

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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1. On 2 December 1953, a medical delegation left East Berlin for the USSR, in order to study Soviet public health installations and methods and to arrange for short training courses in the USSR for East German medical specialists. The delegation intended to stay about three weeks but stayed slightly longer and returned to East Germany on 31 December 1953. The delegation consisted of the following:

- Dr. Rudolf Baumann
- Dr. Hasso Essbach
- Dr. Ernst Rothenbucher
- Dr. Paul Steinbruck
- Dr. Friedrich Warnecke
- Dr. Rudolf Weber

and Ministry of Health officials:

- Frau Dr. Bunge (fnu)
- Dr. Theodor Kima
- Prof. Hermann Redetzky
- Luitpold Steidle

2. In early January 1954, Dr. Theodor Kima, of the Hygiene Inspectorate, Ministry of Health, who speaks Russian fluently, spoke privately to a medical colleague in the East German Ministry of Health about some of his impressions and experiences. Dr. Kima stated that the delegation had spent four days in Leningrad and the rest of their time in Moscow, although they had made many expeditions by car out of the capital. The Soviets were far readier to give out information on production, number of employees in a works, sickness figures, accident figures, hygiene, and so on than the corresponding functionaries in East Germany. What was known in the DDR as "watchfulness" was totally lacking, according to Dr. Kima, who expressed the opinion: "The heads of the factories

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and political functionaries are 100 percent Communists but not 150 percent as they are here in East Germany." A remarkable fear of infection in the USSR and the illogical, and often childish, protective methods were repeatedly apparent. It reminded Dr. Kima of the reactions of a childish people before the unknown. As an example, Dr. Kima cited the wearing of white overalls by visitors to hospitals and treatment rooms. Visitors were compelled to wear white overalls on epidemic protective grounds, while at the same time nobody troubled to take his shoes off, but stamped all over the rooms with dirty shoes, bringing in snow and dirt from outside. In the areas which Dr. Kima visited, typhoid fever was unknown. Soviet public health officials with whom he spoke also confirmed to him that as far as they knew there was hardly any typhoid in the USSR. They attributed this lack to the openness of the country, leading to fewer contacts and to the possibility of absolute localization of centers of infection, little Dauerausscheider, and little chance of spreading infection because of the poor communications.

3. Dr. Kima also discussed public health organizational problems in the USSR. Of particular interest, he thought, was the reorganization undertaken in the USSR in November 1953 at the suggestion of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Medical Sector. An occupational hygiene section was attached to the Hygiene Inspectorate of the Ministry of Public Health and a separate Sanitary Inspectorate was set up. Dr. Kima remarked that he had heard of this reorganization through Arkhangel'sk and through Col. Chebotarev (fnu), M.D. of the Soviet Control Commission Public Health Department in Berlin-Karlshorst. It had been intended to bring this new Soviet organizational pattern into force in East Germany also, but the two Soviets in the Karlshorst Public Health section had been very ill-informed about developments in the USSR. Dr. Kima believed he now understood the matter far better and said the reorganization explained a proclamation made by the East German government in the middle of December about the improvement of conditions for the working classes. The East German Ministry of Health had hitherto been unable to make any concrete suggestions for this proclamation.
4. On 7 January 1954, there was a meeting of leading officials in the East German Ministry of Health to discuss the government proclamation of December 1953 and its application, with particular reference to the experiences of the Moscow delegation. The meeting first considered the future organization of the Ministry of Health and decided on certain reorganizations necessitated by the recent appointment of Prof. Hermann Redetzky, M.D., as Deputy Minister of Health. The meeting then appointed an official of the Ministry to draw up a plan for a Sanitary Inspectorate within the Ministry, on the new Soviet model.
5. On 8 January 1954, there was a meeting in the East German Ministry of Health attended by all interested department heads. At this meeting, each member of the East German delegation gave an account of his impressions and experiences in the USSR. The meeting was opened by Minister of Health Luitpold Steidle, who remarked that conditions in the USSR were very different from those in East Germany and one could not merely blindly copy Soviet Public Health installations. Prof. Hermann Redetzky, Deputy Minister of Health, then spoke.¹ He began by remarking that the East German delegation had visited some 40 to 42 places, a list of which had been compiled and was available in the ministry, for official use only.
6. Prof. Redetzky continued on the theme of Soviet medical science and the specialization of doctors, and he remarked that medical scientists in the USSR had a respected social position. At functions of the Academy of Sciences, the lectures, which must be submitted in advance, are printed and handed out to each participant at the function. In this way, discussion is better than if the audience were only first acquainted with the matter through the lecture. There is a Central Institute for postgraduate medical education in Moscow, as well as a similar institute in each of the union republics. These institutes have

