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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT [redacted] Political, and Economic Summary

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IV. Construction of Heavy Forging Presses in the USSR

Difficulties in the construction of heavy forging presses have apparently been overcome. An increase in the construction of such presses has been observed since 1957. This increase involved predominantly horizontal and vertical forging presses with an effective pressure of 12,000, 30,000, 35,000 and 70,000 tons, some of which were earmarked for non-ferrous metal processing, possibly in the aircraft industry. Thus, the USSR has reached world standards with regard to construction of forging presses.

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V. Power Supply in Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovakia has not been able to fulfil its bituminous coal production plans since 1953. Since, in 1957, Polish bituminous coal deliveries were even smaller than in 1956, industry and traffic were temporarily seriously handicapped. The shortage could only to a small extent be compensated by increased utilization of brown coal, also at the expense of domestic fuel supplies, since, because of urgent liabilities, 3 to 4 million tons of hard coal, coke and brown coal have to be exported annually. The increased employment of natural gas and fuel oil also did not suffice to overcome the fuel shortage efficiently. The main reasons for the bituminous coal shortage are believed to lie in the stagnation in the Ostrau mining area and poor coordination with the machine industry. For the same reasons, the 1957 electro-energy production failed to reach plan targets. Also because of extensive export obligations in the field of power machine construction, the increase of capacity did not come up to that of preceding years. For 1958, a further aggravation rather than an improvement is expected with regard to power supply.

VI. Intensified Collectivization in the GDR

Beginning in late January 1958, the GDR has experienced a new propaganda wave for agricultural collectivization of a so far unknown extent. Farmers are constantly being told how much they would improve if they would join the LPGs, that individual farmers would have no chance in the future, and that it would be impossible to maintain farms working on the basis of privately-operated enterprises beside an industry working on the basis of nationalized production material supply. It was stressed that productivity and crops were considerably higher within the LPGs and that the general tendency was toward large-scale production. In this connection, the SED tries to prove to the farmers that it was unwise to stick to individual farming as could be seen from the number of 160.170 miniature and small agricultural enterprises in West Germany which had been liquidated between 1949 and 1957 as a result of structural changes. Along with this propaganda wave go coercive measures against privately owned agricultural enterprises in order to make it impossible for the farmers to go on. There are also other indications of increased collectivization tendencies as for example, Gerhard Gruenberg's nomination to the SED Central Committee. Gruenberg has been First Secretary of the SED district headquarters in Frankfurt/Oder since 1945 and has been reported as one of the keenest advocates of collectivization since recently. Fred Oelsner, who apparently stood for a more gradual collectivization and for the dissolving of ineffective LPGs, was reprimanded. A reorganization of the MTSs after Soviet pattern (turning-over of MTS machinery to Kolkhozes) has been turned down by the SED on the grounds that, as previously in the USSR, main tasks of the MTS in the GDR were development and support of LPGs and winning-over of individual farmers. It was pointed out that there was no connection between present Soviet considerations and Viehweg's revisionistic concept. With this unambiguous statement, the SED leadership again stressed its intention to maintain the MTS as political strongpoints in the rural districts.

See also supplements.

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B. Armed Forces

Hungary

Acc to press reports, withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary started on 15/16 March 1958.

(Comment: Reports received do not indicate whether or not the withdrawal of troops involved entire units)

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C. ArmyI. USSR1. Troop Movementsa. Withdrawal of Soviet Troops from the GDR to the USSR

- (1) Following a farewell ceremony of Soviet troops in Brandenburg on 10 Mar 1958, about 400 soldiers mounted two trains which had already been loaded with about 14 heavy guns, about 16 light guns, 14 primemovers, 40 trucks, 8 tank trucks, 12 repairshop trucks, and 8 sedans; the guns were covered with tarpaulins, the motor vehicles were old types [REDACTED]

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Comment: Presumably elms 62nd AA Div/Third Cds Mecz Army. Farewell ceremony took place as announced.

- (2) Departure of Soviet units from Luebben scheduled for 23 Mar; preparatory measures observed since 11 Mar [REDACTED] Loens, Dissenchen and Alvensleben Kasernes in Cottbus are to be vacated by Soviet troops in the near future. Dissenchen Kaserne is scheduled to be turned over to NVA. Preparatory measures have been observed since early Mar [REDACTED]

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Comment: Luebben and Cottbus are posts of 9th Mecz Div. Type and number of troops involved not yet determined. Farewell parades scheduled for 21 and 26 Mar in Luebben and Cottbus respectively.

