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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [] 25X1

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COUNTRY USSR (Belorussian SSR)

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SUBJECT Civilian Pilot Training School at Bobruysk

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- 1. Until July 1941 a training school for civilian pilots was located in a village (name unknown) about four kilometers from Bobruysk (53-09N, 29-14E), Belorussian SSR. [] a summer school with about 200 students enrolled in four classes. The school was known as the Dzerzhinskiy Grazhdanskiy Vozdushnyy Flot (sic). 25X1
- 2. The school consisted of four barracks, five or six school buildings, two workshops, a large hangar, ten or fifteen automobile garages, and a fair sized airfield. Training equipment included several airplane models (mock-ups), about eight gliders, and two or three school planes.
- 3. The students wore civilian clothes. The instructor in political education at the school was Katzenelson (fnu), a lieutenant who wore an army uniform. All other instructors, specialists in aviation, were civilians and did not wear uniforms. Expulsions from school for unknown reasons were common. [] class of 60 students, 17 were expelled. 25X1
- 4. In July 1941 the advance of the German Army caused the evacuation of the school. School property was loaded on trucks and, with the students following on foot via Smolensk, the school was shifted somewhere in the area of Vazmy (probably Vyazma, 55-14N, 34-18E, Smolensk Oblast). Here the school was set up in tents and functioned until October or November 1941. The number of students was greatly decreased after the move from Bobruysk, many students preferring to remain in their own villages despite German occupation. The students who did transfer to Vazmy were so poorly fed that they had to seek bread from the civilian population nearby.
- 25X1 [] Comment: The fact that the Soviets felt it advisable to transfer the school during the war and to set it up elsewhere under the conditions described would belie its description as a summer school for civilian pilots and it is possible that the school may have been reopened in Bobruysk after the war.

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