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Soviet Intelligence

THE KGB IN EAST GERMANY—
AN AGENT DEFECTOR SUMMARY OF
FACILITIES, TARGETS & TRADECRAFT

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April 1970

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PART III. KGB FACILITIES IN EAST GERMANY (DDR)

SOVIET INSTALLATIONS AVAILABLE TO THE KGB

The Karlshorst *Rezidentura*

The Karlshorst *Rezidentura* is located in a building inside a compound which is bound by four streets: Bodenmaiser Weg, Zwieseler Strasse, Dewetallee and Arberstrasse. There are two entrances to the compound, one on Dewetallee, the other on Bodenmaiser Weg. One may drive into the area through Dewetallee and, from the south, through the entrance at the control point on the Rheinstrasse. This latter entrance is directly at the intersection of Rheinstrasse and Koepenicker Allee. The building itself is multi-storied and gives the appearance of a barracks or caserne. There are a number of high antenna masts on the roof, all connected to each other by cables; thus, the building is easily recognizable and the masts are visible from afar. (*Source Comment:* He has never entered the building and therefore can provide no description of the interior.) Before moving into the present *Rezidentura*, the KGB had offices in the large building located on the corner of Frankestrasse and Koepenicker Allee.

The regular office hours at the *Rezidentura* are from 0800-1300 hours, 1400-1600 hours. Evidently there is a rotating duty roster which all KGB case officers are subject to since each case officer serves periodically as Duty Officer and remains in the *Rezidentura* overnight. Even though a KGB officer works the evening before, he is in the office punctually in the morning. Source frequently called about 0800 hours and found his KGB contact already at work. An agent (such as Source) wishing to contact his case officer after hours does not call the Duty Officer at the *Rezidentura*, but contacts his case officer directly at the latter's home, no matter what the hour. (*Source Comment:* The Duty Officer's function is not to serve as a communication channel between the *Rezidentura* and the agents. The Duty Officer is probably in charge

of the physical security of the *Rezidentura*.) Every Monday morning, KGB case officers meet for their weekly political discussion. Party meetings take place on an irregular basis.

Many of the KGB case officers who were working in the Karlshorst *Rezidentura* had identity documents issued by the DDR Foreign Ministry which stated that the bearer was a member of the USSR Embassy in the DDR.

The Soviet Hospital in East Berlin

There is a Soviet hospital, used by both Soviet Embassy personnel and the KGB, which is located in the area bounded by Rummelsburgerstrasse, Hermann Duncker Strasse, and Am Walde. The hospital entrance, which is on Hermann Duncker Strasse, is guarded at all times by a Soviet soldier.

The Motor Pool in East Berlin

The motor pool and repair facilities for vehicles used by all Soviet installations in East Berlin, including the KGB, is located at the intersection of Rummelsburger Landstrasse and Grenzweg on the pre-war property of the *Allgemeine Elektrizitaets Gesellschaft* (AEG). Its official designation is "Motor Pool of the Soviet Embassy." The entrance, which is always guarded by an armed Soviet soldier, is on Grenzweg. There is a formal control point through which visitors must pass. Although Source never actually entered the motor pool, he did notice in passing that most of the cars are of Western manufacture. The majority are Volkswagens, but there are some Moskvich cars and a few Wartburgs. Source saw no Skodas. Soviet army mechanics work on the cars.

Vehicles used by the KGB bear regular East Berlin registrations which are issued by the MfS. Prior to the end of 1968, all Soviet vehicles were licensed through the Soviet Embassy. Toward the end of 1968, vehicles of all embassies in the DDR were issued red license plates to differentiate the

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embassy vehicles from regular DDR cars. Thus in order to remain anonymous, the KGB had to change the system of registering their cars through the embassy.