- (3) On 5 Mar, Soviet troops from Doeberitz with 25 x T-34 tanks, trucks and billeting equipment were entrained at Dallgow railroad station [REDACTED]
On 5, 6 and 7 Mar, total of 4 shpmts from Dallgow to Brest Litovsk [REDACTED]

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Comment: Withdrawal of troops from Doeberitz has not been announced. Presumably additional units of the Fourth Cds Mecz Army departed.

- (4) Following a farewell ceremony of Soviet troops in Potsdam on 10 Mar, about 500 soldiers with old AA guns and motor vehicles, apparently scrap, were loaded [REDACTED]

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Comment: Departure for USSR of presumably combined troops with obsolete equipment.

- (5) Following farewell parade in Rostock on 17 Mar, loading of elms of an art brigade. Farewell ceremonies and loading of AA unit at Wriesen (press).

Comment: The dates agree with previous announcements. Presumably elms 3rd AT Brig/GSFG left Rostock.

[REDACTED] So far, Wriesen has not been known as Soviet post; probably only leading station.

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- (6) Between 26 Feb and 13 Mar 1958, a total of 46 shpmts left the GDR for the USSR from following places of departure: Fuerstenwalde appr. 16 shpmts, Dallgow appr. 4 shpmts, Jueterbog appr. 4 shpmts, Oranienburg appr. 3 shpmts, Frankfurt/Oder appr. 9 shpmts, Bernau appr. 2 shpmts, Eberswalde appr. 2 shpmts. Most shpmts carried soldiers, weapons and equipments and some only EM

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Comment: A total of 40-50 shpmts approximately agrees with the shipping volume required for a mechanized division. However, previous observations indicate that the shipments did not involve an entire division; it is assumed that especially organized units, mostly with obsolete weapons and equipment, departed. Most of the units belonged to the Fourth Gds Mecz Army, and presumably, predominantly to the 7th Gds Mecz Div in Fuerstenwalde and Frankfurt/Oder. Furthermore observations made during the last weeks indicate that also transfers in East Germany have probably been made. Type and extent cannot be determined before the end of the withdrawal of troops.

b. Possible Transfers to Gera Post

3-8 Mar 1958, loadings in Gera included 42 x 152-mm gun howitzers M-37, 16 x 122-mm field guns M-31/37, 63 prime movers M-50, 20 prime movers Ya-12, 20 full-track amph veh, 22 amph trucks G6, 2 amph sedans Lx4, trucks, tank trucks, ammunition, clothing, covers and other equipment, and a total of 800-1,000 soldiers. Personnel, weapons and motor vehicles came from Reuss Kaserne (8141) and Tinz Kaserne (8142). On 8 Mar, Reuss Kaserne was still occupied by a few artillerymen and the signal unit with 250 men. Tinz Kaserne was vacated except for a small guard detail

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Comment: So far, the 308th Arty Brig and an u/i amphibious unit of the Eighth Gds Mecz Army had been carried in Gera. The type and number of troops and equipment loaded tend to indicate permanent transfers. It has not yet been determined if the units were transferred to the USSR within the framework of troop withdrawals. The transfer to the USSR appears possible for the artillery brigade, but improbable for the amphibious unit. The signal unit, which remained in Gera, belongs to the Twenty-Fourth Air Army.

2. Training

Intensive training activity including practices and firing on training grounds continued outside of quarters and posts.

- a. In connection with winter exercises, the following supplementary observations were made:

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2/3 Mar, 17 shpmts with elms of reinforced 1st Mecz Div and 10th Gds Tank Div returned from Altengrabow area after joint exercise from 27 Feb to 2 Mar 1958.

8 Mar, 15 shpmts with strong elms of 18th Mecz Div and 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div (Mecz) returned to posts from Magdeburg area where exercise had been held involving strong elements of 34th Arty Div and bulk of 36th Bridge Build Regt/GSFG. On 6 Mar, crossing of Elbe River to eastern bank from Loitsche-Ramstedt-Angern area.

