Directorate |         |
|      | NKRF, Plant        | iron    | of Metal Sales,   |         |
|      | "Lenin"            |         | Khabarovsk        | In July |
| (20) | " 2                | Sheet   | "                 | In July |
|      |                    | iron    |                   |         |
| (21) | Gorkij, River 5    | Roofing |                   |         |
|      | Fleet Supply       | sheet   | Stalingrad        | ---     |
| (22) | Moscow, River 1    | Roofing | Gorkij-NKRF       | ---     |
|      | Fleet              | sheet   |                   |         |
| (23) | Chistopol-NKRF 5   | Roofing | Gorkij-NKRF       | ---     |
|      |                    | sheet   |                   |         |
| (24) | Omsk-NKRF 11       | Steel   |                   |         |
|      |                    | hawser  | Sverdlovsk        | ---     |
| (25) | Saratov-NKRF 0.4   | Bolts   | ---               | ---     |
| (26) | Saratov-NKRF 0.5   | Brass   | ---               | --      |
| (27) | Arkul-Vyatka 0.25  | Lead    | Kirov             | ---     |
|      | Steamship          |         |                   |         |
|      | Agency, Plant      |         |                   |         |
|      | "Pamyat Kirova"    |         |                   |         |

## 2. Requirements

|      |                  |             |     |                |
|------|------------------|-------------|-----|----------------|
| (28) | Semipalatinsk- 3 | Sheet iron  | --- | To manufacture |
|      | NKRF             |             |     | spades         |
| (29) | Saratov-NKRF 0.5 | White metal | --- | ---            |

## 3. Deliveries

|      |                    |           |       |         |
|------|--------------------|-----------|-------|---------|
| (30) | Kujbyshev-NKRF 200 | Cast iron | Volsk | In July |
|------|--------------------|-----------|-------|---------|

4) Chemical Supply

## Noted Authorizations

|      |                        |          |               |           |
|------|------------------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
| (31) | Chistopol-NKRF 10 tons | Calcium  | Kujbyshev     | ---       |
|      |                        | chloride |               |           |
| (32) | Gorkij, NKRF- 50       | Potassic | ---           | ---       |
|      | Plant "Teplokhod"      | salt     |               |           |
| (33) | Gorkij, NKRF- 80       | Potassic | ---           | ---       |
|      | Plant "Molotov"        | salt     |               |           |
| (34) | Svenigovo, 50          | Potassic | ---           | ---       |
|      | NKRF-Plant             | salt     |               |           |
|      | "Butyakov"             |          |               |           |
| (35) | Nakhichevan, 1 carload | Calcium  | Don-Basin of  | On 1 July |
|      | Oblast' Executive      | carbide  | the Chief     |           |
|      | Committee Ros-         |          | Directorate   |           |
|      | tov/Don                |          | for Chemical  |           |
|      |                        |          | Sales, Tiflis |           |
| (36) | Astrakhan-NKRF 23 tons | Caustic  |               |           |
|      |                        | soda     | ---           | ---       |



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|      | <u>Consignee</u>                 | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Type</u>         | <u>Consignor</u>                                     | <u>Remarks</u>                      |
|------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| (37) | Astrakhan-NKRF                   | 16 tons         | Calcinated soda     | ---  | ---                                 |
| (38) | Astrakhan-NKRF                   | 25              | Trisodium phosphate | ---  | ---                                 |
| (39) | Stalingrad-NKRF                  | 23              | Varnish             | Saratov  | ---                                 |
| (40) | Stalingrad-NKRF                  | 3               | Varnish             | ---  | ---                                 |
| (41) | Molotov, Water Transport Base    | 4               | Varnish             | Sverdlovsk   | ---                                 |
| (42) | Gorkij, River Fleet Supply       | 52              | Paint               | Chief Directorate of Chemical Sales Gorkij Yaroslavl | In third quarter ---                |
| (43) | Gorkij River Fleet Supply        | 20              | Paint               | Yaroslavl  | ---                                 |
| (44) | Gorkij River Fleet Supply        | 15              | Lacquer             | Yaroslavl  | ---                                 |
| (45) | Kemerovo, "Kemerovo Coal"        | 60              | Paraffin            | Groznyj, CD for Oil Supply                           | ---                                 |
| (46) | Rostov/Don, Oblast' Construction | 50              | Sunflower grains    | Grain Procurement Rostov/Don                         | In July, for manufacture of varnish |

(47) Rostov/Don delivered 118 tons of castor beans to Saratov.

