

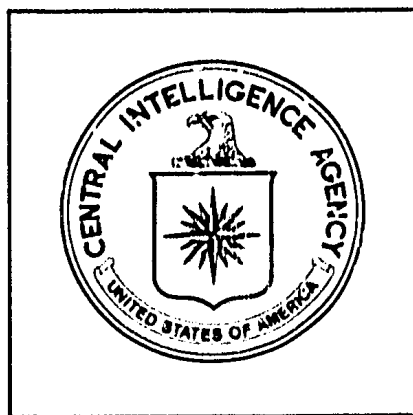
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STAFF NOTES:

Soviet Union Eastern Europe

Secret
158

March 5, 1975
No. 0076/75

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SECRET

SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE



25X1

CONTENTS

March 5, 1975



25X1

Another Art Show Succeeds
in Moscow 3

Yugoslavia and Albania Consider
Railway Link 4

Soviet Military Celebrates Anniversary
of Army and Navy 5

Albanian Editorial Blasts the
Soviet Army 8

Commercial Visitor Highlights
During February 10

SECRET

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

SECRET

Another Art Show Succeeds in Moscow

The small group of Moscow's unconventional artists that held an officially sponsored exhibit of their work late last month [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] reportedly view the event as a major success and have applied to the Culture Ministry for permission to stage an expanded show later this month. Ministry officials reportedly have told them the matter is "being studied."

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25X1

[REDACTED] total attendance was in the "tens of thousands," although [REDACTED] some persons may have left without entering because of the four-to-five-hour wait in line. No major incidents occurred, and order was maintained by the militia in a generally courteous manner. Most of the spectators had heard of the show via foreign radio or by word of mouth; the show was not advertised, nor has it been mentioned by Soviet media.

25X1

Some of the exhibitors' colleagues have criticized them for submitting their work for prior official review and for agreeing to the restrictions on what was shown. They see this as playing into the hands of the regime, which they consider hungry for control of the unofficial art movement. This split in the artists' ranks may be partially healed if the next show is authorized, since the artists are hoping to make it much more comprehensive. The authorities, however, may well view an exhibit this month as too much too soon, and may turn down or at least delay action on the request.

25X1

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March 5, 1975

-3-

SECRET

SECRET

Yugoslavia and Albania
Consider Railway Link

Discussions between Belgrade and Tirana on linkage of the Belgrade-Bar railway with Albania's railway system are reportedly in progress. The line would provide Tirana with its first rail link to Europe.

The Belgrade-Bar railway embodies a long-time Serb and Montenegrin dream of linking the hinterlands with both the capital and the Adriatic coast. It has been under construction for over a decade and is scheduled for completion in 1976. The project is complicated and expensive, because it crosses some of Yugoslavia's most difficult terrain. Over a hundred tunnels and bridges are required, and landslides--common in the area--have caused frequent delays and cost overruns.

Extending the link to the Albanian border would be comparatively easy. There are, however, political obstacles--not the least of which is to convince the xenophobic Albanians that the economic benefits of regular rail contact with the outside world would offset any increased exposure to corrupting influences from abroad.

China--always anxious to counter Soviet influence in the Balkans--is reportedly ready to give financial support to the project. Besides offering to help construct the Albanian leg of the railway, Peking has reportedly offered a \$75-million credit to Belgrade to finance the Yugoslav connection. The Chinese presumably believe this would increase their influence on the Adriatic littoral--an area where they believe the Soviets would like to acquire naval bases. China may also be interested in the railway's potential as a means of improving the Yugoslavs' military transportation in the area.

25X1

25X1

March 5, 1975

-4-

SECRET

SECRET

Soviet Military Celebrates Anniversary
of Army and Navy

At the 57th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet army and navy on February 23, the military emphasized themes sounded earlier at the All-Army Conference of Ideological Workers in January and currently being projected in connection with the coming celebration in honor of the 30th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. The ceremonies also provided an opportunity for senior officers to plump for better public relations and to air some misgivings about detente, although the US was treated relatively gently.

