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Alagoz Border Study
Armenian SSR

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HTA-M37-57
15 July 1957

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Alagoz Border Study
Armenian SSR

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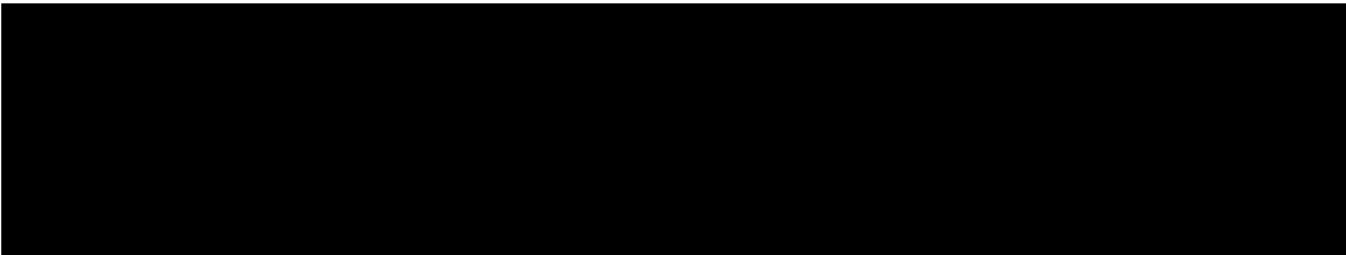
Requirement DP-HTA-R9-57 requested a photographic study of the USSR-Turkish border opposite Alagoz in the Armenian SSR to determine the type of terrain and Soviet border obstacles that exist. A study of recent aerial photography over the city of Yerevan was also requested to provide current information pertaining to items evident on old ground photography furnished by the requester.

25X1D [redacted] aerial photography and [redacted] Army 100 inch ground photography were analyzed along with a written report furnished by the requester to determine the section of the border for which the study was desired. After location of the correct section, the photography was studied to determine the terrain and border obstacles. The 100 inch ground photography was a valuable aid used in conjunction with the aerial photography since the aerial photography was oblique and mostly cloud covered. For the southern portion of the border area concerned, only the ground photography was usable. 25X1D

Data pertaining to the border obstacles and the area between the border and the Alagoz Railroad Station were annotated on Turkish maps at a scale of 1:100,000. Since parts of two maps were necessary to cover the area, the two parts were joined together to form one map and photographically reproduced.

Vertical aerial photography covering the city of Yerevan was used to answer specific questions asked by the requester pertaining to items on ground photography taken within the city dating from 1947 to 1951. The city plan of Yerevan was used to locate the features about which current information was desired. To answer some of the questions it was necessary to obtain additional ground photos of the particular feature concerned. GX photography of 1942 was also utilized. Difficulty in obtaining the detailed information desired was encountered due to the haze and poor quality of the aerial photography.

One annotated and one unannotated map of the border area along with the text plus three photographic enlargements of the border area were sent by courier to the DD/P Talent Control Officer on 15 July 1957. The information desired about the city of Yerevan along with the ground photography furnished by the requester were also included. One copy of each of the above items is on file in HTA-Geographic Branch.



MAP REFERENCES: Turkey, 1:100,000; Sheets: Tuzluca (xvii-15) and Suregel (xvi-15).
Turkey, 1:25,000 Harita Genel Direktörlüğü (Arabic text), Turkish-USSR Border, Sheets: 14-16.
AMS, Series K502, Sheet EK 38-10. Scale 1:250,000.
AMS, Series N501, Sheet EK 38-11. Scale 1:250,000.
US Target Complex Mosaic - Series 25, 0325-9995-0-25M.
Revised City Plan Yerevan, September 1955, attachment #1 to Yerevan City Brief. (furnished by requester)

OTHER: STIA - 2084, 7 November 1956, pages 15 and 16, (furnished by requester).

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Alagoz Border Study

This report is in answer to information requested pertaining to the route used by a subject while crossing the USSR - Turkish border opposite Alagoz Station in the Armenian SSR. [REDACTED] aerial photography and [REDACTED] ground photography were studied in preparing this report. Information obtainable was limited because of cloud cover and oblique photography over the border area concerned.

A. The Subject is reported to have crossed the border between border stones No. 46 and 47. Between these two points, area A as shown on the enclosed map would be the easiest area in which to cross the Arpa Stream. The banks of the stream in area A are low and have a gradual incline. The stream itself is narrow and shallow. However, after a heavy rainstorm, it would probably become a raging torrent. Immediately north of area A on the map the banks of the stream are also low and gradual, however, this is north of the area the subject is reported to have crossed. South of area A the stream banks become higher, steeper, and more rugged.

Area A on the enclosed map agrees with the route the subject is reported to have taken in crossing the border from Alagoz. It should be noted that the route described by the subject would take him near the observation post shown on the map.

