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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

50X1

COUNTRY Austria/USSR

DATE DISTR. 23 July 1951

SUBJECT Soviet Troop Movements in Austria

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

CIRCULATE

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

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Security Measures and Troop Movements in Burgenland

1. Early in March 1951 the Soviet authorities in Eisenstadt (X55) ordered the establishment of new MVD posts in 30 towns and 211 villages in the province of Burgenland.
2. Russian highway control activity has been greatly stepped up on the roads leading west from Bratislava and from Sopron by way of Rust (X65).
3. Late in February the districts of Güssing (C56) and Jennersdorf (C35), near the Yugoslav border, received a strong increment of Soviet troops who had come there by way of Southern Bohemia and Moravia. It was estimated that 12,000 Russian troops were in the Güssing and Jennersdorf districts during March 1951.
4. The establishment of new engineers' depots, containing road-building and bridge-building equipment, has been reported in Wiener Neustadt, Gloggnitz (X13), Brück an der Leitha, Jennersdorf, Güssing, and Körzend, Hungary.
5. The civil population of the Hungarian district of Szentgotthard (C45), which borders on Austria, was reported to be scheduled for evacuation from the area by mid-March 1951.
6. An undisclosed number of heavy Stalin tanks arrived in Neunkirchen (X23) on the nights of 12 and 20 February 1951.

Soviet Spring Maneuvers

7. Two Soviet armored regiments arrived in Gmünd (R34) from Czechoslovakia during February 1951 to take part in the spring maneuvers. Only the troops and the supply train were detailed to Gmünd itself, however. The tanks were unloaded on the Czech side of the border and proceeded elsewhere.
8. Motorized infantry units arrived in Strasshof (either S50 or X23) and Baden (X37) during February 1951. Artillery and engineer units arrived in Krems (R80). Units of all types converged on St. Pölten (W38).

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9. Exercises in armored attacks and anti-tank defense took place in the Parndorf (X77) - Marchegg (S70) area during early March 1951. Five heavy Stalin tanks which had been brought by rail from Hungary to Marchegg were observed in action. The other tanks were principally improved T-34's equipped with rocket launchers. The AT guns employed in the exercises were 75 mm. or 80 mm. pieces equipped with rocket ammunition. A smaller 40 mm. piece firing eight shells to a clip at a five-second interval per shot was also observed.
10. A new type of Soviet Army motorboat has been observed in the Danube. It carries a crew of 12 men, is fully armored, and carries two 40 mm. or 50 mm. guns and four machine guns. It has a very low profile with a deck only a few inches above the water line.
11. It has been remarked that the usual Austrian Communist observers are absent from the current spring maneuvers. No Werkschutz officials have been in evidence at the exercises.

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