Shopping Facilities in East Berlin

The Soviets do not have exclusive shopping facilities similar to some of the Western countries, which provide their personnel with goods in exchange for the respective Western currency. However, there is a store, stocking mainly Soviet goods, located in Andernacher Strasse where Soviets do shop. Anyone, including West Berliners, DDR citizens and members of the Allied military from West Berlin, may shop there. All the employees of the store are Soviet nationals and can speak only Russian.

Rest Homes in the DDR

Source was aware of the existence of only one KGB vacation facility—a house located on a lake near Neustrelitz. KGB case officers and families usually use vacation and recreation facilities which belong to the MFS. One such MFS house is located on a lake east of Berlin. Also, there is an MFS vacation house in Masserberg, Thuringia. Source never used any of these facilities.

KGB District Offices in the DDR

KGB District Offices are located in Soviet *Kommandatura* buildings. Each Soviet *Kommandatura* is well known in the headquarters town, and directions for finding it can be easily obtained by inquiring on the street. Each KGB District Office, depending upon the size of the district, contains from five to twenty KGB officers. While Source was not permitted entry to the Karlshorst *Rezidentura* building, he could walk directly into any KGB District Office. Although Source has not visited all of the District Offices, he has dealt with the KGB chief or other KGB officers of the following District Offices: Leipzig, Gera, Magdeburg, Neustrelitz, Frankfurt/Oder, Suhl, and Rostock. KGB District Chiefs maintain close contact with the Karlshorst *Rezidentura* and frequently travel to East Berlin. KGB case officers from Karlshorst also frequently visit KGB District Offices.

Source did not notice any radios or tape recorders in any of the KGB District Offices he visited. Neither did he see any Soviet females in these offices.

(1) *The District Office in Magdeburg:* This KGB District Office is located in the Soviet *Kommandatura*, a large building. There is a fence around the building and an armed Soviet soldier stands guard in an anteroom just inside the entrance. Source, who visited the Magdeburg District Office only once, in 1957, could not pinpoint the location of the KGB offices in the building because there were so many hallways and turns involved in getting to the KGB section. He saw only one room of the KGB section. A relatively small room, it contained a safe with a key lock, one desk, and a long conference table which was pushed against the desk in T-formation. He is certain that there were other KGB rooms in this building, since the KGB case officer he dealt with at the time would leave the room, walk a few paces, and, judging by the sound of opening and closing doors, enter another room.

(2) *The District Office in Gera:* The KGB office is located in the Soviet *Kommandatura*, a three-story building which is opposite (kitty-corner) to the railroad station. There was no guard posted outside the building. However, in an anteroom just inside the entrance to the building, there is a small guard room, with a glass window, where a visitor was required to report on entering the building. The KGB occupied several rooms on the top floor. Source saw only one room in the KGB section. The room was small. It contained a safe with a key lock, a desk, and a conference table which was pushed against the desk in T-formation. Source believed, but is not certain, that the door to this room was padded on the inside.

(3) *The District Office in Neustrelitz:* The KGB District Office in Neustrelitz is located in the Soviet *Kommandatura*, a three-story building. The building is surrounded by a brick wall. In one side of the wall, there is an iron gate through which cars may drive into a courtyard. The KGB office which Source visited was located on the second or third floor. The room was a very large one and contained a safe with a key lock, a desk, and large conference table which was pushed against the desk in T-formation.

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(4) *The District Office in Suhl:* The Suhl KGB office is located in the Soviet *Kommandatura* building and is approximately a five-minute walk from the Suhl Railroad Station. Across the street from the *Kommandatura* is a small hill with a building which may be either a church or a government office. The *Kommandatura*, a two-story building, is about the size of a four-family house. It sits directly on the street and is surrounded by a metal fence. There is a yard which contains a front garden. There is no space inside the yard for automobiles, which must be parked on the street. The gate through the metal fence is always kept locked. Entrance is gained by ringing a bell. The visitor must then state his business to an armed Soviet soldier who comes to the gate. Source was never confronted with this situation, since he was always in the company of a KGB case officer who would take care of any explanations to the soldier.

