

COUNTRY East Germany Approved For Release 2003/12/18 : CIA-RDP80-00810A001100590010-4

TOPIC Zerbst Airfield

EVALUATION [ ] 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED [ ] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 20 February to 18 March 1953

DATE OBTAINED [ ] 25X1 DATE PREPARED 10 April 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

[Redacted]

25X1

1. Between 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. on 20 February 1953, no air activity was observed at Zerbst airfield. At 12:30 p.m. on 12 March, two planes took off. They circled for about 5 minutes before landing. At 12:45 p.m., five swept-back jet fighters took off about 400 meters apart and headed west. The planes landed after about 20 minutes. Additional take-offs were made by MiG-15 and type-29 planes between 1:30 and 2:20 p.m.

25X1

2. [Redacted]

25X1

3. Between 1 and 4:30 p.m. on 21 February, MiG-15 and type-29 planes continuously took off individually and in elements of two. There was a closed cloud base at an altitude of about 1,200 meters and visibility of 5 to 7 km. The planes taxied from the area of the hangars to the take-off point. They usually made short local flights. If the planes flew for a longer time they remained in the area of the field. At 3:10 p.m., a high-wing monoplane took off from its dispersal area and then headed southeast. Three jeeps, 2 trucks with van-like superstructures and 2 tank trucks were parked at the take-off point in the northeastern corner of the field. A radio truck with an extended antenna was observed next to the runway. During the afternoon, 36 MiG-15 and type-29 planes, 2 single-engine aircraft, and 1 high-wing monoplane were counted at the field. The single-engine planes were painted a light blue.

B7C

SECRET

25X1A

- 2 -

4. Construction work was observed in the woods northeast of the target range. Twelve new tank truck trailers, each with an estimated capacity of 3,000 liters, were observed in the fuel dump.<sup>2</sup> An AA gun emplacement was located in the northern section of the field.<sup>3</sup>

5.

25X1C

25X1X

6. The following air activity was observed at the field between 28 February and 11 March:

25X1

25X1

28 February. At 11:40 a.m., two MiG-15s with auxiliary fuel tanks [redacted] took off.

25X1

There was a 8/10 overcast and a visibility of about 2 km.

25X1

A few minutes later, two additional MiG-15s [redacted] with auxiliary fuel tanks took off. At 12:15 p.m., four MiG-15s approached the field coming from the west. The planes landed at short intervals. They taxied under their own power to the middle hangar. A MiG-15 [redacted] took off at 12:35 p.m. In the afternoon, air activity continued in a similar way. Ten to 12 swept-back jet fighters were parked on the dispersal areas northeast of the runway.

25X1

4 March. Between 4:30 and 6:15 p.m., there was no air activity. Nineteen MiG-15 and type-29 planes were parked at the field.

25X1

10 March. In the morning, [redacted] swept-back jet fighters flew individually and in elements of two. There was a 3/10 overcast at an altitude of about 2,000 meters. [redacted] five MiG-15s which took off about noon. All the planes had auxiliary fuel tanks.

25X1

25X1

11 March. Between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., swept-back jet fighters with auxiliary fuel tanks flew individually and remained aloft for half an hour.<sup>1</sup>

25X1C

7.

25X1

25X1C

25X1C

8. On 18 March, there was intensive air activity at the field. The planes flew individually and practiced aiming at a sleeve target. One Yak-14 plane and 27 MiG-15s were parked at the field. [redacted] a radio installation consisting of two masts which were interconnected by a two-wire antenna. [redacted]

SECRET

SECRET

25X1A

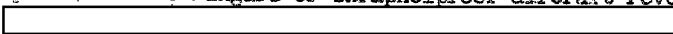
- 3 -



25X1A [redacted] Comment. It is believed that Zerbst airfield is still occupied by a fighter division headquarters and two fighter regiments. Thirty-six MIG-15 and type-29 planes were counted for the first time at the dispersal area of Zerbst airfield. Additional planes are probably parked in the hangars or shrapnelproof aircraft revetments. [redacted]

25X1

25X1



25X1A [redacted] Comment. According to available information, the estimated capacity of the fuel containers appears to be correct.

25X1A 3. [redacted] Comment. The presence of an AA gun emplacement north of the two northern hangars is known. The emplacement is allegedly occupied by six 37-mm AA guns.

SECRET