Most of the ranking Soviet military hierarchy took an active role in some part of the anniversary. Defense Minister Grechko issued a proclamation to mark the anniversary, and chief of the political directorate, Yepishev, published two articles and gave a speech. Several other senior officers, including ground forces chief Pavlovsky, air force commander Kutakhov, and Warsaw Pact commander Yakubovskiy, wrote articles for the central press. Kulikov, chief of the general staff, was particularly active, delivering a television address, writing an article for *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, and speaking to a gathering of KGB officers.

The speeches and articles all struck similar themes, sometimes in almost identical wording: (a) the decisive part played by the Soviet armed forces in the defeat of Germany and Japan, (b) the pre-eminent role of the party in the military, (c) the need--despite detente--for continued military vigilance and improved combat preparedness, (d) the threat to the Soviets of bloated military budgets in the West, (e) the requirement to upgrade ideological work in the armed forces--currently the

March 5, 1975

-5-

SECRET

SECRET

subject of an intensive campaign--and (f) solidarity with other Warsaw Pact forces. These themes seemed to betray an uneasiness about the possible impact of detente on Soviet security and on military interests, but the authors took some solace in the positive effects expected of the campaign to strengthen the role of the party by upgrading ideological discipline and political work. This campaign, which had its genesis in the mid-1974 CPSU resolution on party work in Belorussia, is party-wide, but has received special emphasis in the armed forces, particularly at the January 1975 conference.

The planners for the anniversary events used the occasion to broaden public support for the military. Senior officers took to the hustings to speak to gatherings of workers--in various districts of Moscow. For example, Kurkotkin, chief of rear services, spoke to a group in Frunzensky district, and Smirnov, first deputy commander in chief of the navy, addressed a group in Voroshilovsky district. In apparent attempts to demonstrate cohesiveness between the military and the security organs, I. I. Yakovlev, chief of the MVD internal troops, spoke to one of the workers' gatherings in Moscow, and Kulikov took time from his numerous other activities during the anniversary events to tell a gathering of KGB officers the community of interests and duty between the armed forces and the KGB.

The anniversary also provided an opportunity to place Brezhnev's name before the public. In addition to being quoted by most of the writers and speakers and, along with his Politburo colleagues, being elected by some of the anniversary gatherings to honorary presidia, Brezhnev was featured in another exchange of letters--the third in the last few months--with an outstanding military unit.

March 5, 1975

-6-

SECRET

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Although most of the writers and speakers held forth vehemently against the increase in military budgets in the West, the US was not singled out for special censure, nor, in fact, did the publicity zero in on the US in any context. NATO as a whole was criticized for excessive military spending, and Yepishev noted that the US has its biggest military budget this year since the end of World War II, but he added that France, Germany, and "a number of other countries" have all-time record military budgets this year. The anniversary did see, however, the publication, by the Defense Ministry Publishing House, of a new book on the US military-industrial complex.

Yepishev, perhaps reflecting his role as chief political officer of the armed forces, emphasized the gratitude of the liberated peoples of Eastern Europe to the Soviet armed forces, and noted that parts of China and North Korea too benefited from liberation by advancing Soviet armies. He stressed the need for continued unity with Warsaw Pact forces, noting the "consolidation of the army of the socialist states (is) an objective necessity stemming from the natural laws of contemporary social development and the features of the class struggle between capitalism and socialism." As an added fillip to this theme, a new book, *Combat Alliance of Fraternal Armies*, which extols the common struggle of Eastern European countries against fascism and praises the current relationship among pact forces, is being published.

25X1

March 5, 1975

-7-

SECRET

Albanian Editorial Blasts the Soviet Army

The Albanians seem to have reached a new high in colorful invective against the Kremlin. Tirana has now accused the leaders in Moscow of transforming the Soviet army into "an aggressive, putschist, and fascist" force.

The editorial appeared in the party daily on February 22 (Soviet Army Day) and was entitled "The Soviet Army, An Army of Occupation and Oppression of Peoples." The following quotations are typical of the tone.

