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REPORT NO. []
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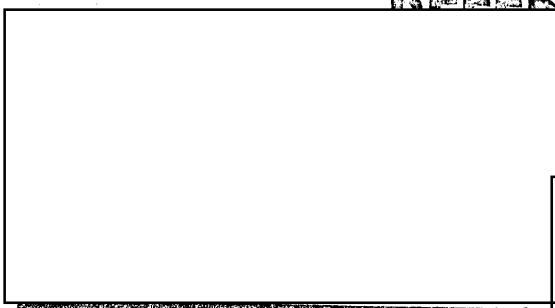
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Rostov Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 9 Feb. 1952

SUBJECT Searchlight Practice at Rostov

NO. OF PAGES 2



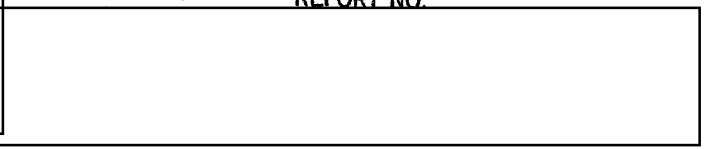
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1. Searchlight exercises lasting one to two hours were seen almost daily over Rostov (39°45'E/47°15'N) prior to midnight after June 1949.
2. From fifteen to forty searchlights were counted. A former German AA-sergeant said that ten of the participating searchlights were 60-cm sets, and that the remainder were 150-cm searchlights.
3. The number of participating aircraft was estimated at about thirty. A maximum of ten single and twin-engine planes were seen at one time flying at altitudes from 1,000 to 1,500 meters, in the beams of the searchlights.
4. The aircraft tried by various evasive maneuvers to elude the searchlight beams.
5. The searchlights first lost their targets frequently, but later followed them easily. No more than four searchlights would concentrate on one target. When a target was caught by a searchlight the three or four nearest searchlights would concentrate on it. If an aircraft encountered the beam of another searchlight, that light would take over while one of the other

Document No. 007
 Change in Class.
 Declassified
 Class. Changed To: TS S (C)
 Auth: HR 70-2
 Date: 8 Sept 78 By: []

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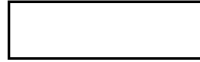
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searchlights began to search for another target. This procedure was advantageous in that several planes could be spotted simultaneously, but a drawback was that the planes spotted were easily lost again. It was noticed frequently that searchlights found their targets without searching the sky, this induced the AA-sergeant to believe that radar was being used.

6. Antiaircraft artillery fire was never heard. No AA guns were seen in Rostov.

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