20 Feb to 9 Mar, alternate practices by elms 7th Gds Tank Div and 8th Gds Mecz Div in northern section of Lieberose training grounds.

11 to 13 Mar, exercise in Templin-Schorfheide area by units Fourth Gds Mecz Army, involving elms of Tank Regt/6th Gds Mecz Div. Exercise started south of Lychea and terminated in Gross Schoenebeck area.

b. AAA Training

27 Feb, return to Weimar of elms 13th AAA Div/Eighth Gds Mecz Army after firing practice.

1/2 Mar, 3 shpmts with elms 62nd AAA Div/Third Gds Mecz Army from Brandenburg to Jueterbog for firing practice.

5/8 Mar, 2 shpmts with elms 31st AAA Div/Second Gds Mecz Army (Tank) returned from Wustrow.

8/11 Mar, elms 32nd AAA Div/GSFG presumably returned from Jueterbog to Kuestrin and from Wustrow to Frankfurt/Oder in 2 and 4 shpmts, respectively.

11/12 Mar, elms 2nd Gds AAA Div/GSFG returned from Wustrow to Rehagen in 2 shpmts. (B/C/F-2/3).

Comments: Information received confirms the previous impression that winter training was particularly intensive this year. A continuation of this activity is expected until late March.

II. GDR

1. Interior Order

A new military penal law with an increased amount of punishment has become effective 1 February 1958

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2. Personnel

[redacted] Maj Gen Wagner (fnu) was to replace Maj Gen Johne (fnu) as chief of Military District III in late Feb/early Mar 1958 [redacted]

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Comments: Maj Gen Wagner had been trained in the USSR for a prolonged period and employed in the Main Staff of the Ministry for National Defense until at least spring 1956.

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Approximately at the same time, Col von Witzleben (fmu) replaced Maj Gen Rentzsch (fmu) as chief of Military District V

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Comments: Col von Witzleben previously was chief-of-staff of Military District V. The new assignments of Maj Gens Rentzsch and Johns are reported for the first time.

III. Poland

1. Location of Troops

The following units of the 20th Tank Div (Div Hq in Nounstettin in Jan 1958) are stationed in Hammerstein:

28th Tank Regt, southern camp
64th Tank Regt, western camp
9th Tank Tng Bn, southern camp
31st Mtz Rifle Regt, northern camp
tank repair shops of Div, northern portion of western camp.

The installations and quarters of the former German Wehrmacht are still being utilized, in addition to 12 new, large, five-story barracks buildings for officer dependents

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Comments: Stationing in Hammerstein of the 28th and 64th Tank Regts was last reported in Dec 1956. According to other reports, the 64th Tank Regt was to be either disbanded or transferred to Falkenburg in mid-1957. The 9th Tank Tng Bn is reported for the first time and possibly is identical with the division NCO school reported in Dec 1956. The 31st Mtz Rifle Regt has been carried as tank regiment but has also been reported as "heavy regiment". According to recently reported personnel strength and organization, the motorized rifle regiment of the division may be concerned.

2. In July 1957, the tank regiments of the 20th Tank Div stationed in Hammerstein were organized as follows:

Unit	Personnel Strength	Armament and Equipment
<u>28th Tank Regt</u>		
Regt Hq with hq company	u/i	u/i
Sig company	appr 30	30 short-wave, VHF and tank radio devices
Rifle company	appr 40	light infantry guns
Engineer "	appr 35	mine detectors, river crossing equipment
AAA unit	appr 20	4 x M-39/37 mm AA guns
9 tank companies	each 40	appr 80 x T-34/85 tanks
in addition:		
Ambulance platoon		
Repair shop platoon		
Total strength:	appr 600 men	

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64th Tank Regt

Regt Hq with) similar to 28th Tank Regt
hq company	
Sig company	
Rifle company	
Engineer company	
AAA unit) Appr. 100 x T-34/85 and IS-3 tanks 6 x ISU-122s, 3x ISU-152s 10 x 100-mm M-44 AT guns
u/1 number of	
tank companies	
1 SP company	
1 tank unit	

in addition
Ambulance platoon
Repair shop platoon

Total strength: appr 800 men

The 9th Tank Tng Bn (NCO school of division) also stationed in Hammerstein had a personnel strength of appr 400 men and was equipped with 40 x T-34/85 tanks and 5 old-type SP guns, but with no other heavy weapons.