- The Soviet army is in the hands of the new Soviet bourgeoisie, serving the consolidation of its domination and its imperialist aims.
- The revisionists have transformed the army from the army of the revolution, created by Lenin and Stalin 57 years ago, into an army of the counter-revolution and of the bourgeois dictatorship;...it has now become an aggressive army of occupation and oppression of peoples.
- The barbaric aggression of the Soviet army against Czechoslovakia was the first demonstration of the implementation into practice of an aggressive, chauvinistic and fascist policy, the signal of the beginning of a large-scale offensive against the freedom and independence of the peoples.
- In order to completely enslave the revisionist countries of Eastern Europe politically and militarily, the neo-Czarist rulers of the Kremlin and their generals have requested that military maneuvers be increased.

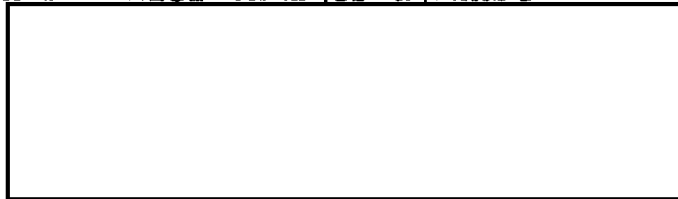
March 5, 1975

SECRET

--The Soviet army has silently reinforced its military occupation of Poland, Hungary, the GDR, Bulgaria, and Mongolia... (where it) enjoys a particular status which only an aggressive and invading army can have.

Tirana needs no specific provocation for such blasts; they seem to come naturally to the Hoxha regime. The Albanians do, however, react quickly to any hint of increased Soviet interest in the Balkans, and particularly in Yugoslavia--to which Hoxha recently promised help in repelling any Soviet attack. Now that Belgrade has come up with the second Cominformist case in six months, Tirana could react by making some even shriller charges against the men in the Kremlin.

25X1



March 5, 1975

-9-

SECRET

SECRETCommercial Visitor Highlights During February

About 132 Soviet commercial visitors came to the US during February--approximately the same as for February 1974. The arrival of the USSR's top nine bureaucrats in the food industry highlighted the Soviet-US commercial contacts. Under the nominal leadership of the USSR minister of the food industry, Voldemar Lein, food ministers from the Ukraine, Belorussia, Estonia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and the RSFSR toured American distilleries, wineries, and food-processing companies. The delegation's key official was Fedor Mochalin, chief of the CPSU Central Committee's light and food industry department, who identified himself as a consultant to the ministry of the food industry. In policy making on food matters, Mochalin defers only to the party Politburo and Secretariat. The host for the delegation was Pepsico, Inc.

In addition:

- The American construction equipment exhibition, Conexpo-75, held in Chicago, attracted several Soviet heavy equipment administrators, including the minister of construction, road and municipal machine building, Yefim Novoselov. Novoselov's ministry has expressed an interest in purchasing excavators, bulldozers, cranes, and related equipment from US manufacturers. Accompanying the minister were A. S. Batrakov, a deputy minister of land reclamation and water resources; the three top officials of Traktoroeksport, an association that imports farm equipment; and the director of a road machine factory.
- Ten leading Soviet foreign traders, headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Vladimir Alkhimov, attended a session of the US-USSR Trade and Economic Council in Washington.

March 5, 1975

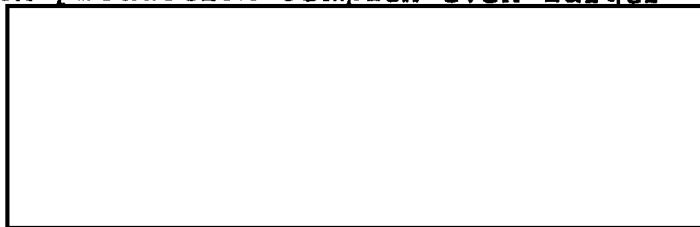
-10-

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--Soviet specialists in truck production from the Ministry of the Automotive Industry visited General Motors to study the company's production techniques. A ministry spokesman indicated that the delegation has in mind a joint project for the manufacture of truck parts and possible collaboration during 1980-85 on a truck production complex even larger than Kama.

25X1



March 5, 1975

-11-

SECRET