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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

7 May 1959

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PART III

PATTERNS AND PERSPECTIVES

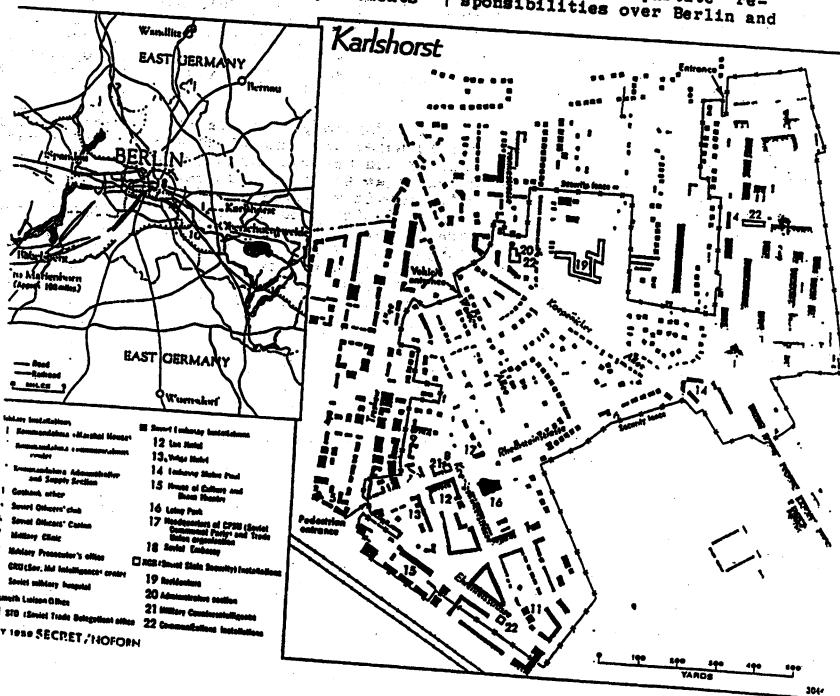
THE SOVIET ESTABLISHMENT IN KARLSHORST COMPOUND IN EAST BERLIN

The main symbol of the Soviet occupation of Berlin is the Kommandatura--the headquarters of the USSR's Berlin garrison--headed by Maj. Gen. Nikolai Feodorovich Zakharov in the 180-acre Karlshorst compound in East Berlin. Also located there are the headquarters of the Soviet state security organization (KGB), the KGB communications regiment, certain Soviet military intelligence (GRU) units, and housing for all major Soviet units stationed in East Berlin, including elements

of the embassy and trade delegation. The Soviet Embassy itself is not in the compound but is located on Unter den Linden near the Brandenburg Gate. Responsibility for the over-all physical security of the compound is vested in the East German Ministry for State Security (MfS).

Kommandatura

The Kommandatura exercises all Soviet quadripartite responsibilities over Berlin and



- 1 Embassy Installation
- 2 Kommandatura (Central Soviet)
- 3 Kommandatura communication center
- 4 Kommandatura Administration and Supply Section
- 5 Cashier office
- 6 Soviet Officers' Club
- 7 Soviet Officers' Canteen
- 8 Military Clinic
- 9 Military Prosecutor's office
- 10 GRU (Soviet Military Intelligence) center
- 11 Soviet military hospital
- 12 Tea Hall
- 13, 14a Tea Hall
- 14 Embassy Motor Pool
- 15 House of Culture and Book Store
- 16 Lawn Park
- 17 Headquarters of CPSU (Soviet Communist Party and Trade Union Organization)
- 18 Soviet Embassy
- 19 Residences
- 20 Administrative building
- 21 Military Commandant's Office
- 22 Commandatura Installation

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access thereto, including control of the checkpoints at Babelsberg and Marienborn at the eastern and western ends of the autobahn. Its withdrawal from the city would therefore presumably indicate that the Soviet functions there were being transferred to the East Germans and might be the prelude to the legal incorporation of East Berlin into East Germany.

Soviet staff headquarters is located in the so-called Marshal House. Nearby are the Kommandatura communications center, administrative and supply offices of the garrison, and a field branch of the Soviet State Bank (Gosbank). A Military Prosecutor's Office is also attached to the Kommandatura. Outside the compound there is a Soviet officers' club; inside, there is a stadium, a swimming pool and gym facilities, and an officers' mess.

In addition, a military clinic under the general direction of the Central Military Hospital at Berlin-Oberschoeneweide provides medical care not only to Soviet troops but to members of the embassy and trade delegation. The Kommandatura also maintains a hotel, a bachelor officers' quarters, and an apartment building, and there is a hunt club for military and civilian personnel.

The group of Soviet military advisers to the East German People's Army residing in the compound has been in the process of dissolution in recent months, and most of these officers reportedly have returned to the USSR. Similarly, the group of Soviet Ministry of Interior (MVD) officers attached to the MFS is being disbanded.

Guard functions for military headquarters are furnished by the Soviet 133rd Independent Guard Battalion, which also provides guards for Spandau prison

and for maintaining control on the US-Soviet sector border.

