

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Cult of Stalin

1. It is evident everywhere, not alone in the theses of the new history of the Communist Party, that the cult of Stalin is being eliminated. Although this is an attempt to retreat from the visible evils of despotism, the struggle to establish a new dictator will continue.

Beriya

2. There have been rumors that Beriya tried to bring troops into Moscow in order to make a coup, but to bring troops into Moscow is impossible. It is extremely doubtful that Beriya is abroad, since he was being held in the army prison, where his supporters would not have been able to help him organize an escape.

Attitude of the Army

3. The army is oriented against the MVD. Incidentally, it is said that Zhukov, after the death of Stalin, did not want to accept the post of Deputy War Minister under Vasilevskiy, whom he considered to be lower ranking than himself and to be a Stalin appointee. Zhukov accepted the post only after Bulganin, "a figurehead marshal", was named War Minister. Zhukov is ambitious. He considers himself the saviour of the Soviet Union, on a level with Kutusov and other great military leaders, and he hated Stalin because the latter shared the credit for victory. Stalin also hated Zhukov but could not risk harming him and merely sent him away from Moscow.

Economy

4. Industry has been fully restored to prewar levels, but the distribution system is still inadequate. The fact that the only slippers to be found in a certain locality were sizes 35 and 45 does not mean that other sizes did not exist, but that distribution of size ranges was faulty. There is much new building, in

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fact, too much. It merely encourages the movement from village to city which the government is now trying to correct. The government can fulfill the promises of Malenkov's speech because it is necessary to fulfill them.

#### Soviet Internal Policy

5. Stalin was a fanatic, an all-powerful dictator with a persecution complex and a mania for greatness. He wanted to see his goals accomplished during his lifetime. If he were still alive, the Soviet Union would be either on the brink of or in the midst of a catastrophe. It is hoped that the present authorities will permit their pursuit of their aims to be tempered by reason and a recognition of the realities of life. They are normal people, not sick, and see that resistance to change must be considered. As Bukharin and Rykov proposed, many of the changes made by the Soviets can be retained; the others can be abandoned gradually. It is important to make concessions to the peasantry, and the authorities appear to have chosen that road. Malenkov's speech of 8 August 1953 is regarded as a change from an unreasonable to a reasonable policy. Freedom, of course, is the most important thing and the regime can scarcely grant that and retain power. The disappointment to those who regard Malenkov's speech as the beginning of a new era will be terrifying and may have consequences.
6. The Americans talk constantly about Communist espionage but this may be propaganda. With the present level of scientific knowledge and techniques, it is impossible to hide anything and espionage is unnecessary. If persevering people are given the means, they will sooner or later attain what others have attained. Technical data and formulae obtained through espionage hastened the Soviet development of the atomic or hydrogen bomb by some period of time, but whether or not that will be decisive remains to be seen. One side has a few more and the other a few less bombs. The war will in any event be a war of destruction.

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