

25X1A

Approved For Release 2001/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R008100850004-9

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY

TOPIC Soviet Troops in the Banat and Craiova

25X1A

25X1X

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

*JW*  
*9/48*

25X1A

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 26 June 1951

25X1A

REFERENCES

PAGES ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1X

SOURCE

1. From 500 to 600 Soviet troops have been stationed in Timisoara (R 16/T 91) since the end of the war. They were quartered in the former Rumanian 5th Rifle Regt Barracks and in private houses. A large Soviet unit moved into the old Transylvania Barracks and the Lenau Barracks in the fall of 1949. All vehicles of this unit were marked with a swallow. In August 1950, the unit was replaced by a still larger unit which arrived from an easterly direction and had an oblique (schraggestellt) white bear on its vehicles. The unit relieved departed westwards. (1)
2. Prior to 15 April 1951, the Soviet headquarters controlling all troops in the Banat was located on the south side of Piata Libertati (Liberty Square), opposite the former Primaria (town hall). At the headquarters were three generals, one of whom wore two stars and the other two one star each. These generals were still at the post in April 1951. Source did not know of any inspections of the post by high-ranking Soviet officers. (2) He only knew that one General Malinowski, (Znu), stayed in Rumania temporarily in 1947. (3)
3. The Soviet military post headquarters was in the former German post headquarters building on Pariserstreet. Prior to February or March 1951, it was on Diacovnic Loga Street.
4. All Soviet troops were quartered in permanent barracks installations and all officers in private houses. The officers had special passes granting them liberty to move about. In late 1950, entire residential areas were requisitioned so that all officers could be billeted in one area. Most of the Soviet troops were veterans, and many of them wore war decorations. It was not observed whether any large groups of recruits had arrived.

25X1C

25X1X

6. The troops were equipped with both light and heavy tanks. they were similar to tanks which he had observed with the Soviets during the final phase of World War II. The heavier tanks mounted a revolving turret and a gun

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Document No.	4
No Change In Class.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Auth.	NS 782
Date:	8-8-78
By:	35

25X1A

SECRET/CONTROL/CONFIDENTIAL ONLY

without muzzle brake. All of the tanks observed were marked with a red star and a three-digit number on their turrets. The tanks did not have AA machine guns. However, the troops were equipped with numerous AA guns of about 76 mm without muzzle brakes. Some of these guns were permanently emplaced at the new airfield and near the Hunting Woods in Timisoara. Several 57-mm AT guns were also observed. No other artillery pieces, rocket launchers, or heavy mortars were seen at the post. Teams of two soldiers each were repeatedly seen carrying a weapon consisting of a slim barrel, about two meters long, with a butt-like device on its end, and canvas-covered bolt mechanism forward of the butt. [REDACTED] This weapon produced a very sharp report when it was fired at the range near the Hunting Woods.

25X1X

25X1X

25X1X

7. No large-scale maneuvers were observed during the summer and fall of 1950. However, almost every other day during the second half of March 1951, training exercises for part of the troops from the post, lasting one whole night, were held in the area toward Scalez (R 16/T 81). Gunfire from heavy weapons and detonations were heard from this area. Soviet troops were also seen practicing street firing with blank ammunition in the outskirts of the city in early 1951.
8. The Soviet troops in Timisoara received ration supplies, and probably, POL supplies from the Rumanian authorities. There was no Soviet supply administration. A railroadman stated that the Soviet troops in Timisoara received one trainload of fuel monthly.
9. The Soviet troops in Timisoara and Buzias were parts of the same major unit. In April 1951, the troops in Buzias moved into low wooden barracks buildings newly constructed in the southwestern sector of the town. The billeting capacity of these quarters was roughly estimated at 1,600 troops. Buzias residents stated that the weapons of the troops included tanks. No Rumanian troops were stationed in Buzias.
10. [REDACTED] Soviet troops and military vehicles in the border towns of Jimbolia (Y 7/T 52), Otelac (R 16/T 60), Deta (Y 18/Y 97), and Denta (Y 18/Y 97). [REDACTED] Rumanian border guard units with green service color were stationed in this sector of the Rumanian-Yugoslav border. These border guard personnel occupied the forward line of a system of fire trenches. In addition, there were three more lines of trenches with bunker-type dugouts. In late March 1951, source observed that the line farthest from the border was occupied by military personnel whom he could not identify as either Rumanian or Soviet. Local residents, however, stated that Soviet troops moved into this defense system for the first time in January 1951.
11. No improvement or enlargement of the highways in the area between Timisoara and the Yugoslav border was observed, nor were there any ammunition depots or supply bases. No measures indicative of preparations for war were seen in the border area. However, the population of Timisoara was in a state of alarm on account of the alleged movement of Soviet troops into the defense system along the border. Not even during the Tito-Cominform crisis in 1949 had Soviet troops occupied the border area near Timisoara. Civilian residents were at liberty to move about in a circumference of 30 km around Timisoara in the direction of the border. However, persons who had urgent reasons to enter the border area proper could do so only when they had received special permission from Rumanian state security authorities.
12. In the fall of 1949 Soviet troops moved to Arad (R 16/U 16). They probably moved toward the west in August 1950, as the troops in Timisoara did. (5) In April 1951, Soviet officers wearing tank insignia and other officers with red service color were observed in Arad. Source learned in Arad that Soviet troops were also stationed in Lipova (R 16/U 34).

