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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT

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Summaries of Soviet border activity along the Iranian frontier covering the period 1 June - 13 August 1950 follow.

The Vicinity of Pol Dasht (39-21N, 45-05E)

1. Period of 28 June through 22 July 1950

- a. Barbed wire was being laid at the Soviet border post Ruine (not located) in the direction of Shah Takhti (39-22N, 45-06E).
- b. The border and approaches to the banks of the Araxes River were closely inspected. Reeds obstructing the Soviet view of the river were cut down.
- c. Six hundred Soviet troops and two officers appeared to come from the Soviet border post of Alishar. [redacted] they actually 50X1-HUM came from the village of Alishar (39-32N, 44-56E) but approached the border in such a way as to give observers the impression that they were coming out of the Alishar border post. After a ten-minute halt, during which the men reconnoitered the river's edge, the unit proceeded toward a point opposite Iranian Shiddi (39-31N, 44-56E).
- d. Repairs were being made on Soviet border posts.
- e. Reconnaissance flights were conducted over this vicinity.
- f. For the first time at any of the posts along the Araxes river, civilians were seen being instructed by military personnel. On 19 July 1950, at the Soviet post Khinkaje (not located) near Pol Dasht one soldier was instructing ten armed civilians in front of the post building.

2. Period of 23-30 July 1950

[redacted] the Soviets plan to increase the size of all railroad stations on the Araxes railroad line.

3. Period of 3-13 August 1950

- a. Eight Soviet soldiers mowed grass along the banks of irrigation canals near the Araxes River at the post Madzhli (not located). 50X1-HUM

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- b. Thirty Soviet soldiers engaged in target practice opposite Iranian Shiddi on 12 August 1950.
- c. Train traffic daily consisted of approximately ten trains, east and westbound included.

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The Vicinity of Dzhulfa (38-56N, 45-37E)

4. Period of 7 June - 21 July 1950

- a. Road traffic, east and west bound, consisted of 937 trucks, carrying troops, supplies, sand, hay, rocks, and two pieces of motorized artillery. These last were observed on 29 June on a truck traveling westbound from Ordubad to Dzhulfa.
- b. Troops were engaged in field maneuvers between Dzhulfa and Yaiji (38-56N, 45-45E) where the Soviets are building a new watch tower. On 6 July 1950, one company of infantry and 32 cavalry were engaged in field exercises northwest of Dzhulfa. this was the first time in two years that such a large number of cavalry has been observed at any one time. Largest groups previously observed did not exceed six cavalry.
- c. Rocks being trucked in from the hills behind Dzhulfa are being used by the Soviets in the flat expanse extending east of the International Bridge between the river and the foot of the hills to erect mounds which are one meter square at the base and are one and a half meters high. A thin steel pole is planted in the center of each mound. These mounds have been connected at unspecified intervals all over the plain. One mound is slightly higher than the others, being approximately 2 x 2 x 2 meters. The pole planted in this mound carried a flag. these are possibly anti-paratroop defenses.
- d. A new Soviet border post building is under construction opposite Iranian Haras (not located).

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5. Period of 23-30 July 1950

- a. Traffic maintained the level of the previous week. Traffic passing through Dzhulfa consisted of 264 trucks, 2 automobiles, 2 jeeps, and one bulldozer. Loads carried were soldiers and supplies.
- b. Troops engaged in field exercises and in the firing of rifles and automatic weapons.

6. Period of 3-13 August 1950

- a. Soviet troops engaged in rifle, machine gun, and mortar practice at posts in the vicinity of Dzhulfa.
- b. The Soviets worked on repairing a road opposite Iranian Tanabi (not located).
- c. Road traffic, east and west bound, consisted of about 800 trucks, 35 jeeps, 50 automobiles, and 7 field guns. The loads consisted of soldiers, civilians (but not in great numbers), and building materials.
- d. Rail traffic consisted of approximately 104 trains made up of the following types of cars: about 750 boxcars, about 370 gondola or flat cars, about 50 tank cars, and about 80 passenger cars. Because of the fact that some trains went through at night, there was no break-down available for those trains. Loads of the trains consisted of coal, timber, lumber, machinery, trucks, automobiles, in some instances artillery pieces, possible oil products of an unknown nature which were carried in the tank cars, boxes, and passengers.

