

# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria/USSR

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SUBJECT The Soviet-Controlled DDSG

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1. During the past year the Soviet-controlled DDSG firm has been chiefly engaged in enlarging the harbor facilities at Ismail and Reni, both of which are important receiving points for shipments sent from Austria to the USSR. DDSG derives most of its income from Juschweschtrans shipments which it delivers via the Danube to Ismail. Gasoline shipped from Zisterdorf to the USSR is unloaded at Reni where DDSG now has storage tanks having a capacity of at least 100,000 tons and 18 new heavy cranes which were installed early this year. The Soviets enforce strict security regulations at this port. Soviet military and customs officials inspect thoroughly every vessel which puts in at Reni and Austrian nationals assigned as crew members aboard DDSG ships are not permitted to go ashore.
2. The "Helios", an express steamer which the Soviets raised and removed to the Korneuburg dockyards in December 1947, is still in process of being repaired. DDSG officials expect to send it on a trial run to Budapest early in April.\* Although DDSG officials allege that 7,500,000 schillings have been spent to recommission the "Helios", a technical director of DDSG is reported to have estimated the expenses unofficially at a minimum of 10,000,000 schillings. The heavy expenses incurred in refitting the "Helios" and a limited amount of shipping business at the Korneuburg shipyard have placed the DDSG in a precarious financial position.
3. The Sovromtransport tugboat "Chernikov" which has been laid up at Korneuburg since December 1949 is not expected to be out of repairs until May instead of the previously scheduled date in March. When the Soviet director general of Sovromtransport recently visited Korneuburg and was advised of this delay, he reportedly complained about the inefficiency of the Korneuburg shipyard to Engr. Seliminov, second-in-command to the DDSG director general. Seliminov has been in Austria since 1947. He is said to be a well-educated and pleasant person. He speaks some English and is now studying German.

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 Next Review Date: 2008



4. The following vessels are listed as flying the Soviet DDSG flag:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>
1	Steam-driven tugboat, the "Vladivostok", 1000 hp
4	Diesel-driven tugboats, the "Kursk", 600 hp; the "Derbent"; the "Kerson", 400 hp; and the "Moriak", 250 hp.
39	Barges
10	Tanker Barges
1	Small passenger boat having a capacity of 250 persons

5. In early March, Director General Titov (phonetic) of the DDSG was removed from his post

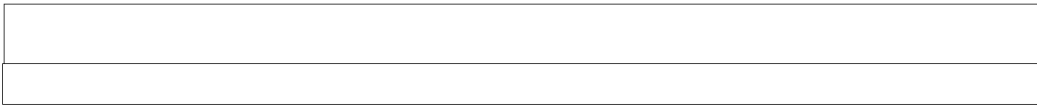
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\* Comment: the "Helios" was scheduled to go into service at the end of October 1949.

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