Comment: Info generally agrees with statement received until late 1956. Also this time, no subdivision into battalions of the tank regiments was reported. The reported difference in the equipment of Polish tank regiments is probably due to the fact that difficulties with regard to materiel and personnel have not yet permitted a uniform organization and equipment. The personnel strengths of both regiments increased as compared to 1956 info. while the number of tanks increased proportionally.

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D. Air Force

I. USSR

1. Location of Troops

Since early/mid-Feb 1958, Mersburg airfield has been overoccupied by 80 MiGs. According to an unconfirmed statement, continuous air activity by MiG-19s will allegedly be conducted at Mersburg.

(Comment: This statement tends to indicate that reequipping with MiG-19s is possible. During the reequipping of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army from MiG-15s to MiG-17s, Mersburg played the role of an aircraft pool from where the new aircraft were distributed to the regiments.)

2. Logistics

Neuhardenberg Airfield (Markwalde)

The length of the runway of Neuhardenberg airfield is 2,100 meters. No further concrete works will be carried out with regard to the length of the runway. Excavation work at the eastern and western ends of the runway are only carried out for levelling the lands. Grass seed for sowing is available. Laying work on the drainage pipes is still going on.

(Comment: Since 9 Feb 1958, underground construction has been interrupted and the workers have been on leave. Info in the laying of the drainage pipes and excavation work in the extension of the runway temporarily led to conflicting data on the length of the runway. A length of 2,100 meters has been confirmed.)

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II GDR

1. Location and Training of Troops

In Feb 1958, young NVA/L personnel including 19 pilots and 4 radio operators were assigned to the East Zone Lufthansa in order to be trained as pilots for passenger planes. This measure annoyed the other members of the Lufthansa who, being former pilots, hoped to be re-employed with the East German Lufthansa.

(Comment: The NVA/L furnished personnel for air transport units, thus also for the East Zone Lufthansa which, in case of war, is assigned the same missions. Pilots who are physically not fit for flying jet fighters are principally concerned.

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III. Poland

1. Personnel Strength

On the basis of precise data which has been recently received, the Polish Air Force has a total strength of 40,000 men as compared to previously assumed 25,000 men.

2. Training

Prior to the fall of 1957, Seifersdorf (51 11 N/ 15 56 E) airfield has not been permanently occupied. At intervals of 1 to 4 weeks during the summer months of 1956 and 1957, numerous small conventional aircraft transferred to the field for 1 to 4 weeks and conducted air activity; occasionally, mass parachuting was observed. Throughout the year, 20 - 30 Soviet soldiers guarded the field which had no runway and only a few permanent installations

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3. Technical Matters

The former German airfield at Stettin-Kreckov (53 26 N/14 28 E) was improved by Soviet soldiers beginning in Aug 1956. Work had not yet been completed by the summer of 1957. A total of about 10 MiG-15s and MiG-17s were parked within the fence around the barracks installation along Kreckov Street (ul. Mickiewicza), which was occupied by Soviets. The aircraft were towed by trucks along ul. Lukosinskiego to Stettin-Kreckov airfield where the engines were started for test runs; this had formerly been done in the barracks area. In Sep 1957, 10 - 12 MiGs were parked at the field but they were not observed aloft

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(Comment: Info on improvement work at Stettin-Kreckov airfield and parked MiGs has been confirmed. It is unclear if the MiGs were assembled or repaired in the barracks installation. Stettin-Kreckov airfield possibly is a MiG distribution point.)

4. Logistics

From 1952 to 1957, the Polish construction firm "Bytomsk Association for Engineering and Construction Work" Polish abbreviation BZRLJ, at No 81 ul Pomorska, Bydgoszcz (53 06 N/17 58 E); with Engineer Korzycinski as chief and Engineer Bartel as deputy chief, was employed at various Polish airfields for ground levelling and concreting work. The cadre personnel included 1,500 workers, in addition to 200 office and construction supervisory personnel, and 500 additional workers during the summer months. The construction firm, directly subordinated to