Source was in only one room of the KGB section. This office was located on the top floor, on the right hand side as one faces the building from the street. The room contained two desks, a metal safe with a key lock, a table, and a picture of Lenin. There was a telephone in the room, telephone number unknown. However, the telephone number was an extension from the MFS District Office. The entrance door to the room was padded on the inside. Source believes that this one room housed the entire KGB District Office in Suhl. Source knew of two KGB officers there: a Colonel (name unknown) whose private residence was located in Suhl at Schmiedefeldstrasse 83, first floor left, and another officer known as Gennady.

TELEPHONE AND POSTAL SERVICES IN THE DDR

Telephone and Telegraph Communications

Only local calls can be made from the telephone booths located on the sidewalks in East Berlin.

Long-distance telephone calls can be made from all Post Offices in East Berlin. Each has a "Long-distance telephone section" from which one may place a long-distance call. Before placing the call, the caller must deposit DME 5 or DME 10 with the clerk as insurance that the caller will not disappear without paying the bill. The caller, after placing the deposit, gives the clerk the telephone number to be called and the city wherein it is lo-

cated. He then waits in the lobby of the Post Office until the clerk pages him and assigns him to a telephone booth. The booths are numbered and have doors to insure privacy. No identification documents are required to place a long-distance call. Telephone calls to most countries, including the United States but excluding West Germany, can be put through in less than ten minutes' time. Telephone calls to West Germany can take as long as five or six hours because there are so few lines available, and many calls are continuously placed between East and West Germany. The DDR Government refuses to install additional lines, thus the delay in telephone traffic. (*Source Comment:* In placing some long-distance calls, he would wait only a few minutes, then cancel the call, since any delay in completing the call might indicate the possibility that, either routinely or for some specific reason, the call was being monitored.)

Long-distance calls can also be placed from one's own home or from a public place, such as a hotel or restaurant. These latter have the facilities and permit the placing of calls, knowing the caller will remain to pay the costs.

Telegrams can be sent from Post Offices or by private telephone, in which case the cost of the telegram is charged to the telephone owner. No identification documents are required to send a telegram from the Post Office. While there is a section on the telegram which the sender has to fill in regarding the sender's name and address, one may use any name and address, or even no name and address, except that the latter would look suspicious.

Postal Services and Censorship

Postage stamps can be purchased at Post Offices, stationery stores, hotels, and newspaper stands. Registered letters can be sent only from a Post Office. No identity documents are needed to send registered letters. When registered letters are delivered to the addressee's home, no identity document need be shown to take possession of the letter, but the addressee must sign for it. If the addressee is not at home, the mailman leaves a slip of paper notifying the resident that there is some registered mail for him, whereupon he must go to the Post Office to pick it up. When picking up registered letters at the Post Office, the addressee

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must show identity documents. Identity documents must also be shown when picking up money orders or packages at the Post Office.

Source had no information concerning routine censorship imposed on domestic mail within the DDR. International mail is censored on a spot-check basis. The exception to the aforementioned is mail addressed to or sent by individuals whose names are placed on a "Watchlist."

Post Office boxes can be rented by going to the postmaster's office, filling out a form requesting the rental of a Post Office box, and producing identity documents. No reason need be given for wanting to rent the box. The box rental is due and payable quarterly at one of the Post Office windows. No identity documents need be shown when paying the rental. The payer merely gives his box number and pays the fee.

LIAISON BETWEEN THE KGB AND THE MfS IN THE DDR

In 1953 Source's KGB case officer told him that the top echelon of the MfS knew of Source's employment as a full-time KGB agent in the DDR, presumably as Karl HAGER.

Source has little knowledge of the MfS since he never worked with the MfS on any operation. Only once was an MfS agent turned over to him by an MfS officer.