The Vicinity of Sia Rud

7. Period of 23-30 July 1950

For the first time in 1950, activity in this sector was considered unusual. Vehicular traffic along the border road increased, as did firing exercises on the rifle ranges.

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The Vicinity of Khuda Afarin (39-09N, 46-55E)8. Period of 26 June - 22 July 1950

- a. On 29 June 1950, a Soviet officer from the Soviet side of the border took three pictures of Iranian installations at Khuda Afarin. [redacted] 50X1-HUM  
[redacted] according to the Soviet-Iranian border agreement neither 50X1-HUM  
party will take pictures of the other's installations. [redacted] 50X1-HUM  
[redacted]
- b. Also on 29 June 1950, two companies of troops moved from Khuda Afarin to Khalaf Beglu (not located but possibly identical with Khavali opposite Iranian Khavalu, 39-08N, 46-52E).
- c. At the Soviet post of Mahmud (39-17N, 47-09E) opposite Iranian Larijan (39-16N, 47-08E) the Soviets are erecting a steel observation tower which is to be six stories high.
- d. Traffic was normal.

9. Period of 23 July - 13 August 1950: No report available for this period.The Vicinity of Garmi (39-01N, 48-03E)10. Period of 29 May - 22 July 1950

- a. The presence of a large number of civilians in villages close to the border was confirmed. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- b. The Soviets exercised daily with machine guns.
- c. Frequent reconnaissance flights were made by the Soviets along the border.
- d. From Hadi Beglu (not located) trucks have been loading forage for horses and taking it to the Trarzan post (not located, but believed to be near Lakin, 39-07N, 48-20E). [redacted] this is unusual 50X1-HUM  
because Trarzan is an important center for hay.

11. Period of 23-30 July 1950

- a. A very large number of troops, number undetermined, was observed in the area.
- b. Former Azerbaiddzhani democrats were seen dressed in Soviet Army uniforms and inter-mixed with the Soviet soldiers at the villages of Geoktepe (39-06N, 48-31E), Hameshari (not located), and Qaleh Bazar (not located).
- c. Two aircraft made reconnaissance flights on two occasions.
- d. Anti-aircraft emplacements at Belyasuvar (39-22N, 48-22E) were inspected.
- e. At the Soviet post of Moradlu, between Lakin and Trarzan, the barbed wire fence was dismantled for a distance of one kilometer.
- f. Road traffic consisted of six trucks and six jeeps loaded with soldiers. Of these, four trucks and six jeeps arrived at Belyasuvar on 27 July 1950. The vehicles remained at the village of Belyasuvar but the troops continued on foot to the post. The officers who accompanied the troops and who were riding in a jeep inspected certain concealed emplacements which are known to exist in the southwest of Belyasuvar. [redacted] 50X1-HUM  
[redacted] anti-aircraft artillery has been placed in these emplace- 50X1-HUM  
ments.

12. Period of 3-13 August 1950

- a. The Soviets continued their automatic weapon and rifle target practice at posts in the vicinity.
- b. Apparently there is a large and important arms depot at Shatirlu (39-05N, 48-21E). The depot is covered by the jungle, is well camouflaged and screened against air and land observation. All trucks covered with weatherized canvas contain arms and ammunition which are deposited in this depot. These trucks carry loads of chopped wood on their return trips.

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- e. On 7 August 1950, four Soviet officials driving along the frontier took pictures of Iranian villages along the border. Iranian frontier guards were instructed to lodge a protest with their opposite numbers on the Soviet side and to report the result.
- d. Two Soviet aircraft [redacted] flew along the frontier on two occasions. 50X1-HUM
- e. Several Soviet commissioned officers and soldiers have been mapping the area in the vicinity of Asadlu (not located, possibly Astanlu, 39-02N, 48-23E).
- f. Road traffic consisted of at least six trucks plus trucks uncounted during the night traveling between Trarzan and Shatirlu and Lakin and along the road opposite Asadlu.

