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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY: Germany

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR: 7 August 1951

SUBJECT: Zonal Border Control Measures in the Soviet Zone of Germany

NO. OF PAGES: 50X1-HUM

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM

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1. Beginning 1 January 1951, illegal border traffic between the Soviet Zone of Germany and the US Zone decreased considerably as a result of new security measures taken by security agencies of the DDR and the Soviet Occupation Authority.

2. The risks involved in illegal border crossing have increased considerably during recent months because:

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a. Soviet occupation troops were moved closer to the border.

b. The number of Soviet installations along the border was increased.

c. The gaps between Soviet installations were closed by new Volkspolizei posts which were established slightly to the rear of the Soviet posts.

d. A second line of Volkspolizei stations was established behind the first line of Soviet and Volkspolizei posts.

e. Patrol activity in the border area was greatly intensified.

f. Growing control of the population in the Soviet Zone of Germany by SSD and SED agents, as well as the new peace protection law, created an atmosphere of fear and made the population less inclined to help travelers and border crossers from the West.

3. The border is controlled either by Soviet patrols or by Soviet patrols or by Soviet patrols mixed with Volkspolizei personnel. In many instances Soviet and Volkspolizei personnel patrol a given sector of the border jointly. For example, Soviet personnel patrol from north to south while Volkspolizei personnel patrol the same sector from south to north; in other instances Soviet and Volkspolizei patrols meet at certain points where they turn and patrol in the opposite direction.

4. Soviet troops in the border area have either MGB/LVD troops such as those stationed in the area of Sonneberg (M 51/J 40) and Plauen (M 51/K 12), or regular infantry units. They were usually armed with submachine guns and carbines when on patrol duty. Volkspolizei personnel on patrol duty are armed

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with carbines and have shepherd dogs with them. The number of patrols having dogs apparently has increased recently.



is in the border area and major railroad stations. Near are controlled by Volkspolizei, transportation and MVD troops. In Thuringia and the Vogtland area, trains to and from the border are checked by Volkspolizei personnel. Such checks are accomplished between the border and the nearest major railroad junction, as for example, between Sonneberg and Probstzella (M 51/J 52), Probstzella and Saalfeld (M 51/J 53), and Gutenfuerst and Plauen (M 51/K 12).

6. Mixed patrols vary in strength but quite often they consist of two Soviet soldiers and two Volkspolizei patrolmen. Volkspolizei patrols in Thuringia were frequently observed to proceed to Soviet posts, where they picked up Soviet patrols, with whom they patrol the border area. Later they escorted the Soviets back to their posts and then returned to their own stations. Such patrols move at irregular but frequent intervals. Volkspolizei patrols on night duty always have dogs.

7. With the exception of KPD members and members of Communist front organizations all illegal border crossers from Western Germany apprehended by Volkspolizei personnel or by the Soviets are taken to a border sector headquarters where they are detained for several days after which they are interrogated by Volkspolizei, SSD and Soviet occupation personnel. In these interrogations they are usually accused of engaging in espionage activities. These charges seem to be designed chiefly for the purpose of making them talk. Many illegal border crossers are either transferred from the Volkspolizei to the SSD or MGB, or MGB officers participate in interrogations made by Volkspolizei personnel at the border sector headquarters.

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10. Illegal border crossers state that Volkspolizei, SSD and MGB personnel have extensive information concerning strength, location and duties of police forces in Western Germany and also know the names and street addresses of police officials. Many border crossers state that, in interrogations, MGB officials read the names of Western German police personnel from a list.
11. Interzonal travelers are interrogated at their destinations in the Soviet Zone by SSD personnel assigned to Kreis police registration offices. However, several interzonal travelers from major cities in Western Germany have recently reported that they were also interrogated at the respective police offices in the Kreise by persons who spoke broken German and were believed to be MGB officials. They asked questions on military matters pertaining to the Western occupation forces.
12. Interzonal travelers from the Soviet Zone of Germany mentioned to border police personnel and customs officers in Western Germany that SSD officers with interzonal passports travel on interzonal trains for the purpose of observing travelers from the Soviet Zone of Germany. Although no evidence could be furnished, it is believed that interzonal travelers from the Soviet Zone of Germany are subject to surveillance on interzonal trains.
13. Persons who were imprisoned in the Soviet Zone of Germany and later reported to Western Germany by Soviet Zone authorities are known frequently to have been assigned special intelligence missions by those authorities. Close observation of these individuals in Western Germany would seem warranted.
14. It has been noted that Volkspolizei, as well as Soviet border troops, cooperate in the illegal border crossing operations of KPD members and members of Communist front organizations.

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Comment. Numerous and mutually confirming reports by illegal border crossers and interzonal travelers indicate that systematic and extensive interrogations are conducted by Soviet Zone security agencies including the MGB. The intelligence service of the Soviet occupation authority frequently participates in interrogations conducted by the Volkspolizei and the SSD and it is believed that the latter is instructed to refer all cases of special interest to the MGB. It appears highly probable that Soviet Zone authorities and the Soviet occupation forces are taking steps to seal off the interzonal border in order to put an end to all illegal border crossing. With the exception of those persons living close to the border, it will then be impossible for persons repeatedly to cross the border without coming into contact with Soviet Zone security personnel. All apprehended persons are immediately registered. Any illegal border crosser who states that he was apprehended by Soviet Zone authorities but was released, should be considered a possible Soviet SSD agent. At the same time constant reinvestigation and surveillance seem to be indicated in cases when associates of a Western IS are known to have come into repeated contact with Soviet Zone security personnel and security agencies.

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