

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE

CIVILIAN HEALTH, SANITATION AND MEDICAL PRACTICE IN THE USSR AS A WHOLE 50X1

1. The People's Commissariat for the Care of Public Health is responsible for the public health, sanitation, hygiene, immunization, statistics and the control and distribution of drugs in the Soviet Union. There are branch offices on republic, regional, city and district levels. The system is very effective due to strict controls. Numerous manuals and regulations are published covering all activities of the Commissariat. In addition, periodic publications of a general and specific nature are disseminated to each branch.
2. There is a special section in the Commissariat for the Care of Public Health responsible for vital statistics. Each branch level representative is responsible for the collection of data. However, only a small part of the statistics obtained are ever published and then only for propaganda purposes and are not reliable.
3. Diseases of national significance usually follow a period of famine in rural areas. These include tuberculosis, typhoid, typhus and dysentery. The mortality rate is usually high because of the weakened condition of the populace in the particular area.
4. Whenever a disease is traced to an insect or animal as a carrier, local health offices provide special mobile brigades for disinfecting and insect control.
5. General immunization in the Soviet is against typhoid, typhus, small-pox, dysentery and diptheria, usually in the form of vaccination where applicable and tablets taken orally, otherwise. Immunization is fairly universal. All

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-2-

immunizing agents are produced in the Soviet Union and provide good results. 50X1

6. Food in the Soviet is usually adequate but is very monotonous. I do not know what items are rationed but amounts allowed usually depend on one's earning power and position. Insofar as control of purity and sanitation is concerned, special sections of the Commissariat, through local offices, conduct very thorough and systematic inspections of all food supplies, personnel handling and installations responsible for distribution.
7. Drugs, medicinals, medical supplies and equipment are under the control of a section of the Commissariat known as the Main Pharmacy Administration. Very few items were imported from abroad and then mostly from Germany. Production and distribution is controlled by this section. Most items are of good quality.
8. All factories, plants, working-shops, etc, have at least one doctor and assistant who are responsible for the hygiene and sanitary conditions in each establishment. For example, regular checks are made of the purity of food and drinking water. One must remember that a loss of man-hours due to illness can reflect greatly on quotas and production in the Soviet.
9. There are no non-governmental organizations for health and welfare in the Soviet.

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

10. In the USSR practically every medium sized city has at least one medical and dental institute. All schools are directly under the control of the government. A high school diploma, or the equivalent plus political reliability are necessary for admission. The medical course is five years, the dental, four. Medical courses are the usual Chemistry (organic, inorganic, analytic), Cellular Theory, Biology, Physiology, Anatomy, Pharmaceuticals. Six months internship is necessary in a general hospital. A specialized field also requires six months internship. Military medicine is a requirement for all male students. In addition there is the usual political education.
11. Major medical schools and universities provide various graduate training courses. These consist of training on specific subjects and practical work under guidance in the university clinics and hospitals. One is selected for graduate training on the basis of one's professional efficiency and political reliability.
12. A private medical practice is not permitted as such in the Soviet. A doctor works only for the government at a post assigned to him. His starting pay is from 300 to 400 rubles.

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14. The most disabling diseases were tuberculosis, typhus and dysentery, occurring, as I pointed out above, as the result of famine in the rural areas. Although I have no figures, I recall that there was a high mortality rate from these diseases. Such cases were isolated in special hospitals for treatment.

MEDICAL RESOURCES.

15. In the USSR medical personnel is made up of about 50% male and 50% female, the greatest majority having a medical training of one form or another, depending on their profession. However, there is a shortage of doctors in the rural areas. Generally the professional skill is good. Patients are treated in dispensaries, clinics and hospitals depending on their ailment. A patient may request a home visit by calling the local dispensary. No compensation is made.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION

16. All food producing and distributing organizations are carefully regulated by the Commissariat. Storage facilities particularly receive close sanitary inspection.

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-3-

50X1

17. Milk is easily obtained in the USSR either through the state stores or on the "black market". However, only milk sold by the state is pasteurized.

VITAL STATISTICS

18. All epidemic diseases are reportable, the reports being submitted through the various channels of the Commissariat to Moscow. The reporting is complete, however I do not know of any published figures being made.

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