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the character of a first-class high school. The Moscow institute has over 51 professorial chairs and a teaching staff of 351. The courses last four to five months. There is a high degree of division into specialized fields of knowledge; for example, there is a Chair of Medical Expert Evidence. Those taking part in the courses receive 400 rubles per month in addition to their salaries. They pay 15 rubles per month for their stay at the Institute. 15,000 doctors are trained every year. Dr. Redetzky's remarks led to a discussion on post graduate education in East Germany.

7. The institutes for postgraduate medical education in the USSR have various kinds of courses. Country doctors attend a four-month course every three or four years. Town doctors attend a five-month course every five years. There are also one-month courses for doctors who have already qualified in some specialized field of medicine, which are attended by such doctors every few years. The Central Institute publishes its own scientific medical literature for teaching purposes. Scientific literary work is very highly valued in the USSR. Dr. Myasnikov received a Stalin Prize and 300,000 rubles for a comprehensive textbook. Soviet medicine recognizes three faculties: surgery, sanitary hygiene, and therapy and prophylaxis.
8. In the USSR, all confinements are in clinics and there are hardly any confinements in the homes. The so-called psycho-prophylaxis of the mother, i.e., preparation for birth, plays a large role. Avoidance of pain is systematically taught on Pavlov lines. In factories and institutions, there are rooms with two or three couches and instructional birth pictures on the walls where pregnant women are prepared, in the presence of a doctor, for the birth. This preparation may last for two or three hours daily. The whole object is to make the birth physically and mentally clear to the women and to go through the whole process with them beforehand. The medical care of the newborn is undertaken by pediatricians in the women's clinics, and is exclusively the responsibility of the pediatrician. The mother of a premature child stays with the child until it can be released. Visits to confinement centers are forbidden, even to the father, who sees his child only when it is discharged. Training of pediatricians lasts six years. After the end of the training period, there are two years of practical work and then the possibility of further specialization, as a children's eye or ear doctor or children's surgeon. This specialization lasts three years, so that altogether the training of a specialized pediatrician lasts eleven years.
9. The Soviets have a Central Institute for Sanitary Education. The task of this institute is the intensive education of the people through films, the press, lectures, etc., on all health, hygiene, and social hygiene questions. Anyone in public health work and with a specialized education must give five or six public lectures a month on the subject of his specialty.
10. Dr. Paul Steinbruck of the TB Research Institute, Berlin-Buch, then spoke. His theme was social diseases and social services. Anyone entering a hospital must wear a white overall and a white cap. In confinement centers, an oral mask is also worn, not only by doctors and other staff members, but by all visitors. In blood donor stations, white clothes impregnated with aseptic material were worn, and the rooms were irradiated with ultra-violet. The delegation visited a TB hospital of 330 beds. The establishment provided for one doctor, one sister, and one nurse for every 20 patients. Work was done in four shifts.
11. There was a tendency for doctors to leave the country for the towns. To combat this, country doctors received more leave than town doctors, had 100 rubles per month higher salaries, and a yearly increment of five percent. Quiet was strictly enforced in all hospitals, and sports and gymnastics played an important part in the therapy in hospitals. Every patient, unless excused by the doctor, takes part in suitable exercise. Sports, as a preventive measure, are an important aspect of public health administration.

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The USSR Ministry of Public Health is far more interested in and concerned with sports than the East German Ministry.

12. Every doctor has to play his part in anti-TB work. A special network of TB dispensaries has been built up in the USSR, each serving, on the average, 20,000 people. The statistical aim is to have about five TB doctors to each 4,000 people. The dispensaries are of various sizes, but are always built on the same plan. They have specialist departments for TB for children from three to seventeen years old, for TB of the bones, and for TB cases needing surgical treatment. Where there is no TB dispensary available, the disease is treated in the appropriate polyclinic. The plan of the USSR Ministry of Public Health envisages 300 beds in TB hospitals and TB sanatoria for each 100,000 inhabitants. The present ratio of beds to inhabitants does not yet come up to this standard. The TB Research Institute in Moscow has 175 beds and 57 doctors. Streptomycin for heavy pulmonary infections is available from native production. A streptomycin-calcium complex is used for treatment of tubercular meningitis. Major pulmonary surgical treatment is principally carried out under local anaesthetics. Neither curare nor intubation is used. INH, isonicotinic acid hydrazide, is available under the name of Ftibazid. This is a chemical compound of isonicotinic acid hydrazide and Tebethion, which is acetylamine benzaldehyde thiosemicarbazone.