SECRET/CONTROL/CONFIDENTIAL ONLY

25X1X

13. When new Soviet troops appeared in the Banat in August 1950, [redacted] did not observe any noticeable traffic between these new troops and the Soviet troops stationed in the border area of southeastern Hungary. [redacted] however, that Soviet units and vehicles would cross the Rumanian-Hungarian border at will and without any clearance from national authorities.

25X1X

25X1X

25X1X

25X1X

25X1X

25X1X

14. En route to Bucharest on 23 March 1951, [redacted] five Soviet officers and 20 to 30 NCOs at the Craiova (R 33/34 /A 83) railroad station. The presence of a Soviet RTO at the station indicated definitely that a military post was in the Craiova district. In Bucharest, [redacted] heavy traffic of Soviet military vehicles. He confirmed that a Soviet headquarters was in the Ambassador Hotel in Bucharest. Letters [redacted] received in August 1950 stated that new Soviet troops had just arrived in the Bucharest area. A member of the TARS (Rumanian Airlines Company) told source that Soviet troops were also stationed in Constanta (R 53/54 /E 71). [redacted] did not know of any other Soviet troops in Rumania or any officers' names or APNs. (6)

25X1X

15. Relations between Soviet and Rumanian troops were very strained. No joint exercises or maneuvers were observed. The military post training area and target ranges were used jointly, but always at different times. No Soviet instructors were observed with the few Rumanian units in Timisoara. Soviet and Rumanian officers met only for lectures and other recreational activities at the Soviet officers' club on the west side of Liberty Square. There was no contact whatever between the Soviet and Rumanian enlisted personnel.

16. Shortly before leaving Timisoara, [redacted] that the large CFR workshops northeast of the Fabrica railroad station, Timisoara, would be vacated, allegedly to furnish additional billeting space for the Soviets.

17. The Soviet military units in Timisoara employed indigenous women as charwomen and kitchen helpers. On general principles, no Rumanian workmen were employed in Soviet billeting areas.

18. The sale of city plans, maps, or picture postcards was prohibited in Timisoara although there was no ban on the purchase of railroad timetables. Letters to addressees abroad could be mailed without restrictions. Apparently there was no censorship. Only registered letters had to be delivered unsealed to the post office, and the senders required to produce their identity cards and be registered. (7)

25X1A

[redacted] Comments.

25X1X

(1) In general, the information on Soviet troops in Timisoara and on the exchange of troops in 1949 and 1950 confirms previous reports [redacted]

25X1X

(2) In October 1949 and April 1950, [redacted] reported a high-echelon Soviet headquarters in the former Rumanian corps headquarters building on the south side of Liberty Square, opposite the town hall.

25X1X

(3) [redacted] probably referred to Marshal R.Y. Malinovski. Inasmuch as Malinovski was commander-in-chief of the Transbaikal-Amur MD in 1947, it is improbable that he held a military appointment in Rumania at that time. He probably attended a commemoration in Rumania in his capacity as former commander-in-chief of the Second Ukrainian Front. This was the reason given in Rumanian press dispatches for his subsequent visit to Bucharest in August 1949. Press reports dated 1949 and 1950 stating that Marshal R.Y. Malinovski had assumed command of the Rumanian Army and a report [redacted] stating that he was in Timisoara in late November 1950, have been refuted. Malinovski is still carried as commander-in-chief of a high-echelon command agency in the Far East.

25X1X

- 25X1A

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ONLY

25X1C

25X1A

25X1X

- (6) Previous reports stated that Soviet troops in the Craiova area were also rotated between the fall of 1949 and the summer of 1950. No information is available on the strength and identity of the troops who are believed to be stationed in the Craiova area at present. There have been no reports on rotation of the Soviet troops who are believed to be in the Bucharest area. All reports available indicate that an unidentified Soviet division is stationed in the eastern portion of Rumania. Compare with information covering the period of winter 1950/1951 by one source from Braila. [REDACTED]
- (7) On the whole, [REDACTED] confirmed previous estimates on the Soviet CB situation in the Banat. It has thus been fairly definitely established that one Soviet division, probably the 2d Cds Mecz Div, was transferred from the Banat to southeastern Hungary in 1949 and/or 1950. The Hq 2d Cds Mecz Div may have previously been located in Craiova, whereas the headquarters of the unidentified division now carried in the Banat is believed to be located in Timiscara. The question whether another Soviet division is now stationed in the Bucharest area must remain open. The troops there are probably only GHQ units or AAA units which are subordinate to a high-schelon Soviet command agency in Rumania. There is no doubt, however, that another Soviet division, whose numerical designation and T/C have not been determined, is located in the eastern portion of Rumania.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ONLY