The Vicinity of Namin (38-26N, 48-30E)13. Period of 1 June - 22 July 1950

- a. An accurate count of the number of vehicles was not possible, but traffic was heavy and loads consisted of soldiers, boards, supplies, and flour.
- b. The Soviets lodged a protest that an Iranian trench in front of the post at Sadafarin (not located) lies in Soviet territory and demanded that it be filled in. The two border guard commanders discussed the question.
- c. In connection with a continuous coming and going of trucks in the vicinity of Sholecheran (not located, but previously reported)\*\* it was observed that special activity was going on at the post. Trenches were being dug there.
- d. Patrols included civilians at several posts in the Namin sector.
- e. The presence of a number of civilians at the various posts in the area was confirmed and the number was increasing opposite Iranian Alikeran (38-45N, 48-05E) and Fateh Maksud (not located). 50X1-HUM
- f. [redacted]
- g. The old unit stationed at the Soviet post of Kilvyazy was replaced on 12 July 1950 by a larger number of troops in better physical condition. The newcomers are equipped with automatic sidearms and black leather leggings.

14. Period of 23-30 July 1950

Road traffic was normal; it consisted of nine trucks carrying supplies and four trucks loaded with soldiers. The latter traveled from Amostomong (not located) toward Kizilissa (38-32N, 48-30E) on 28 July 1950. An hour later the trucks returned empty.

15. Period of 3-13 August 1950

- a. One hundred meters of barbed wire were laid between the ploughed strip of land and the road at the posts of Leji (not located) and Shandan (38-25N, 48-35E).
- b. Rifle practice continued at the posts of Leji and Cloose (not located).
- c. Road traffic was light. Loads on the whole seemed to consist of white bags.

The Vicinity of Astara (38-28N, 48-52E)16. Period of 1 June - 28 July 1950

- a. Trenches were dug along the Astara River.
- b. There was firing of rockets and searchlight activity nearly every day.

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- c. There was blasting in the hills near Alachai (38-27N, 48-47E).
- d. Between eight and ten fishing boats were observed off Soviet Astara almost daily.
- e. On 3 and 9 June and on 5 and 9 July a Soviet gunboat from Lenkoran anchored at Astara. It was not always the same gunboat.
- f. There was frequent target practice at Astara and nearby posts.
- g. Traffic consisted of approximately 900 trucks, 826 horsedrawn wagons, 75 jeeps, 6 automobiles, 12 ambulances, 4 motorcycles, 1 armored car, and 1 bus. Loads consisted of troops, civilians, ammunition, oil, supplies, foodstuffs, and hay.
- h. Several cavalry officers and soldiers were noticed in this area. Previously cavalry had never been observed in the region of Astara.

17. Period of 23-30 July 1950

- a. Road traffic was at about the same level as it was the previous week.
- b. On two separate nights during this period two gunboats were seen at sea for several hours and then disappeared beyond the horizon. On one occasion a single gunboat was observed at night. The next morning it sailed toward Lenkoran.
- c. Troops exercised in field maneuvers near the border at Astara.
- d. Gun emplacements were noticed on the hills back of Alachai and several field pieces were moved to that post. One 75 mm gun was placed in a dugout facing the frontier with the barrel of the gun trained on the Astara-Ardebil road. Soldiers were noticed in the vicinity of these emplacements.

18. Period of 3-13 August 1950

- a. Target practice and mortar training continued; rockets were fired at night.
- b. On 8 August 1950, a balloon was observed over the heights of Soviet Alachai. After being aloft for half an hour, the balloon disappeared from view.
- c. On 8 August 1950, two Soviet biplanes, single engined, khaki colored, and bearing the Soviet red star insignia, flew from Lenkoran toward Astara at a height of one thousand meters. After circling the town, the planes flew back toward Lenkoran.
- d. The Soviets held maneuvers in the area of the Kerpi post (not located) on 11 August 1950.
- e. Road traffic was not at the level of the weeks preceding this period.

The Vicinity of Dash Burun on the Eastern  
Border (37-37N, 54-48E)19. Period of 27 June - 22 July 1950

- a. The Soviet garrison at Baiat Haji (37-40N, 54-45E) received instruction in the use of artillery and engaged in daily target practice.
- b. Twelve trucks of civilian laborers were brought in and out of Baiat Haji daily.
- c. Soviet planes flew along the border daily between Ashkhabad (37-57N, 58-23E) and Hossein Gheli (37-30N, 54-06E).
- d. The Soviets were digging a trench from the International Bridge at Baiat Haji and laying two wires in the ditch. [redacted] these wires are connected to explosive charges for the purpose of blowing up the bridge in case of need. Three armed soldiers are on guard at the bridge entrance at all times. 50X1-HUM
- e. Work was being done on barbed wire fences opposite the entrance to the International Bridge at Baiat Haji and in an area southwest of Dash Burun.