13. The principal means of TB prophylaxis is early diagnosis and protective inoculations. There are mass radiography measures and BCG vaccination. BCG is voluntary but widely practiced and recommended to the population as an obvious duty. Complications following inoculations are apparently not found. Re-inoculation at the ages of two and seven is by the pediatrician and at the ages of twelve and fourteen by the school doctor. Each doctor and nurse concerned also gives public lectures on TB whenever possible.

14. Dr. Theodor Kima then addressed the meeting. He confirmed that there are no all-embracing medical faculties in the USSR, but rather there are three faculties, as mentioned before. In the faculties of sanitary hygiene, there is general training for the first three years; specialization on one of the subjects shown below in the fourth and fifth years; and, in the sixth year, practical work in the chosen special field. The fields of speciality in the faculty, with the percentage of students going to each field, are:

Communal hygiene	20 percent
Epidemiology	25 percent
Occupational hygiene	20 percent
Food hygiene	15 percent
School hygiene	10 percent
Administration (district or area doctors)	10 percent

There is no permanent pest campaign in the USSR and, in particular, no rat campaign. Rat poison is put down when rats are proved to be present. A permanent pest campaign over the whole territory of the USSR is not known and, according to Dr. Kima, is not necessary.

15. Dr. Rudolf Weber, head of the Public Health Department of the Central Committee of the Party, spoke next on organizational problems. There is a special institute, directly subordinate to the Ministry of Public Health, for organizational problems. Doctors' commissions used to exist in the USSR but were liquidated and are no longer necessary, as collective work is assured. A doctorate thesis is publicly defended. Dr. Weber then made some further remarks about the number of doctors in an area health center and similar subjects. The Ministry of Health keeps medical, plans, production, unfitness for work, morbidity, and lethality statistics. The production statistics are made on the basis of daily returns. At the moment, a certain reorganization is in progress, in which incidence statistics are being converted into personnel statistics. In all cases, these are compiled only once a year.

16. The medical director of the Berlin-Buch hospital, Dr. Rudolf Baumann, then spoke. He is a specialist on sleep therapy. He stated that there is hardly any branch of medical science in the USSR that is not founded on Pavlov and his teaching. The First Moscow Medical Institute under Professor Aleksandr L. Myasnikov is working on circulation research, arteriosclerosis, and blood

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pressure problems. Clinical medicine in general in the USSR lays emphasis on prophylaxis. According to Dr. Baumann, from 20 to 28 December 1953, there was a meeting of the Academy of Sciences in Leningrad, which was an endocrinological and neurological congress. At the congress, the inheritance of acquired conditioned reflexes was considered as established.

17. Frau Dr. Bunge of the East German Ministry of Health's Department for Mother and Child was the last to speak. She referred to the importance of questions on mother and child in the USSR, which found expression in a Section for the Protection of Women and another for the Protection of the Child in the Ministry of Public Health, as well as in Ministry of Public Health Institutes for Gynecology and Obstetrics in Moscow and Leningrad. These two institutes work on therapeutics, prophylactic, and scientific tasks assigned by the ministry.

18. The following is the itinerary of the delegation while in the Soviet Union:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name of Establishment</u>	<u>Name of Director or Representative</u>
7 Dec.	Ministry of Public Health	Deputy Minister S.V. Kurashov
8 Dec.	First Moscow Order of Lenin Medical Institute	Prof. Fedor Fedorovich Talyzin
	Hospital-clinic (sic) of the above institute	Prof. Aleksandr Leonidovich Myasnikov
	Faculty of Sanitary-Hygiene of the First Moscow Medical Institute	Prof. Z.I. Izraelson
	Clinic of Skin Diseases of The First Moscow Medical Institute	Prof. N.V. Rakhmanova
9 Dec.	Hospital of the Ministry of Trade of the USSR	Dr. Zakharchenkov (fnu)
10 Dec.	USSR Academy of Sciences	Prof. Nikolay N. Anichkov
11 Dec.	Inspection of the new university	
	Inspection of port in Khimki	
	Central Institute for Sanitary Education	Lady Prof. Karmanova (fnu), Scientific Leader; Lady Prof. Bogolepova (fnu)
12 Dec.	Sanitary-Epidemiological Station of Kirov Rayon, Moscow	Dr. Nobelmann (fnu)
	Central Research Institute of Gynecology and Obstetrics of the Ministry of Public Health	Prof. Gleb Vladimirovich Stepanov
	Central Institute for Advanced Training of Physicians of the Ministry of Public Health	Lady Prof. Lebedova (fnu)
14 Dec.	Academy of Medical Sciences Research Institute for TB	Lady Prof. Zinaida A. Lebedeva (now in East Germany) Prof. N.A. Shmelev
	Institute for Organization of Public Health and History of Medicine of the Academy of Medical Sciences	Prof. Oshchutkin (fnu)