#### 5.) Production

(48) It is noted from a government decree to all NKRF offices that the volume of preparatory work for carrying out ship repairs for the year 1943/44 must not be smaller than the previous year's work. During the winter period, ships which have been damaged and for that reason are only partially usable must be satisfactorily repaired. In the course of the summer all ships are to be provided with the necessary exchangeable spare parts. Furthermore, it is forbidden to send management specialists to ship repair oblasti for other work between navigation periods.

(49) In a longer message from Kujbyshev to the editors of the magazine "Vodnyj Transport" in Moscow it is noted, among other things, that over 30 half-sunk and dried up tugboats are located at various enterprises in the area. The actual technical condition of these vessels is not exactly known. In this way the most important measures, which are to assure the fulfillment of the State Plan, are being neglected in the Middle Volga. Management personnel are being reproached for a lack of far-sightedness and flexibility and also an ignorance in relation to the technical condition of the River Fleet. It is further noted that repair work

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cannot begin because of a lack of personnel.

(50) Various NKRF offices are disposing of larger amounts of idle tonnage, which is to be repaired in August and turned over to transportation. The following idle tonnage is to be repaired according to plan:

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Gorkij NKRF     | 30000 tons |
| Stalingrad NKRF | 20000 tons |
| Kujbyshev NKRF  | 3000 tons  |

(51) The petroleum line Groznyj-Armavir has a daily performance of 2200 tons at the present time. This includes 1000 tons to be pumped from 11 July after the completion of the assembly of the diesel tank at the Makhachkala terminal from here to Groznyj; 1200 tons will come from Groznyj from production. The assembly of a second diesel tank can be completed after an additional 15 days.

(52) Kalach NKRF reports the arrival of 28 flat boats, 8 of which came from Sokolskoe and 9 were turned over to transportation in the first ten days of July. Moreover, Kalach reports the completion of two ships in the third ten days of June. The NKRF shipyard in Khodzheli repaired three tugs according to plan by 18 July. On the other hand, Gorkij NKRF is considerably behind in the manufacture of spare parts.

The following allotments of current were noted:

(53) In July Gorkij NKRF receives for its offices and plants an allotment of 1,300,000 kwh, Kazan NKRF 50,000 kwh.

The following individual messages concern the activity of various NKRF enterprises:

(54) Kujbyshev NKRF was ordered to manufacture 50 hydraulic lifting plants.

(55) At the beginning of July 34 diving pumps and 10 ship's lifting windlasses were delivered. The Pump Factory in Katajsk delivered 7 pumps to River Fleet Supply in the second quarter.

(56) Astrakhan NKRF is to receive 60 carloads of cement from the Cement Factory in Tauz.

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(57) Ulyanovsk is to deliver 40 tons of tar to Vladimirovka NKRF.

(58) The shipyard in Krasnoyarsk requests approval for the construction of three barges in its own rajon and Igarka rajon for timber transport.

(59) Newly Noted Plants

In Khodzeli a shipyard (520 km north of Ashkhabad at Nukus)  
In Kudinovo a brick works (formerly identified as ceramics factory)  
In Saratov a plant #15  
In Chelekensk a chemical plant (unidentified)  
In Katajsk a pump factory (130 km west of Chelyabinsk at Zlatoust)  
In Tikhoretsk a locomotive repair plant.

6) Transport Situation

(60) The strain on the NK for the River Fleet appears to have reached a high point.

Many NKRF offices can not carry out their transport programs because of trouble. Stalingrad has not been able to carry out the prescribed norms for coal transport, Ilijsk NKRF the general transport plan of the first ten days of July, Krasnoyarsk NKRF the transport plans for grain, wood and coal. The Upper Irtysh Steamship Agency remains constant under the established norm for grain and clay transport.