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20. Period of 23-30 July 1950

- a. Three oil tank trucks and one ambulance were added to the motor pool at Baiat Haji.
- b. For the first time, on 24 and 25 July, sounds of artillery fire were heard behind Gudri (37-28N, 54-36E) and Narli Dagh (not located).

21. Period of 3-13 August 1950: No report available for this period.

The Vicinity of Gholaman on the Eastern Border  
(38-12N, 57-07E)

22. Period of 1 June - 22 July 1950

- a. A light has been beamed on the face of the mountains between Ribat (37-55N, 57-43E) and Germab (38-01N, 57-44E).
- b. The Soviets fired rockets and artillery pieces from time to time.
- c. New troops were observed at points opposite Iranian Sangisar (not located), Kalateh (37-00N, 59-45E), and Khariz (not located).

23. Period of 23-30 July 1950

- a. Additional troops were stationed at all posts along the Gholaman sector.
- b. Existing barbed wire fences were doubled.
- c. The new troops which had been located opposite Iranian Sangisar, Kalateh, and Khariz were withdrawn.

24. Period of 3-13 August 1950

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[redacted] persons recently called up for military service by the Soviets were below draft age. These persons were very young; they lacked proper military training, but their clothing and equipment looked perfect.

The Vicinity of Lutfabad on the Eastern Border (37-33N, 59-17E)

25. Period of 1 June - 22 July 1950

- a. Soviet reconnaissance planes crossed the Iranian frontier and on one occasion drew Iranian fire which was returned by the plane.
- b. An observation tower was quickly constructed in two days' time opposite Iranian Gharatikan (not located).
- c. Soviet soldiers, armed with automatic weapons, from the post of Artik (37-36N, 59-16E) worked on barbed wire fences between Artik and Kaakha (37-22N, 59-38E).
- d. On the night of 22 June, a luminous "object" was observed in the sky over the city of Ashkhabad. When it vanished, the "object" left a luminous triangle in the sky. This triangle gradually became dissipated and, within thirty minutes of its appearance, it was completely extinguished.

26. Period of 23-30 July 1950

- a. Soviet soldiers worked on the barbed wire fence opposite Iranian Lutfabad.
- b. A small bridge was constructed over the dry bed of a river near Iranian Mir Qaleh (37-28N, 59-18E).

27. Period of 3-13 August 1950

- a. Infantry and cavalry men conducted a field problem at the Soviet post opposite Iranian Kalateh-Chenar (37-43N, 58-33E). They established contact between adjacent posts.
- b. Road traffic consisted of 42 trucks and one cart carrying foodstuffs and a few troops.
- c. Barbed wire was strung along the frontier.

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- d. Two Soviet planes flew along the frontier from Kaakha to Ashkhabad.
- e. Patrols on horseback were performed daily at the Soviet post opposite Iranian Kalateh-Chenar.

The Vicinity of Serakhs on the Eastern Border  
 (36-31N, 61-13E)

28. Period of 31 May - 22 July 1950

- a. The Soviets continued to work on stringing barbed wire from Serakhs toward Dowlatabad (36-21N, 61-08E). They installed a searchlight with a range of ten kilometers at Serakhs.

[Redacted]

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- b. Soldiers exercised with mortars and hand grenades.
- c. Patrols increased in activity and frequent target practice with automatic weapons took place.

29. Period of 23-30 July 1950

- a. There was unusual trucking activity during the night.
- b. Soviet garrisons increased all along the line.

c. [Redacted]

d. [Redacted]

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- e. At the Soviet post of Pol-e-Khatum (36-30N, 61-10E) patrol activities increased and the number of men on guard duty at observation posts in this area was doubled and in some places quadrupled.

30. Period of 3-13 August 1950

- a. There was target practice at Pol-e-Khatum.
- b. Remaining activity was routine.

[Redacted]

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