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Name of Establishment</u>	<u>Name of Director or Representative</u>
	Institute of Labor Hygiene and Occupational Diseases of the Academy of Medical Sciences-Obuch Institute	Prof. A.A. Letavet
15 Dec.	Discussion in Department of Epidemiology, Ministry of Public Health	Prof. Zhdanov (fnu)
	Institute of Neurology of the Academy of Medical Sciences	
	Management and editorial staff of the medical science publication, <u>Medgis</u> (analogous to the East German publication, <u>People and Health</u>).	
16 Dec.	Stomatological Institute of the Academy of Medical Sciences	Prof. Aleksandr A. Limberg
	Hospital of the Moscow Department of Public Health in Zvengorod	Lady Dr. Koncharenko (fnu)
	Reception by Ambassador Apelt	
17 Dec.	Visit to the Kremlin Evening wreath-laying and memorial tribute at the tombs of Stalin and Lenin	
17-18 Dec.	Travel to Leningrad	
18 Dec.	Reception by Prof. Nitikin (fnu), head of the Leningrad Medical Research Institute of Sanitation and Hygiene	
	Institute of Gynecology and Obstetrics of the Academy of Sciences.	Prof. Anatoliy Petrovich Nikolayev, Stalin Prize winner.
	Institute of Labor Protection of the Public Health Worker's Trade Union	Engineer Dr. Nikolayev (fnu)
19 Dec.	Higher Education Faculty of Pediatrics Institute	Prof. Shutova (fnu)
	Clinic of Physiology Department, Pediatrics Institute	Prof. Aleksandr F. Tur
	Surgery Clinic Clinic of Gynecology and Obstetrics with an advisory board	Prof. Shatskiy (fnu)
	Discussion in the Institute of Labor Protection of the Public Health Worker's Trade Union	
	Conference on Physiology and Pathology in the Academy of Sciences	Academy Member Prof. Konstantin Mikhaylovich Bykov
20 Dec.	Drive around the city; inspection of Hermitage	
	Session of the Academy of Sciences-Physiology and Pathology; discussion with Prof. K.M. Bykov	

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Name of Establishment</u>	<u>Name of Director or Representative</u>
20 Dec.	1800-1945 hours - Discussion with Lady Dr. Lindemann (fnu) and fifteen German medical students who are completing studies at various Leningrad institutes.	
21 Dec.	Study of Infections Division of the Pediatrics Institute Institute of the Highest Section of the Central Nervous System Inspection of the Institute of Physiology of the Academy of Sciences	Under the guidance of Prof. K.M. Bykov, Academy Member at the Koltushi Station of the Pavlov Institute of Leningrad and Deputy Director E. Sh. Ayrepetyants
22 Dec.	Discussion with Prof. E. Sh. Ayrepetyants and Prof. M.V. Chernorutskiy in the First Leningrad Institute of Therapeutics (Sleep Therapy) ⁴ Institute of Pediatrics - discussion Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion of the Ministry of Health Leningrad Research Institute of Sanitation and Hygiene Back to Moscow	Prof. Mikhail Stepanovich Maslov Academy Member Bogdasarov (fnu) Prof. Nikitin (fnu)
23 Dec.	1600 hours - Visit to Lenin Museum	
24 Dec.	Executive Committee of Union of Medical Workers Therapeutic Institute of the Academy of Medical Sciences Moscow Meat Combine	Lady Prof. Ilina (fnu) Prof. A.L. Myasnikov
25 Dec.	Visit to some country hospitals in the district of the Sovkhoz 1 May Visit to Metropolitan Nikolay Kurtiskiy Institute of Labor Hygiene and Occupational Diseases - discussion	A lady doctor for the agricultural district Prof. A.A. Letavet
26 Dec.	Institute of Nutrition of the Academy of Medical Sciences TB Division of the Ministry of Public Health Statistics Division of the Ministry of Public Health	Lady Prof. Olga Pavlovna Molchanova Dotsent Lapina (fnu) Dr. Konstantinov (fnu)

