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COUNTRY East Germany

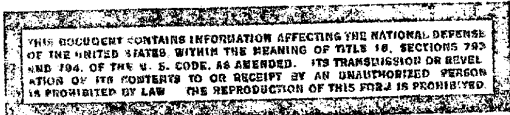
SUBJECT Cartography in East Germany

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. From 22 June through 2 July 1952, a geodetic conference of representatives of Eastern Bloc States was held in Sofia. The conference was also attended by representatives of the Main Department for Surveying and Mapping of the East German Ministry of the Interior. At this conference the Soviet delegation demanded that topographic maps of the Satellite states and East Germany be adjusted to the make-up of Soviet maps. The preparations of this adaptation were scheduled to be started in 1952 and the adjustment of maps on a scale of 1:25,000, 1:50,000, 1:100,000 and 1:200,000 was to be completed by late 1955. For this adjustment the grid net previously based on the Gauss-Krueger system was to be replaced by the Soviet grid which has its point of origin at Pulkovo. Altitude reading on the revised maps was to be given in relation to the Kronstadt level instead of the Amsterdam level previously used.
2. In October 1952, the Department for Topographic Mapping of the Main Administration for Surveying and Mapping was reorganized. Polizei-Oberraete Nieder (fnu) and Gensch (fnu) were assigned to this department which handled orders for the delivery of maps for areas outside East Germany. In the course of 1953, plane table sheets of West Germany were to be revised and reprinted. For the time being orders for maps of East German territory were to be handled by the Main Department for Surveying and Mapping as before. However, this department was to be subordinate to the newly founded Department for Topographic Mapping.
3. In early October 1952, State Secretary Groetschel (fnu), chief of the Commission for Surveying, was ordered by Karlskorst to mark all trigonometrical points in East Germany.
4. In January 1953, the Main Department for Surveying and Mapping drew up a new list of tolerances accepted for surveying. Compared with previous directives, new tolerances were much more liberal so that the quality and accuracy of the surveying would decline.

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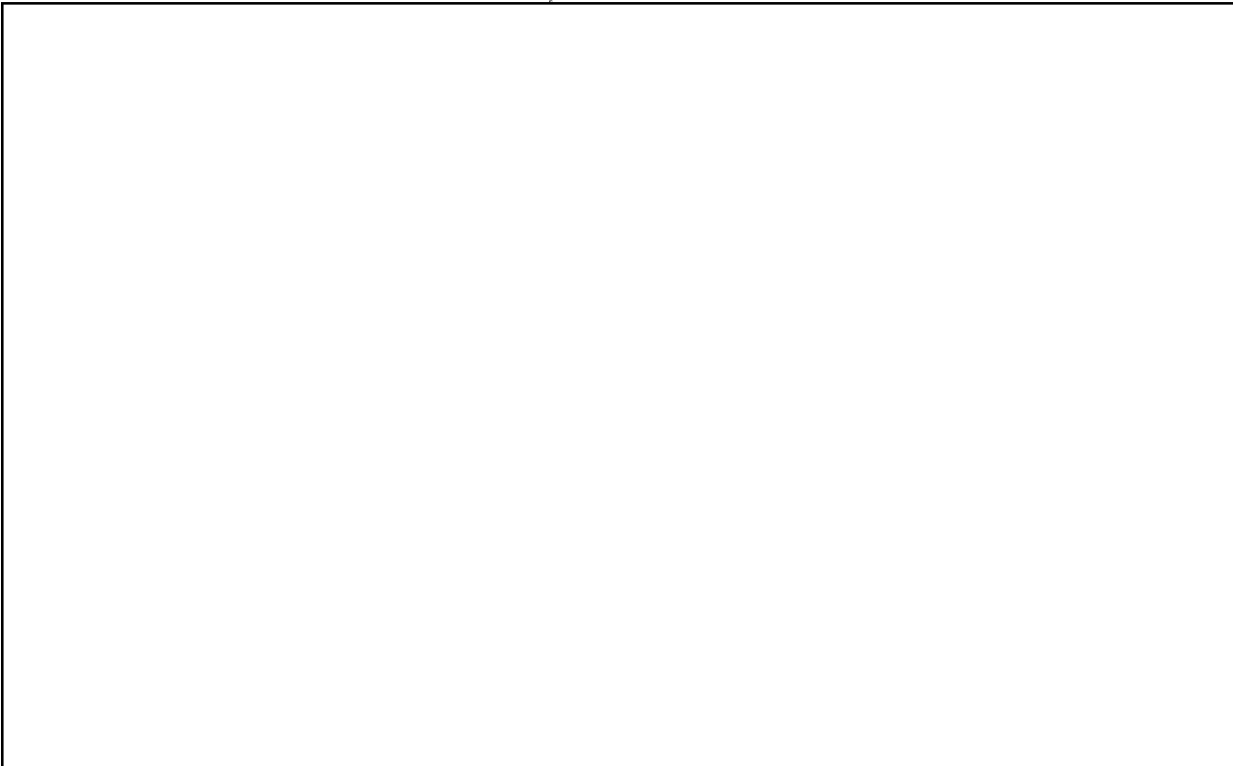
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5. On 27 October, it was resolved at a meeting of the Commission for Surveying to execute the following projects by the end of 1953:
- a. Issuance of all 1:50,000 maps in 4-color printing and production of new 1:25,000 maps on the basis of the latest information and techniques available.
 - b. Revision of all maps between the scale of 1:50,000 and 1:1,000,000 after the Soviet pattern.
 - c. Training of new cartographic personnel.
 - d. Enlargement of the Geodetic Institute by the attachment of a new Institute for Applied Geodesy.
 - e. Establishment of a technical scientific council of 12 scientists to include Prof. Dr Feschel (fnu) and Prof. Dr Buchholz (fnu), both from the Dresden Institute of Technology; Graduate Engineer Pichelmeyer (fnu) from the Ministry of the Interior; Graduate Engineer Koitsch (fnu) from the Chamber of Technic; and Graduate Engineer Sust (fpu) from the Surveying Center in Potsdam.
 - f. Training of experts in the field of photogrammetry. The East German government has already made available means for the production of rectifying facilities. Within a short period, teams of 20 men each are to be organized within each Bezirk, for rectifying purposes. The best of them are to be given additional training under Prof. Buchholz in Dresden.

