

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	UBSR (Ukrainian SSR)	REPORT	[Redacted]	25X1
SUBJECT	1. Frontier Troops and Zones in the Western Ukraine 2. Soviet Army Summer Maneuver Area of the Carpathian M)	DATE DISTR.	AUG 8 1955	25X1
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS FINAL

[Large Redacted Area]

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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USSR (Ukraine)

Military, Political

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Frontier Troops and Zones

1. [redacted] places in the Western Ukraine where Frontier troops were stationed:

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Lvov - Headquarters of the Frontier Troops in the Carpathian Military District (Pri-karpatskiy Voyennyi Okrug) was located on ulitsa Gorkogo. In the headquarters there were about 50 officers and 30 enlisted men, and a guard platoon (okhrana shtaba) of about 30 men.

Lutsk - Command (upravleniye) and a detachment (otryad) of troops, consisting of about 200 officers and enlisted men.

Chernovtsy - Command and a detachment of about 200 officers and enlisted men.

Stanislav - Detachment of about 150 officers and enlisted men.

Sambor - Detachment of about 150 officers and enlisted men.

Drogobych - Detachment of about 150 officers and enlisted men.

Rava-Russkaya - Detachment of about 150 officers and enlisted men.

Velikiye Mosty - Detachment of about 150 officers and enlisted men.

Sokal - Detachment of about 150 officers and enlisted men.

2. The detachments in Stanislav, Sambor, and Drogobych were subordinate to the command in Chernovtsy. Those in Rava-Russkaya, Velikiye Mosty, and Sokal were subordinate to the command in Lutsk. The commands in Chernovtsy and Lutsk were in turn subordinate to the headquarters of the Frontier Troops for the Carpathian Military District in Lvov. Each detachment controlled three frontier posts (zastavy)

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[redacted] Frontier posts consisted of not more than

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30 troops each.

3. Frontier Troops wore normal khaki-green Army uniforms, peaked caps with green crowns, and lighter green cap bands; they had green piping on their shoulder-boards. They usually gave the impression of being smarter and better dressed than other troops. They were responsible solely for the defense of the Soviet frontiers and the frontier zones. They did not deal with subversive activities or resistance to the regime, which were the responsibility of the MVD troops (voyska MVD). [redacted], the Frontier Troops had been controlled for many years by the MVD, and still are.

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4. [redacted] the [redacted] depth of the frontier zone (pogranzona or zapretzona) along the Soviet-Ukrainian frontiers with Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Rumania [redacted] varied slightly from place to place, but was nowhere more than 20 kilometers. It was formerly several kilometers deeper, but was reduced some time after the death of Stalin in 1953, and probably after the arrest of Beriya in June of that year. [redacted] the relaxation in frontier zone restrictions was associated in the minds of the local population more with the downfall of Beriya.

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[redacted] the tendency of Soviet propaganda to disparage the MVD after Stalin's death was directed chiefly against Beriya, and that the change in frontier zones provided additional ammunition for this campaign by showing that many of the restrictions on movement had been caused by Beriya rather than Stalin.

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5. Before the reduction in the depth of the frontier zones in the Western Ukraine, the towns of Drogobych, Stanislav, and Chernovtsy had been within the zone, and Lvov had been very close to it. Since the reduction, these towns have all been outside the zone, Lvov being several kilometers from it, and restrictions on travel to and from them have been removed.

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6. [Redacted] the following places in the Western Ukraine remained just inside the limits of the frontier zone:

Ustilug in Volynskaya Oblast; Sokal and Rava-Russkaya in Lvovskaya Oblast; Mostiska and Dobromil in Drogobychskaya Oblast; Uzhgorod, Mukachevo, and Razkhov in Zakarpatskaya Oblast; and Gertsya in Chernovitskaya Oblast.

In the southeast part of Chernovitskaya Oblast, the boundary of the frontier zone followed the banks of the River Dneestr [Redacted]

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7. Before the merger of the MGB and the MVD, the MGB Directorate (Upravleniye MGB) was located in a building at No. 2 or 3 ulitsa Gorkogo in Lvov. [Redacted] the building still bears the same inscription at the entrance,

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[Redacted] the MVD building [Redacted] is also on ulitsa Gorkogo.

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8. Near Yavorov in Lvovskaya Oblast, there was an area about 40 kilometers square, which was used annually between about May and October for summer training and maneuvers of the Soviet Army of the Carpathian Military District (Pri-karpatskiy Voyennyi Okrug). The area was flat, forested country with little or no habitation. It was not fenced off, but there were warning signs in many places, [Redacted] unauthorized persons were not allowed within five kilometers of the military area. Up to about one division of troops, mostly infantry, mechanized and tank units, was stationed there each summer. There was also an airfield in the vicinity.

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