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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Ethiopia/USSR

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DATE DISTR. 3 September 1948

SUBJECT Russian Dejazmacht Balcha Hospital:

NO. OF PAGES 4

25X1A

- 1. Activities of Personnel
- 2. Purchase of Monkeys for Shipment

PLACE ACQUIRED

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- There have been two recent defections among the personnel at the Dejazmacht Balcha Hospital at Addis Ababa. Ludmilla Bouchoueva, a pharmacist who arrived at the hospital in August 1946, defected during the last week in July 1948 and attempted to leave the hospital, but is reportedly being held in a locked room in the hospital. Tamara Terapijeva, who also arrived at the hospital in August 1946, defected during the last week in July 1948, but was detained in the home of the Director and in the hospital until 29 July, when she escaped and went into hiding in Addis Ababa. She was aided in her escape by a staff member. The motive given for her defection was "love, and a desire not to return to Russia."
- Dr. L. Voronine, who joined the hospital staff on temporary duty in connection with collecting baboons and monkeys for shipment to Russia, has obtained about 125 baboons and a few Tota monkeys, but they are coming in slowly as the natives think that the price he is paying (\$5.00) is too low. Dr. Voronine has said that he will go into the western part of the country to get more animals himself, but he will not be able to go before the end of the rainy season in October. The monkeys so far collected are being held on the hospital grounds. ~~Comment.~~ Dr. Voronine is probably identical with the Professor L. Voronin reported to be Director of the Sukhumi Biological Station in the USSR, which is studying manlike apes.) A special plane is expected to come from Russia to take the primates back, but no date of arrival has been given.
- The Dejazmacht Balcha Hospital was founded in 1945 after negotiations between the Ethiopian and Soviet Governments, conducted by Emperor Haile Selassie and Minister Andrei Timoschenko. The Ethiopian Government contributed the structure and remodeled it for use as a hospital. It had originally been constructed by the Gondrand Transport Company under the Italians about 1939 and was seized by the Custodian of Enemy Property in 1941. The Soviet Government undertook to furnish staff, equipment and medical supplies for the hospital.
- The hospital is located on Sanga Vara Road, leading from the main part of Addis Ababa to the airport, about one-half mile east of the airport. It is a stone building of three stories, about 180 feet long and 60 feet wide, surrounded by an iron fence and stone wall up to ten feet in height. The kitchen is located in a separate one-story building at the rear of the main structure. The Director's residence is also within the grounds at the rear

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of the west end of the hospital. There are other small buildings within the grounds, which probably occupy about one acre of land.

5. Formal opening of the hospital took place on 15 September 1947, the day before the departure of Minister Andrei Timocchenko for Russia. The Emperor, the Diplomatic Corps and local officials were present at a reception and tour of inspection.
6. The hospital is equipped for dental; X-ray; eye, ear, nose and throat; obstetrical; gynecological; and internal ailments clinics. At the opening reception it was noted that dental, X-ray and part of the operating theater equipment, as well as some of the supplies, were of American manufacture. The pharmacy is fairly well supplied, but on the opening date the matron told a reporter that the hospital had no penicillin and asked assistance in securing a supply from the United States or through UNRRA. The operating theater is well equipped and laid out. There are 80 beds in the hospital, 2 beds to a room. ~~Comment.~~ This number seems too high when the size and layout of the building are considered.) There are no elevators in the building. Clinical out-patients are handled in the mornings. When the hospital was first opened these out-patients numbered up to 200 per day, but it is now reported that there are only about 40 per day. The upper-class patients, consisting mostly of Armenians and a few Greeks, appear from noon to 3 p.m., and members of the clinical staff leave for their quarters at 5 p.m. Charges to clinical patients are \$E 1.00 per visit and prescriptions are sold at cost or below. Charge for treatment of upper-class patients is about \$E 5.00.
7. Service at the hospital is reported to be poor. Ethiopian patients state that there has been no food or other service on Sundays, except for patients recovering from operations. The dental treatments are said to be crude and exceedingly painful.
8. The Soviet Charge d'Affaires reported in July 1948 that there were 17 Soviet nationals on the hospital staff, 9 of whom were doctors. The Soviet interpretation of doctor is very broad, since it includes laboratory technicians. Of two laboratory technicians at the hospital, the one charged with making blood tests for malaria is said to be unable to make even routine blood examinations. The known staff of the hospital as of 1 August 1948 was as follows:

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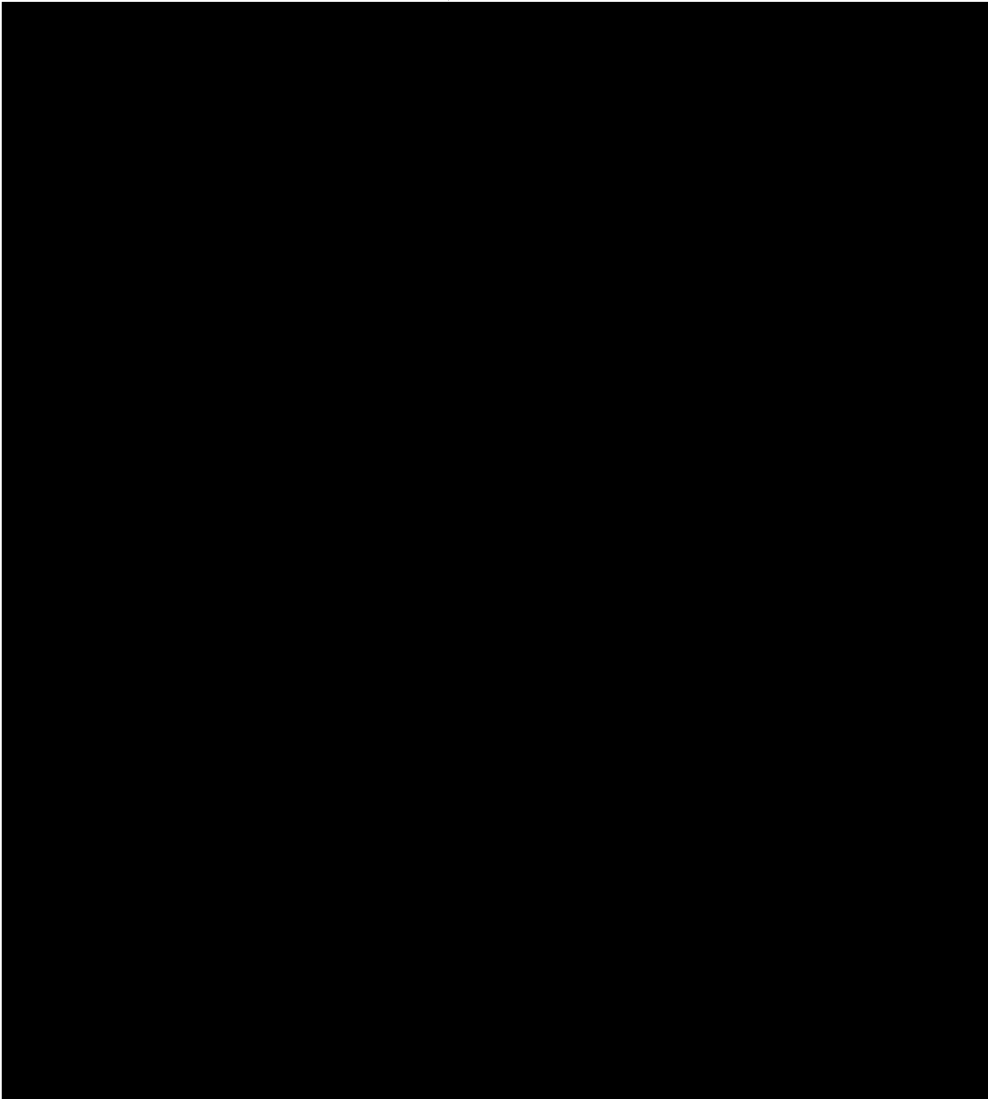
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9. With the exception of one doctor, local employees are limited to Ethiopian menials and laborers and part-time interpreters. There are about twenty such employees. The local doctor is Dr. C.G. Drakakis, a Greek venereal specialist of poor reputation. He receives a salary of \$E 700.00 per month. He is said to have been employed on orders of the Charge d'Affaires because of his Communist sympathies. Drakakis is a son-in-law of Olga Zervos, whose uncle, the late Boris Sperling, was reportedly a Soviet agent who died after treatment at the hospital in December 1947. Mme. Pavloff, wife of a Bulgarian long resident in Ethiopia, is said to be employed as interpreter at the hospital. Her husband has a small ranch near Addis Ababa and was employed to collect baboons and monkeys for Dr. Voronine, but soon gave this up as unprofitable.
10. The Soviet staff of the hospital lives in a large apartment building called Casa Popolare, which is located about half a mile east of the hospital in

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the industrial section of Addis Ababa. Its members go to and from work in a body, in horse-drawn carriages, and they sleep in pairs. They rarely appear at social functions, except at the Soviet Legation. They have not been known to entertain or to accept invitations from individuals outside their own circle. All the staff has been studying Amharic during the last year and some of its members are able to converse with their Ethiopian patients.

11. There are no indications of Communist propaganda originating from the hospital, and evidence of irregular activity on the part of the Soviet staff is scant. There are rumors among the White Russians of Addis Ababa that the matron, Olga Noubtsova, is influential in affairs at the Soviet Legation. Tamara Terenpleva, who defected in July 1948, stated that she was employed at the Legation for a period after her arrival from the Soviet Union in August 1946. It is possible that Emakov, Kaultiapov and Fallalovich are employed both at the Legation and the hospital as needs demand.
12. At least until the end of 1947 the hospital maintained a Medical Dressers' School for Ethiopians. One of the students, an Eritrean, knew sabotage methods, which he may have learned under the Italians, since they used a group for such work.
13. Many members of the hospital staff have been in Addis Ababa for more than two years. Dr. Sokolovsky applied for transit visas in March 1948, but has not left as yet. The original director, Dr. Nikolai Linnin, was replaced by Dr. A. Karasov on 1 July 1948. Several new members of the hospital staff are expected to arrive soon.

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