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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

REPORT NO [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Impressions of the Soviet "Anti-Semitic" Campaign and the Rivalry Between Malenkov and Beria

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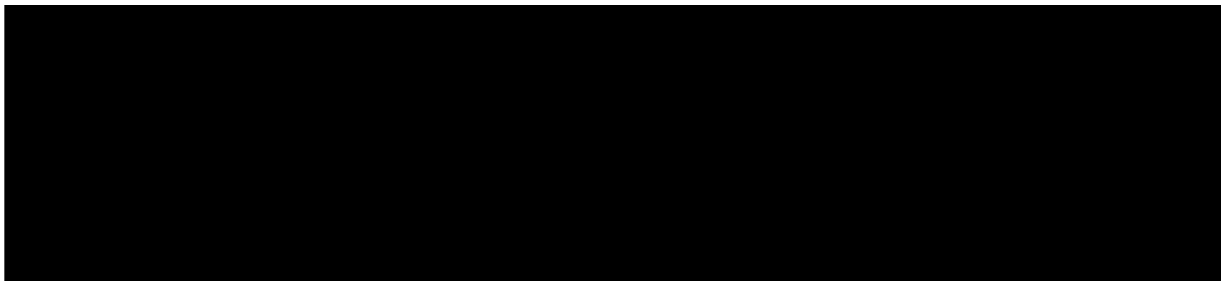
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- In regard to the recent developments in connection with the Soviet "doctors' plot" and the Soviet "anti-Semitic" campaign, [REDACTED] any real anti-Semitism is not possible in the USSR. [REDACTED] there are various reasons for this, but the most important probably is that two very high Soviet officials, Kaganovich and Shvernik, are both Jews. [REDACTED] the original arrest of the doctors, which was said to have been initiated by the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party (i.e. Malenkov), was designed to weaken Kaganovich as a possible successor to Stalin. The next step, when Malenkov acceded to power, was to leave Kaganovich still a very important Communist official and thereby obtain from him some measure of gratitude. At the same time, it was easy for Malenkov to demote Shvernik, probably basing this on the theory that the Soviet Communist Party now feels that the present time is one for trying to develop a feeling of Russian Nationalism as against the West and that, therefore, real Russians are needed in the highest posts. Also Marshal Voroshilov, who succeeded Shvernik as Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium is quite popular and relatively harmless.
- [REDACTED] the real rivalry now in the USSR is between Malenkov and Beria, which would tend to explain why the doctors were released and the mistakes of the MGB were publicized, a procedure normally unheard of. Such accusations against the MGB and the MVD obviously weakened Beria who, after all, is Minister of the Interior. The initial step, that is the arrest of the doctors, had also tended to weaken Beria, as the MVD was accused of lacking vigilance and of not knowing of the plot. The fact that S D Ignatiev was relieved and that he was previously a protege of Malenkov is not important [REDACTED] as, after all, Ignatiev may be considered as merely a pawn in the power struggle between Malenkov and Beria. It must be remembered that Beria was Ignatiev's chief. It appears [REDACTED] that Malenkov at least to date has succeeded in out-maneuvering

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Beria.

3. Malenkov, by appointing two famous Soviet Marshals, Vasilevsky and Zhukov, as First Deputy Ministers of War, was probably trying to gain favor with the Army. The fact that Bulganin is Minister of War is normal enough, as the top Soviet leaders naturally need to have a politician of their own clique in such a key cabinet post. [REDACTED] If Beria, in his probable rivalry with Malenkov, should ever indicate that he is the strongest man in the USSR by, in effect, stating that he controls the troops of the MVD, Malenkov could always reply that he (Malenkov) controls the Soviet Army. [REDACTED] Malenkov wishes to keep Beria in his present post and to continue to utilize his "talents," but wants Beria to know that he (Beria) owes his position to Malenkov and therefore must be loyal to Malenkov. Incidentally, in regard to Molotov, judging by everything I heard in Moscow in the 1930's, he is considered to be an excellent administrator, but not a man who is a creator of policies or a leader of the first class.
4. In regard to the current Soviet "Peace Campaign," [REDACTED] this is merely a reaction of self defense so as not to provoke the US too far, particularly as the Russian people are, of course, dissatisfied with the Soviet regime. It appears that Stalin, during his last months of life, pushed Soviet expansion and aggression too hard, and that probably now the "Peace Campaign" of Malenkov may be described as a sort of political NEP (New Economic Policy undertaken temporarily by Lenin in the early 1920's):

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