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Strategic Warning Staff
Washington, D.C. 20301

S-005/SWS

10 January 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Intelligence Officer for Warning
FROM : Director, SWS
SUBJECT : Rumor of USSR/Warsaw Pact Mobilization

Just as we were about to send you the attached memorandum via LDX, our traffic screening process turned up a handful of cables (also attached) which shed some additional light on the source of rumors of Soviet and Warsaw Pact mobilization.

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10 January 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Intelligence Officer For Warning

FROM : Director, SWS

SUBJECT : Mobilization Activity in the USSR

1. We are not aware of evidence of a piecemeal mobilization, not related to the Afghanistan situation, taking place in the USSR. We have seen one report indicating that new mobilization instructions are being issued to at least some reservists in the Kiev Military District.*

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6. We suspect that the reissuing of mobilization registrations in the Kiev and Leningrad areas, and perhaps elsewhere, also may be related at least indirectly to the Afghanistan situation. The Soviet move into Afghanistan must have required the call-up of a substantial number of reservists. Most probably some from the Turkestan and Central Asian military districts. Some units also came from the western USSR, however. Although there were mainly airborne units, which are kept at high manning levels, it may be that the movement of these forces necessitated the call-up of some reservists to fill positions in support units. If so, it seems likely that the registration authorities found it necessary to do some reshuffling of their reservist assignments to insure coverage of the positions for which their district offices are responsible.

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7. Moreover, depending on how fleshed out the units committed to the Afghan operation, some manipulation of reservist assignments may have been required as a contingency move relating to a problem the Soviets might face in the next few months -- namely, how to fill the positions now filled by reservists who already have been called up, after their tour of duty reaches the 60 to 90 day maximum stipulated by the Soviet Military Service Law.* We presume that the Soviets ultimately will take steps to man virtually all of the positions in the units located in Afghanistan with full time active duty servicemen, but the process of bringing this about probably will require a fair amount of administrative manipulation.

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8. Finally, numerous emigres and defectors have stated that the efficiency of reservist registration and administration is not uniform, and in fact is rather shipshod in many individual regional offices. The Soviet action in Afghanistan may have galvanized some offices to get their books in order, thus accounting for a substantial number of new mobilization registrations.

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DOUGLAS J. MacEACHIN

*This law states that reservists up to the age of 35 can be called up "for retraining" for periods up to 90 days, and reservists over 35 may be called up for 60 days.

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