From the time of Source's arrival in the DDR in 1953 until the early 1960's, he noted that the KGB had appeared to have sufficient money at its disposal for conducting any type of intelligence operation. Additionally, the KGB received whatever operational support (e.g., name checks, documentation, backstopping, etc.) it required immediately from the MfS whenever that was considered necessary. During this period, it appeared to Source that the KGB pretty much ran things in the DDR as far as intelligence matters were concerned. In 1963, however, Source learned from three friends who were also full-time agents of the KGB that all of the KGB *Hauptamtlicher Mitarbeiter* in the DDR, with the exception of Source, were to be dismissed from the KGB. This was confirmed to Source by his KGB Section Chief. Source was told that he was too valuable to the KGB and thus would not be released. Those *Hauptamtlicher*

Mitarbeiter who were dropped by the KGB were picked up by the MfS, according to statements later made to Source by one of his subsequent KGB case officers and by a former *Hauptamtlicher Mitarbeiter*. As far as Source could determine, this mass dismissal of *Hauptamtlicher Mitarbeiter* was due to the probability that the KGB apparently no longer had sufficient funds for salaries. In this regard, Source believed that some of the KGB budget in the DDR was derived from occupation costs levied on the DDR (a treaty was apparently reached between the USSR and the DDR, reducing the latter's occupation payments). This loss of revenue to the Soviets in the DDR might have caused the dismissal of Source's colleagues. Source also noted that after 1963 the KGB was not nearly as generous with its gifts and bonuses as it had previously been. Another factor, in Source's opinion, was the growing feeling of independence and national sovereignty of the DDR. One of Source's KGB case officers and a KGB officer from one of the District Offices told Source independently, and at different times, that "now we are only guests here . . . we can only request things from the MfS, not demand." Additionally, a former *Hauptamtlicher Mitarbeiter* told Source in about 1967 that the MfS no longer did things the way the Soviets wanted.

It is a basic rule of the KGB in the DDR that the MfS should know as little as possible about KGB activities. This rule was repeatedly violated, as Source notes. Many of the leads he worked on came from the MfS, and considerable operational support was afforded by the MfS even in those cases where they did not supply the leads. Sometimes they helped Source make an initial contact. Additionally, the MfS is evidently aware of all the leads which are followed up by the KGB Liaison Officer to the MfS. (Comment: A Colonel LESSIN, first name unknown, is the KGB Liaison Officer who is called by the MfS border guards whenever persons of operational interest pass through the East/West Berlin border-crossing point.)

It is Source's opinion that the KGB and the MfS have agreed that operations in the DDR involving the American target are to be handled by the KGB. Source bases this opinion on the fact that all of the leads, either offered or supported by the MfS, invariably dealt with the American target. He does not know whether there is a similar agree-

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ment whereby the West German target is handled solely by the MfS. He doubts that such an agreement exists since he knows that the West German target is also worked on by the KGB. He knows of no case involving a West German citizen that the KGB developed itself and then later exposed to the MfS or for which any operational support was requested from the MfS. Once the KGB had a unilateral operation going, it was kept unilateral. There were no restrictions or prohibitions whatsoever on the KGB in regard to its recruitment of DDR citizens. However, Source was emphatically convinced that the MfS, in turn, was not allowed to recruit or otherwise make any operational use of a Soviet citizen without the knowledge, consent and assistance of the KGB.

At the District-Office level of the KGB, liaison between the KGB and MfS personnel was usually on a very close and personal basis. For example,

Source knows that the KGB Chief in Suhl and the KGB Chief in Neustrelitz often went hunting with their MfS counterparts. The KGB Chief in Neustrelitz once turned down Source's offer for lunch, saying that he felt he should go hunting with his MfS colleague to cement their rapport and relationship.

As stated above, KGB officers and families usually use vacation and recreation facilities which belong to the MfS. Apparently, since Source was told about it by his KGB case officers, neither the KGB nor the MfS had any qualms about mixing a large number of their staff officers and families at the vacation home in Masserberg, Thuringia. Source had no information regarding its administration, since he was never there, but he presumes that the MfS and KGB officers using the Masserberg facility went there under some kind of alias.

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