B. If the subject returns by means of the same route he reportedly used to "escape" he would encounter the following. After crossing the Arpa Stream the terrain to Alagoz is relatively level with some low hills. Approximately 400 meters beyond the stream there is a good road which goes along the border between it and the ploughed strip and fences.

Approximately one kilometer beyond the road towards Alagoz is the area of a ploughed strip and fences. From study of ground photography a ploughed strip approximately six feet wide is evident and then a fence is evident. There are indications of another ploughed strip on the Alagoz side of the fence. There appears to be a series of poles estimated to be about six feet high and from 70 to 100 feet apart located parallel to and immediately before the first ploughed strip. The poles are spaced too far apart to be a normal type fence.

After crossing these barriers the rest of the route to Alagoz is in an area where there are some large fields under cultivation. Just before the village of Alagoz there is a drainage or irrigation ditch which would have to be crossed. Depending upon the exact route traveled, a second ditch may have to be crossed. The subject would have to pass through or near a new housing area (new since 1943) of Alagoz before reaching the railroad.

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After reaching the railroad tracks at Alagoz, it is assumed that the subject would either take a train or obtain a ride to Yerevan.

NOTE: Point B on the enclosed map is a Soviet Border Post opposite a Turkish Border Post with a connecting foot path and bridge across the stream.

Point C is a deep and wide trench extending from a steep hill side to the edge of the stream. There are observation towers along the trench. This installation was still under construction in [REDACTED] but appears completed on [REDACTED] photography. The area is apparently a check point for both rail and road traffic.

Yerevan City Study

The following is in answer to specific questions pertaining to items evident on ground photography furnished by the requester. [REDACTED] aerial photography was studied to answer the questions.

C. Graphics Register photo CIA 105165

1. The scene is basically the same. The wall around the L-shaped peninsula of land appears to have been extended as well as the hedge on the inside of the wall.

2. The height of the two retaining walls is [REDACTED] where the two walls join and [REDACTED] ft. some distance back from the apex.

3. The area between the two walls near the apex appears to contain nothing more than grass. However, a low hedge may exist along the inside of the walls.

D. Graphics Register photo CIA 183677

Trees and vegetation appear the same about the grounds of the Opera and Ballet Building.

NOTE: Street on north edge of the building has been widened and paved.

E. Graphics Register photo CIA 61676

1. The trees on the right side of the stream are present and are larger. They begin about 150' away from the bridge.

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2. No new buildings have been placed immediately near the trees. However, a large new building has been constructed on top of the hill at the end of the bridge across from Yerevan. Other small, new buildings have been constructed behind the large building.

The buildings across the river from the trees are still present. However, the trees themselves should provide adequate cover.

NOTE: The street approaches to the bridge on the Yerevan side are incorrectly shown on the map "Revised City Plan Yerevan" Sept. 1955, attachment #1 to Yerevan City Brief (Project #P-76-55)

F. Graphics Register photo CIA 167115

25X1D

1. The park represented in the photo is present on [REDACTED] photography.

2. The park is situated in the "Molotov" University complex and is approximately 600 ft. X 275 ft.

3. In the center of the park there is an observatory. A walk goes around the observatory and across the park in both directions dividing it into quarters. Each quarter appears to be covered by trees.

The immediate area around the observatory appears open.

The monument shown in the picture is at the east end of the park outside of the fenced enclosed area in which is found the observatory. The trees seen in the picture are not around the monument but rather behind a fence enclosing the main part of the park.

4. On the [REDACTED] photography the immediate area around the monument appears to have been changed in pattern and replanted in low shrubbery bordering the walks and well maintained. The area around the monument is open except for the low scrubby.

NOTE: New buildings have been constructed bordering the park.

