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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT "Zemstiv" System in the Caucasus

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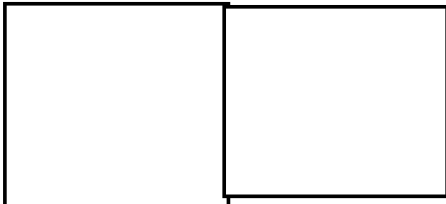


DATE DISTR. 27 Apr 1954

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO  
REPORT NO.



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1. Since Jan 1954, the Soviets have again introduced the "Zemstiv" system into the Caucasus as a whole. Under this system, a group of responsible individuals, "elders of the towns or villages", are charged with surveillance over all movements in their locality. This includes sabotage or any kind of action against the Soviet regime. The elders are held personally responsible.
2. The purpose is to destroy nationalist tendencies in the Caucasus. It is not clear how far this is related to the Great Russian "zemstvo."

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