

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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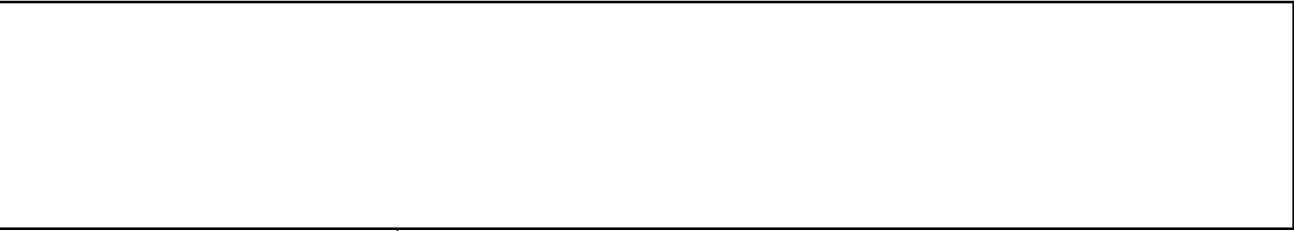
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COUNTRY	USSR (Belorussian SSR)	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Soviet Troops in the Belorussian Military District	DATE DISTR.	31 March 1954
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	

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- 25X1 1. Since the end of the Second World War, the Soviets have been systematically building an immense military base in the area of Vilnyus. The Soviets are also building military bases along the Polish-Soviet frontier. The Soviet garrisons in the Vilnyus area are being reorganized, mainly at the corps level, into closely-knit "higher" tactical units, which will facilitate the dispatch of corps to a given area.
2. The number of Soviet troops in the Vilnyus-Baranovichi area is three to four times greater than the number of Polish army troops stationed there before World War II. These Soviet troops are mainly motorized and are supplied with such heavy armored equipment as the following:
- JS-3 tanks;
  - Armored cars (auta pancerne) equipped with large-caliber recoilless guns (armaty bezodrzutowe).
  - Armored troop transport cars equipped with two heavy machine guns and one rapid-firing gun of 45 to 55 mm caliber
  - Armored communications cars (pancerne auta lacznosci radiowej) equipped with radio and radar antennas. None of these armored cars have been observed in Poland;
  - Fast, open-topped tanks armed with a mortar (sic) of over 100 mm caliber, instead of a gun;
  - Large tractor-trailers for transporting heavy tanks long distances. The tractors, which are able to develop speeds up to 70 km per hour, are equipped with lifts for loading and unloading the tanks on the trailers. The trailers have three or four axles.

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3. There are numerous engineering units equipped with armored cars in the Vilnyus area. Large stores of war materials have been deposited alongside roads and railroads. Preparations indicate that the Soviet units are forming large and strong offensive groups.
4. About 15 large, modern airfields, which were either constructed after World War II or modernized from old fields, are located in the Vilnyus and Baranovichi (N 53-08, E25-02) area. Nearly all the aircraft located on these fields are single- or twin-engine jet aircraft and large transport planes, each of the latter of which is capable of carrying 120 soldiers.

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