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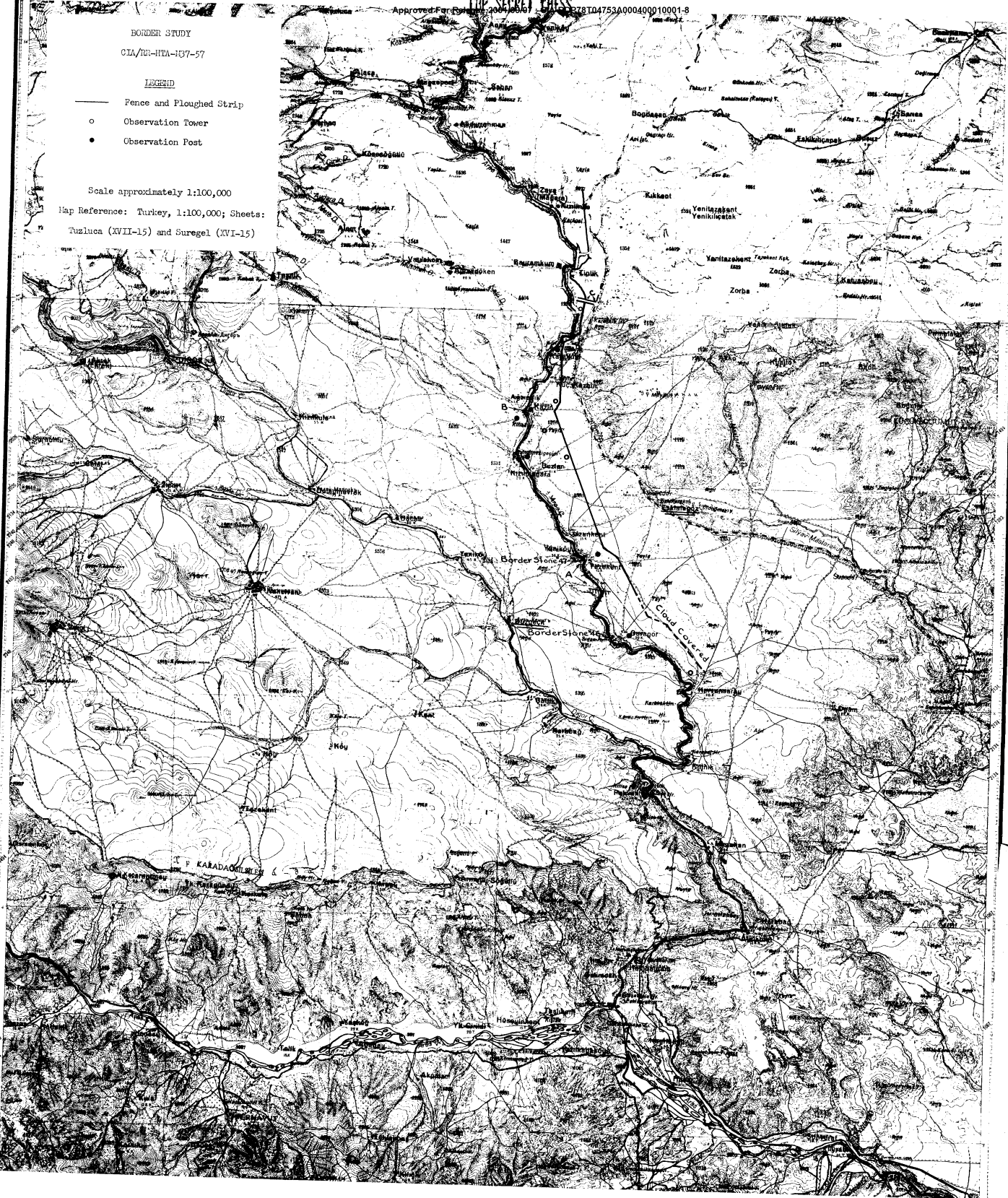
BORDER STUDY
CIA/IC-IMA-137-57

LEGEND

- Fence and Ploughed Strip
- Observation Tower
- Observation Post

Scale approximately 1:100,000

Map Reference: Turkey, 1:100,000; Sheets:
Tuzluca (XVII-15) and Suregel (XVI-15)



KARABAĞ (XVII - 14)

AT (XVII - 16)

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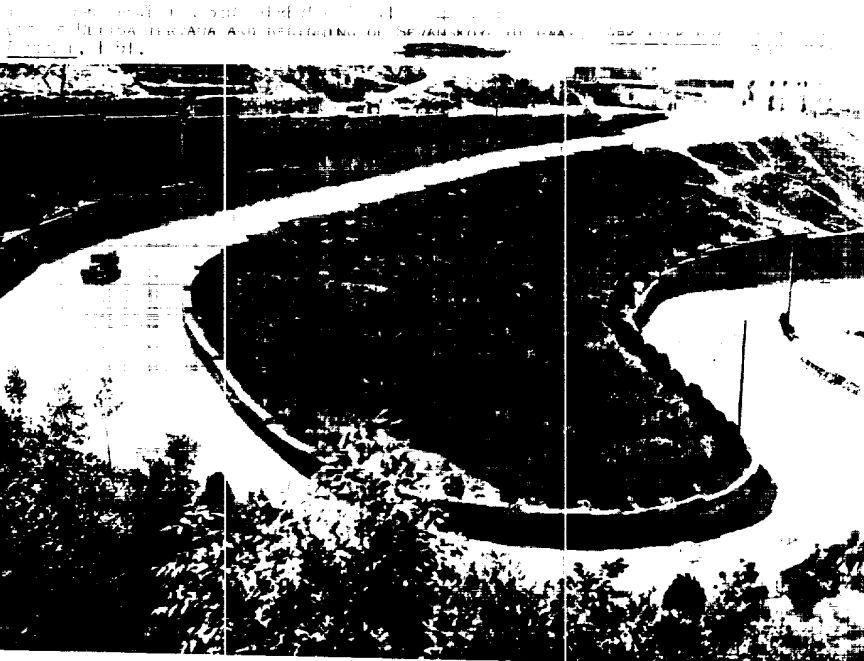


IN USSR ARMENIAN SSR YEREVAN
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THEATRE OF OPERA & BALLET
YEREVAN, ARMENIA



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