

REPORT

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Soviet Propaganda Vulnerabilities  
and Security Forces

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The biggest theme is land reform. Although the collectives should be liquidated, there should be cooperatives or artele for specialized purposes, including the operation of machine-tractor stations. The people would not favor any return to the prerevolutionary system of landlordism.

Workers should be given their factories, as well as peasants their land. The experiences of the Soviets in German-occupied territory served to confirm Soviet propaganda against capitalism. Soviet industrial installations were incorporated into trusts like Krupp and Farben and the workers were driven as hard as before. A mixed economy should be advocated, with small industry and trade in a private sector, urban utilities under city management, and large industry state-owned. Perhaps national trade unions could be permitted to own plants.

Propaganda should avoid abstractions; be practical. Output should be keyed to personal freedom (svoboda). Communism cannot be supported, but its original aims should be adopted and the liberation should be presented as a fresh effort to obtain these aims, a Workers' and Peasants' Government.

Chronologically, the first thing to do would be to inform the population and Armed Forces of the existence of an Army of Free Russia. Then would follow publicity for its missions or goals. Politically, the objective would be a Russian Federation, with minority nationalities accorded a wide measure of autonomy.

Propaganda should be aggressive. It should strike at the falsehood of Soviet pretensions, such as happiness on the collective farm. It should unmask every Soviet propaganda trick as it appears.

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The people should be told how to meet arriving liberation forces, and what they can expect from them.

Individuals should be infiltrated into the country. Then leaflets could be sent into them at agreed drop points. Some live without passports in the villages now. In the chaos of wartime, it would be easy. A stranger would be well received, if he came with friendly intentions. It is important that such propaganda emissaries be supplied with pieces of paper. The simple Russian or Ukrainian places credence in what he sees in print, rather than in what he hears. Further, it will be well for the propagandist to obtain signatures from supporters and send them out of the country. This will go far to ensure loyalty. Other media should not be neglected.

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They are most vulnerable through the home front. While there is no leave, replacements come in all the time, and men accompany supplies reaching the front. Tactical propaganda would be useful if the Soviet forces were being beaten. In addition to delivering leaflets by artillery and mortar fire, it may be desirable to withdraw slightly over ground well strewn with propaganda.

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In general, it takes about two hours for a first-class rumor to go from one end to the other of a village five kilometers long.

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In spreading propaganda to the armed forces, nurses could play an important part. They enjoy high prestige and wide freedom, but the use of camp followers would be bad for the influence of the movement.

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Women at home could reach troops at the front through "gifts to the Front" packages, collected by the local Voenkomats. These were not censored in World War II, for fear of theft by the censors, and could contain leaflets.

The position of women in Soviet society is not such as to preclude their having political influence. Any normal man is influenced by some woman.

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For a city of 20,000 there might be 50 MVD for police duty. Kirovograd, with 100,000, had 400, plus some reserves in civilian jobs. In addition, Communist Party members are authorized to carry arms, and do so. The MVD has been reduced to the level of ordinary police, and large units, with military organization and heavy arms, are now MGB. These units run up to a regiment in size. This is the strength of the MGB at Kiev, a city of over 500,000. The headquarters of this regiment is at No 8, Kirov Street. MGB Convoy Units and prison guards add to this total. There are usually 40 guards on a prison train. In an oblast there might be a reserve of security forces of 500-600 men, organized as a battalion and normally stationed in or near the oblast center.

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[redacted] one division of MGB troops would be stationed in the Komi ASSR, for example. The regiments, battalions and companies of this division would be scattered around to guard separate points. [redacted] there would be a central reserve of any considerable size; the Government would not keep many troops idle. [redacted] a recent Army manual on guard duty, and it specifies that a guard regiment may be in several places. Companies will be responsible for the guard of certain points for 24 hours. Each man stands guard eight hours in 24, in shifts of two hours on and two hours off. Following a 24-hour period of guard duty, a company has 24 hours of rest. The third day of the cycle is devoted to training. There are four companies in an MGB battalion. The fourth battalion is often incomplete and serves as a training battalion.

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