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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT	Atomic Warfare Defense Exercises, Soviet Army in Austria	DATE DISTR.	14 February 1955
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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC				
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REPORT NO. [redacted] 50X1

COUNTRY USSR/Austria

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SUBJECT Atomic Warfare Defense Exercises,
Soviet Army in Austria

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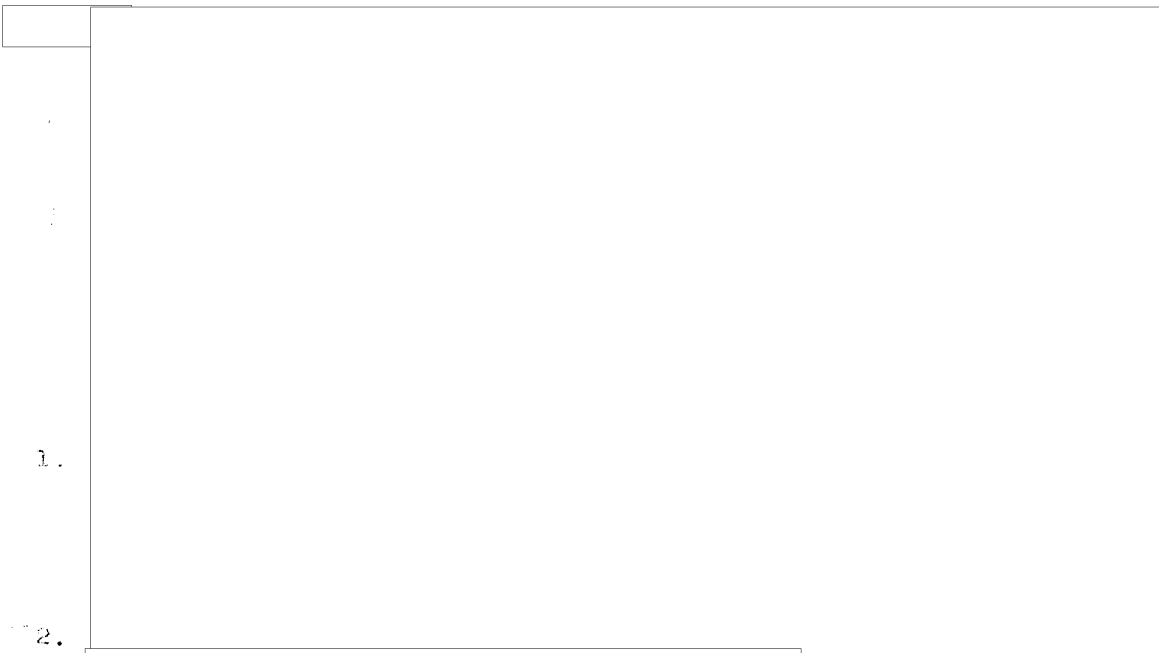
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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[redacted] description of an atomic defense training exercise held [redacted] 1954 at the 45th Guards MecZ. Regt. summer training area in Allensteig. 50X1

- a. The soldiers of this regiment were informed by their superiors that the training would include the explosion of a live atomic bomb. They were also told that the time element in case of an atomic alert was of such importance that equipment, but never weapons, could be abandoned.
- b. On the day of the exercise in April or May 1954, the 45th Guards MecZ. Regt. was alerted and moved to a location approximately seven kilometers from the camp at Allensteig. The troops carried only weapons and ammunition, leaving all other equipment and tents in the camp.

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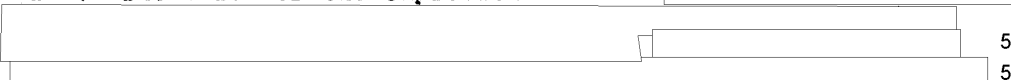
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c. At this location, the troops were ordered to take cover and lie down. Shortly after that, the explosion occurred and was clearly seen by the soldiers of this regiment. The explosion was followed by a blast the windlike effects of which were felt by the soldiers. This effect was similar to a light wave of wind. The color of the explosion was red

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several atomic warfare posters used as training aids described atomic bomb explosions as having a strong, bright flame-color which causes blindness from short distances to unprotected eyes.

d. After completion of this exercise, the troops were returned to their camp and found that the camp had been practically leveled by the explosion. All the tents had been torn from the ground and carried some distance away. Light pieces of equipment were also scattered, but several tanks of an unidentified type suffered no visible damage.



4. the entire 13th Mecz. Div., as well as other large units, had summer training camps in Allensteig, all Soviet troops from the Allensteig area took part in this training

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5. the troops of the 13th Mecz. Div. had been undergoing this type of training for many months in 1954 and probably as early as the end of 1953.

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Comment: Even assuming that the described training had included a simulated atomic bomb explosion, it is of interest to note

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that the troops of the 45th Guards Mecz. Regt. were told by their superiors that a "real" atomic bomb would be used during the exercise.

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