

COUNTRY Eastern Germany Approved For Release 2006/08/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R014100380004-4

TOPIC Barth Airfield 25X1

EVALUATION [] 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1 []

DATE OF CONTENT.. []

DATE OBTAINED [] DATE PREPARED 29 August 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

REFERENCE

1. In June and July 1952, Barth airfield was unoccupied. According to local residents, firing at ground targets was repeatedly performed by Soviet aircraft. The population in the vicinity of the field, particularly the farmers whose cattle grazed on the landing field, were warned before each firing exercise. [] targets having the shape of aircraft. Near the target there was a truck and beside it stood two Soviet soldiers one of whom held a red flag. The airfield was in poor condition. There was high grass and weeds on the entire field and between the concrete slabs of the runway. The buildings and hangars in the northeastern corner of the field were destroyed. German workers were engaged in removing the rubble. Two signboards with the following inscription were observed at the field: "Off limits area - Demolitions by salvage Team of Bauunion Berlin, Stralsund Construction Bureau." Two houses were occupied by German families, and a third one housed a children's home.

2. Between 23 and 30 July, there was little firing activity at the field. The weather was stormy, and it rained occasionally. At 8:15 a.m. on 23 July, a formation of four MiG-15s approached the field. At 8:30 a.m., a fifth plane was observed aloft which circled the field, while the other four planes approached the target at an angle of about 45 degrees. Only one plane fired with machine guns at the first approach. At the second approach, the planes, one after the other, fired at the target. Firing was apparently not done with aircraft cannons. After the simulated attack, two planes climbed almost at an angle of 40 degrees, and the other two climbed more slowly. Between 2:40 and 2:55 p.m. on 31 July, two MiG-15s approached the target 3 or 4 times, before firing with machine guns. It appeared that new pilots were being trained. *

25X1 [] Comment. The report confirms that Barth airfield is used as a firing range by fighter units and that the few buildings at the field are used for civilian purposes. The little firing activity observed may be explained by continuous bad weather.