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Name of Establishment</u>	<u>Name of Director or Representative</u>
26 Dec.	Children's Clinic of Sverdlov Rayon, Moscow	
	Dzerzhinskiy Rayon, Moscow, Division of Public Health	Dr. Konstanian (fnu)
	Discussion with the head of Eksport Film Division of Ministry of Public Health	Zakharevich (fnu)
27 Dec.	Visit to places of art and culture and to the Academy of the Russian Orthodox Church, Zagorsk District Monastery.	
28 Dec.	Concluding speeches in the Ministry of Public Health	Minister A.F. Tretyakov
	Ministry of Public Health press interviews with delegation members.	Representatives of <u>Tass</u> , <u>Meditsinskiy Rabotnik</u> , <u>Vechernyaya Moskva</u> , and radio.
	Farewell reception at Ministry of Public Health	Deputy Minister S.V. Kurashov
	2400 hours - depart Moscow	

1. Comment: Prof. Redetzky was formerly Director of the East German Central Institute for Social and Occupational Hygiene.

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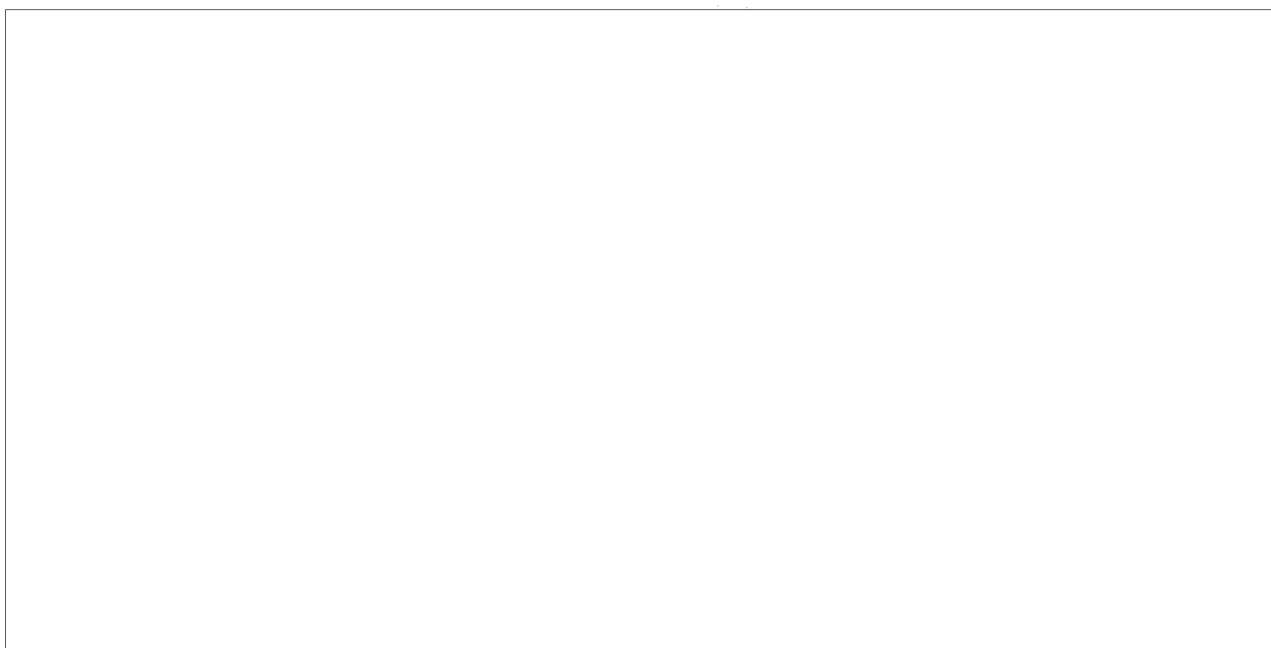
2. Comment: It is believed that this should read 20 to 22 December 1953.

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3. Comment: Possibly Prof. A.V. Shatskiy.

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4. Comment: First Leningrad Medical Institute i/n I.P. Pavlov (therapeutics).

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