In recent months Moscow has made various preparations which will permit the withdrawal of the Kommandatura with little or no further notice. It has, however, also taken steps to provide cover under which certain Soviet units--notably the KGB and GRU--could continue to function within the compound. Military units have not withdrawn, and construction in progress outside the city--such as the high-priority building project in the neighborhood of Bernau and Wandlitz--has not been specifically identified for the use of Kommandatura elements. On the other hand, the units have not yet received their 1959 funds for the maintenance of property and housing, and even the commanders reportedly do not know what to expect.

Soviet long-distance telephone exchange facilities in Karlshorst, operated by Soviet military personnel, reportedly are to be dismantled in the near future and removed to an unidentified location. There is some evidence that the Soviet Embassy expects to take over this function from the Kommandatura when the withdrawal occurs.

Soviet Military Intelligence

Since 1957 the USSR has sharply cut the number of GRU installations in Karlshorst, until at present the only major units remaining are the Agent Operations Section and what are believed to be combined elements of the Strategic Intelligence Residentura, naval intelligence, and an intelligence advisory group. GRU reportedly intends to move part of its staff to the headquarters of the Soviet Group of Forces in Germany (GSFG) in Wuenndorf but will leave as many operational personnel as possible under cover of the military attaché section of the Soviet Embassy.

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Embassy and Trade Delegation

The Soviet Embassy in East Berlin, while outside the compound, has several installations and extensive housing facilities inside. These include the Lux Hotel, used for VIP housing; the Volga Hotel; a motor pool; a house of culture, which supervises the Dram Theater; an amusement area in Letny Park; a film storage and distribution center; and a library. Headquarters of the Soviet Communist party and trade-union organizations, both embassy connected, are also located here. In addition, the embassy maintains an elementary and secondary school outside the compound and a kindergarten and vocational schools inside.

The trade delegation, like the embassy, has its main offices on Unter den Linden and, with the exception of the liaison office of the Wismuth uranium-mining company, only housing and support units are located within the Karlshorst compound. The liaison office's function is to assure swift and uninterrupted deliveries from the Wismuth mines to the USSR.

There is every indication that these civilian installations will remain in the compound, although certain changes may be made in physical arrangements. For example, the Volga Hotel reportedly was released to East German authorities on 1 March, but its restaurant still functions under embassy management. Furthermore, the Dram Theater has ordered an expensive new movie projector, suggesting that there is no intention of withdrawing. Finally, there have been reports that the trade delegation is to be merged with the embassy's economic section. The delegation's motor pool has already been consolidated with that of the embassy inside the compound.

KGB Rezidentura

KGB installations dot the Karlshorst compound. The four-story Rezidentura--the former St. Antonius Hospital--houses all the elements necessary for a self-contained intelligence unit. It is surrounded by a special fence and is under the surveillance of KGB-controlled Soviet guards. Subsidiary to this headquarters are various other KGB administrative and housing units, including a clinic, a hotel, and a motor pool.

KGB counterintelligence headquarters, located adjacent to the Military Prosecutor's Office, includes a section responsible for the loyalty and security of Soviet forces in the Berlin garrison. Certain KGB advisers attached to MFS headquarters also maintain offices there and live in the compound. KGB communications installations are believed to be housed at three points, one within the Kommandatura headquarters area, another on Ehrenfelsstrasse, and the third in the KGB administrative section on Frankestrasse.

There have been reports that the KGB will vacate the Rezidentura and move its headquarters and all administrative, technical, and communications sections out of Berlin to nearby areas. A German source recently stated that communications personnel had been moved out of the Frankestrasse unit to an unidentified location. Furniture from several housing units reportedly was recently removed on KGB trucks--in two instances to Bernau. This suggests that at least some KGB facilities may move to the Bernau-Wandlitz site.

In recent weeks, the KGB appears to have taken steps to place some of its services under cover. Effective 1 April

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the administrative section reportedly instructed German firms and public utilities to address bills to the Soviet Embassy but gave an address in the compound. During the first quarter of 1959, some 35 apartments were released by the KGB to the MfS. Since there was no indication that the Soviet families had moved out, it appears that some KGB personnel, at least, may continue under MfS cover.

Concurrently, in order to tighten security, the KGB offices have dismissed their German employees. Some of the work formerly done by Germans in the motor pool will be performed by Soviet personnel, and cleaning and janitorial responsibilities are to be carried out by Soviet rather than German women.

Security Precautions

Karlshorst compound is surrounded by a fence six feet

high which was repaired last year at considerable expense; this fence is patrolled by well-armed MfS guards. At night these guards extend their patrols into the compound area, but they no longer are accompanied by dogs. The compound can be entered through either the main vehicle entrance on Waldow Allee or through certain other approved gates; a pass is required with a different document for the various categories of Soviet and East German personnel.

An intensive screening of all East German employees was begun last year, and in recent weeks Soviet authorities have been sharply reducing the number of German employees in the compound. Some individuals who had worked for Soviet authorities since 1945 have been dismissed, and a well-integrated system of MfS informers has been established among the remaining German employees.
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