(61) Individual landing places in Omsk NKRF could not carry out the shipping plans. Because of this, raw materials important for armaments were damaged from being stored too long.

(62) The following two items give an approximate picture of the quantity of goods handled at Saratov Harbor:

On 14 July 223 transport workers handled 592 tons of freight;  
On 16 July 216 dock workers handled 440 tons of freight.

(63) According to plan Kujbyshev-NKRF is to procure 26 ships with a total tonnage of 50000 tons for greater grain transport on the Volga.

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(64) Transport plans for various NKRF offices for the third quarter:

| <u>Gorkij NKRF</u> | <u>Tons</u> | <u>Million Ton Kilometers</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Cement             | 30000       | 5                             |
| Minerals           | 200000      | 50                            |
| Coal               | 25000       | 13.2                          |
| Metals             | 60000       | 36                            |
| Wood               | 300000      | 72                            |
| Chemical products  | 32000       | 16.6                          |
| Other goods        | 792000      | 9                             |
| Floated timber     | 1100000     | 161                           |

| <u>Kujbyshev-NKRF</u> |        |      |
|-----------------------|--------|------|
| Grain                 | 180000 | 101  |
| Cement                | 45000  | 23   |
| Minerals              | 100000 | 20   |
| Coal                  | 10000  | 0.6  |
| Metals                | 30000  | 18   |
| Wood                  | 100000 | 33.4 |
| Chemical products     | 22000  | 9.2  |
| Other goods           | 200000 | 92   |
| Floated timber        | 900000 | 660  |

| <u>Stalingrad NKRF</u> |        |      |
|------------------------|--------|------|
| Grain                  | 50000  | 17.5 |
| Salt                   | 440000 | 450  |
| Minerals               | 30000  | 4.5  |
| Coal                   | 30000  | 21   |
| Metals                 | 25000  | 15   |
| Wood                   | 40000  | 33   |
| Chemical products      | 12000  | 6    |
| Other goods            | 125000 | 87.4 |
| Floated timber         | none   | ---  |

| <u>Ust-Ussa NKRF</u> |        |      |
|----------------------|--------|------|
| Grain                | 11000  | 3.6  |
| Salt                 | 1000   | 0.3  |
| Minerals             | 3000   | 1.2  |
| Coal                 | 42000  | 24.8 |
| Metals               | 1000   | 0.4  |
| Wood                 | 15000  | 5    |
| Other goods          | 15500  | 6.4  |
| Oil                  | 500    | 0.4  |
| Floated timber       | 200000 | 49   |

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Molotov NKRF

|                   |         |      |
|-------------------|---------|------|
| Grain             | 18000   | 62   |
| Salt              | 85000   | 66.7 |
| Cement            | 20000   | 15   |
| Minerals          | 30000   | 9    |
| Coal              | 45000   | 16.5 |
| Metals            | 120000  | 62   |
| Wood              | 45000   | 13.5 |
| Chemical products | 45000   | 34.6 |
| Other goods       | 200000  | 86   |
| Floated timber    | 2600000 | ?    |

Uralsk NKRF

|                   |       |     |
|-------------------|-------|-----|
| Grain             | 15000 | 3.8 |
| Salt              | 2000  | 0.6 |
| Minerals          | 3000  | 0.8 |
| Wood              | 16000 | 4.4 |
| Chemical products | 9000  | 2.7 |
| Other freight     | 8000  | 2.7 |
| Oil               | 2000  | 1.3 |
| Floated timber    | 4000  | 0.7 |

Ufa NKRF

|                |        |      |
|----------------|--------|------|
| Grain          | 62000  | 16.8 |
| Salt           | 6000   | 1.3  |
| Cement         | 5000   | 1.4  |
| Minerals       | 40000  | 5.6  |
| Coal           | 2000   | 0.6  |
| Metals         | 8000   | 7.8  |
| Wood           | 60000  | 10.8 |
| Other goods    | 45000  | 18   |
| Floated timber | 150000 | 27   |

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