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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 25 August 1948

SUBJECT Soviet Units

In the Brandenburg Area

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PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

1. Brandenburg (Z23)

a. 21 June: At 1600 hours Soviet Air Force personnel and dependents from the Arado Airfield at Neuendorf entrained for Insterburg (R55/V55). The train consisted of 10 freight cars and 12 coaches; only the first 5 coaches were occupied, the rest being reserved for a unit in Finkenwerder bei Frankfurt/Oder.

[Redacted]

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c. Vehicles [Redacted] were observed moving towards Rachenow (Z15) about 21 June, possibly indicating a transfer. Cars [Redacted] formerly met Train [Redacted] Berlin-Magdeburg, to pick up mail; this service is now performed by cars [Redacted].

d. 22 June: Trucks [Redacted] left the Artilleriekaserne in the direction of Magdeburg. Eight trucks were counted, each carrying 20 men with full equipment. Vehicles of the same unit had arrived at these barracks the previous day from the Potsdamerstrasse or Autobahn. At that time six vehicles with AF guns were observed.

e. [Redacted] Soviet trucks at a repair shop where prime movers were being overhauled [Redacted].

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f. 26-27 June: Meat intended for the local population was requisitioned for troop and dependent transports. Troops [Redacted] were going on maneuvers; dependents [Redacted] were returning to the USSR.

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g. 29 June: MVD officers appeared at the Brandenburg Criminal Police (E) on 25 and 29 June inquiring about reactionary elements [Redacted].

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[Redacted]

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Briest (Z13)

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On 22 June, work on the runways of Briest Airfield was being intensified to such an extent that Soviet troops were being employed. As of 7 July, [redacted] flying activity had practically ceased and all aircraft had been camouflaged against detection from the air.

Premitz (Z14)

- a. On 16 July, Soviet strength was estimated at 12,000-15,000 men.
- b. Troops observed included a small infantry unit attached to the komendatura; one 150 mm mortar battalion of four batteries and approximately 1,000 men, [redacted] and two artillery communications companies. [redacted] with trucks [redacted]

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(Field Comment: The following paragraphs on Rathenow obviously refer to IV Artillery Corps [redacted])

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Rathenow (Z15)

- a. Strength estimated on 16 July at 6,000-7,000 artillerymen, plus 500-800 Russian civilians (as compared [redacted] to an earlier total [redacted] of 10,000-12,000 military and 3,000-4,000 civilians).

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[redacted]

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- c. The former Arado Aircraft Plant in Rathenow-Heidefeld is now an artillery depot for guns, searchlights, ammunition and signal equipment. Strength, 200-300 men. [redacted] The compound consists of four large hangars, of which two have been damaged, and seven other buildings. [redacted]

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[redacted]

- e. Artillery units of undetermined strength occupy the former Maschinenzentralamt and Fa. Bolle buildings. [redacted] the premises contain a vehicle repair shop. [redacted]

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[redacted]

There are three artillery units in the northern section of Rathenow:

- 2,000-3,000 men, [redacted] a training regiment, in the former infantry barracks which consist of eleven large three-story barracks plus apartment buildings. [redacted]

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A [redacted] battalion, equipped with heavy guns, occupies the former motor transport barracks. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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A rear echelon unit occupies the former engineer barracks. [redacted]

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f. A food depot lies opposite the engineer and motor transport barracks along the rail line. This, like the other compounds described above, is surrounded by a high fence and is under guard. A Russian settlement in the town, located between the Friedrich-Lange-Strasse and the optical works, also is fenced in and the area is off limits to Germans.

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g. Soviet troops operate a factory at the corner of Ferdinand Lassalle/Friedrich-Lange-Strasse. [redacted]

[redacted]

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