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- c. The Dresden Institute of Technology was to be ordered to train 30 students in short courses. Graduate Engineers Arends and Heupel were to be offered leading positions in the cartographic system of East Germany.
- d. A conference was scheduled to be held on 14 November 1952 in Gocrlitz for the co-ordination of all work connected with mapping. The conference was attended by representatives from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Hungary.

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7. In late December 1953, the Bezirk administration of Neubrandenburg ordered all land-registry offices of the Kreise to report all map material available on the Baltic Sea coast, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and France.

8. In late January 1953, the geomagnetic institute which had been located on Telegraphenberg in Potsdam since 1937, was ordered to vacate the building, which was to be re-occupied by the Institute of Geodesy. [redacted] 15 to 20 technicians who were to make the calculations required for the conversion of German maps based on the Gauss-Krueger system to the Soviet grid system were to move into the building.

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9. In January 1953, [redacted] the surveying department for Land Brandenburg in Potsdam that this department, by order of the Main Department for Surveying and Mapping of the East German Ministry of the Interior, had started to reprint plane table sheets of the border area of Low Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, and the Upper Rhine region. The printed maps were sent to a KVP headquarters on Schneller Strasse, Berlin.

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10. In mid-February 1953 [redacted] the Ministry of the Interior [redacted]

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[redacted] expressed the desire that the Institute of Geodesy in Potsdam whose acting chief was one Dr Pawel (fnu), was to execute a research order for which 2,000,000 eastmarks were to be allocated. [redacted]

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[redacted] the research order was connected with the plan to transfer Soviet principles of mapping to East Germany. The Soviets based their mapping on an ellipsoidal projection different from that used in western Europe. The production of new maps and new measurements of the gravity of earth were also to be made.

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11. [redacted] "Vermessungsdienst Mecklenburg" had been engaged since the summer of 1952 with a new surveying of Ruegen Island and since early 1953 with surveying of the Torgelow-Eggesin troop training area. The Trigonometrical Department of the agency was currently engaged with the establishment of trigonometrical points of the 4th order and the remarking of previous trigonometrical points, and the fixing of reference point (Passpunkte). Passpunkte are points determined by co-ordinates which are required for the production of the German Grundkarte (basic map) and for the rectification of aerial photographs. Only small portions of these missions had been accomplished. Plans table sheets were being checked on at the Topographic Department. The VP had expressed the desire that this work be started with the northern region of East Germany. Details were kept secret. Work on the production of a German basic map, a topographic map on a scale of 1:5,000 was started. For the time

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being, efforts were concentrated on the production of maps of the Sassnitz, Stralsund, Rostock and the Wismar-Schwerin areas. In May 1953, about 10 percent of the maps to be produced by the Vermessungsdienst Mecklenburg were completed. The basic map is an economic map which for economy reasons was produced from photographs of map material available to the Land Registry Office. These maps were supplemented topographically and provided with a grid system. Important economic and military installations must not be recorded in the basic map. For the construction of such installations topographic maps on a scale of 1:2,000 are made by the Surveying Department. The Einheitskataster Department (standard land-registry maps) was exclusively engaged in the production of maps required for the new recording of land property. The reproduction department made magnifications, blueprints and photostats of maps. Map printing was centrally directed from Berlin. The following material was treated as classified material:

- a. Files of reference points;
 - b. Plane table sheets dating from 1937;
 - c. Plane table sheets made prior to 1937;
 - d. Blueprints, photostats and other map material.
12. In connection with the planned introduction of aerial photography, a 1-week course was held at the Dresden Institute of Technology in February 1953. To this course each surveying agency in East Germany detached one representative. The course was only concerned with basic principles of photogrammetry.
13. Surveying of the Baltic Sea coast and particularly depth measurements were made by the Sea-Hydrographic Service in Stralsund.

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