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DOW Bydgoszcz (military district), was employed on the following airfields: Bydgoszcz 1952, Pruszas (54 15 N/ 18 40 E) 1953, Zowits (54 25 N/ 17 46 E) 1954, Gdynia (54 35 N/18 32 E) 1954, Gollnow-Marsdorf (53 35 N/14 55 E) 1955, Schnatow (53 53 N/14 52 E) 1956, Schneidemuhl West (53 10 N/16 43 E) 1957 [redacted]

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IV. Czechoslovakia

Training

During the summer months of 1957, about 30 jet aircraft were stationed at Stribo/Erpuccie (49 48 N/13 02 E) airfield [redacted]

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(Comment: The sod airfield at Stribo/Erpuccie has a 1,800-meter grass-covered taxiway. According to the Soviet pattern, it is permanently used as auxiliary airfield by a Czech fighter regiment in the Pilsen area.

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F. Readiness and Paramilitary Training

FR

a. Militia and Police Troops

c. German Border Police

In early March [redacted] German Border Police (DGP) units received 58 AT guns, 76 SUs, and new four-wheel ordered scout cars in Jan/Feb 58 [redacted] 25X1

Since mid-Feb, a total of about 400 GP men from Dittrichshuette have moved into Rudolstadt Revenue-Office in various groups. Their equipment included 14 tanks [redacted] 25X1

(Comment. Info probably refers to the transfer of the 1st Bataillon from Dittrichshuette to Rudolstadt, which had already been announced for Dec 57. Tanks are reported with this unit for the first time.)

At least until April/May 58, the recruiting campaign is to concentrate on personnel for the DGP and subsequently again on personnel for the NVA [redacted] 25X1

In Feb 58, special "recruiting Sundays" were introduced in order to win young men for the DGP and the alert police (AP). Recruits were mainly enlisted with the DGP [redacted] 25X1

(Comment. Some 15,000 men allegedly are to be recruited for the DGP by Jun 58. The minimum increase of personnel, based on the reorganization into border troops, is estimated at 10,000 men [redacted] 25X1

b. Alert Police

In addition to Soviet advisers with the rank of staff officers, NVA staff officers are also employed with the AP [redacted] 25X1

(Comment. NVA officers have presumably been employed as instructors since mid-1957, when the reorganization of the AP started.)

c. Transport Police

[redacted] the transport police school, in Oct 57, was located in Dessau [redacted] 25X1

(Comment. The school mentioned presumably is the Central Training Academy from Nordhausen which had been transferred with unknown destination in the spring of 57.)

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2. Extracurricular and Paramilitary Organization and Training

a. Association for Sports and Technics (GST)

In the 1958 summer term, GST camps, compulsory for all students, were to be organized by TH Dresden. Only students who volunteer for work in the production will be exempted. The same regulation will also be applied to all other GDR universities and academies

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(Comment. Similar courses had already been held in preceding years (1957: mid-June to late August) under the denomination "GST Summer Camps" [redacted])

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b. Combat Groups (KG)

Following a resolution by the SED Politburo of 13 Feb 58, Erich Hennicker, SED Central Committee Secretary in charge of security matters, on 15 Feb 58, requested the SED Bezirk headquarters to recruit a total of 10,000 men by late Feb, and another 25,000 men by late Mar 58, in order to reach a total strength of 275,000 men by 1 May 58 [redacted]

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(Comment. Even if this number should be reached, it must be born in mind that only in some cases more than 50 percent of the recruits will participate in training at unit level. In early 58, the total strength of combat groups was estimated at 200,000 to 250,000 men.)

A training school for combat groups has been located in Scherwitz/Geerske since early Jan 57. Courses last three months, succeeding each other with an interruption of one week. The instructors are furnished by Potsdam alert police. Average classes have a strength of about 300 men [redacted]

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(Comment. The aim of these courses is to train sub-leaders [redacted])

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In Feb 58, an alert practice was held for the 47th and 56th Hundertschafts of Sub-Hq Berlin-Mitte [redacted]

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(Comment. Recently, alert practices, aiming at a reduction of time needed, have repeatedly been observed. This is the first report mentioning numbers of Hundertschafts.)

On orders of HVDVP, final inspections of combat groups by EDVP committees are to take place in all Kreises in late Mar 58 [redacted]

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(Comment. According to an unconfirmed report, such a final inspection has already taken place in early Mar 58, on occasion of a street fighting exercise, with the problem: "Destruction of Agent Groups".)