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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

31 March 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : WARSAW PACT JOURNAL: The Combined Armed Forces Exercise BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS

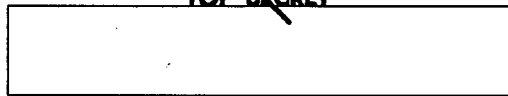
1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on articles from a **SECRET** Soviet publication called Information Collection of the Headquarters and the Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces. This article summarizes the results of the **BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS** combined exercise held in East Germany in October 1970, which involved the armed forces of all the Warsaw Pact countries, including the Soviet Union. The exercise, which is described as a success in terms of confirming solidarity and gaining experience in troop control and coordination, included conventional offensive actions, amphibious and airborne landings, and planning for the use of nuclear weapons. This journal is published by Warsaw Pact Headquarters in Moscow, and it consists of articles by Warsaw Pact officers. This article appeared in Issue No. 2, which was published in 1971.

2. Because the source of this report is extremely sensitive, this document should be handled on a strict need-to-know basis within recipient agencies. For ease of reference, reports from this publication have been assigned [redacted]

[redacted]
David H. Blee
Acting Deputy Director for Operations

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Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR/WARSAW PACT

DATE OF INFO. 12-18 October 1970

DATE 31 March 1975

SUBJECT

WARSAW PACT JOURNAL: The Combined Armed Forces Exercise
BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of an article from a SECRET Soviet publication called Information Collection of the Headquarters and the Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces. This journal is published by Warsaw Pact Headquarters in Moscow, and it consists of articles by Warsaw Pact officers. This article was written by Colonel General Heinz Kessler, Chief of the Main Staff of the East German Army. The article summarizes the results of the BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS combined exercise held in East Germany in October 1970, which involved the armed forces of all the Warsaw Pact countries, including the Soviet Union. The exercise, which is described as a success in terms of confirming solidarity and gaining experience in troop control and coordination, included conventional offensive actions, amphibious and airborne landings, and planning for the use of nuclear weapons. This article appeared in Issue No. 2, which was published in 1971.

End of Summary

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Operational and Combat Training

The Combined Armed Forces Exercise
BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS

by

Colonel General H. Kessler
Chief of the Main Staff of the National People's
Army of the German Democratic Republic

In accordance with the plan for combined measures of the Combined Armed Forces of the member states of the Warsaw Pact, during the period 12 to 18 October 1970, a combined exercise was conducted on the territory of the German Democratic Republic under the code name BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS (BRATSTVO PO ORUZHIIU).

Staffs, large units, units, and subunits of all the allied armies as well as the allied navies in the Baltic Sea participated in this exercise.

The exercise was directed by General of the Army H. Hoffmann, Minister for National Defense of the German Democratic Republic.

Party and state leaders of the German Democratic Republic and military delegations of the member states of the Warsaw Pact, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Mongolian People's Republic, and the Republic of Cuba were present at the exercise.

The measure carried out had great military and political significance. The BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS combined exercise demonstrated the growing combat might of the allied armies, the high level of their combat and political training and technical equipment, and the combat readiness of the troops and navies.

This combined exercise once again confirmed that in our defensive alliance the armed forces are united, being firmly bound together by common political goals and a single Marxist-Leninist world outlook. They stand firmly in a united battle array in defense of the gains of the peoples of

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the socialist countries.

The exercise was a brilliant demonstration of the indestructible political and military unity and solidarity of the member states of the Warsaw Pact. It showed that any imperialist aggression in Europe against the socialist states would encounter the combined military might of the socialist member states of the Warsaw Pact and would end with the rout of the aggressor.

During the exercise the forces demonstrated the indestructible class unity and combat cooperation of the armed forces, which, when supported by their main source of strength -- the renowned Armed Forces of the Soviet Union -- are truly invincible.

The exercise convincingly demonstrated the deep international friendship between the people of the German Democratic Republic and the peoples of all the allied countries and their armed forces. The attitude of the population of the German Democratic Republic toward the soldiers of the fraternal armies was visual proof that they consider the defense of the socialist fatherland their own vital affair.

In the military sphere, the important task before all participants in the exercise was to improve the knowledge and skills of the commanders and control organs of all the branches of the armed forces with respect to the organization and command of combined operations of the Combined Armed Forces under the complex operational and military-geographical conditions of the Western Theater of Military Operations, both with and without the use of nuclear weapons; and to raise the level of practical training of the troops by having them conduct decisive offensive combat actions. All the staffs and troops received high ratings for the exercise. The commanders, staffs, and political organs of the allied socialist armies demonstrated their mastery of the modern art of troop control and their skill in organizing and maintaining coordination of the troops under the complex conditions of a combat situation; similarly, the troops displayed great skill in performing combat tasks.

The above results were achieved only through intensive and thorough training of troops and staffs and their efficient, coordinated actions during the exercise.

Preparations for the BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS combined exercise essentially were based on the directive of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces on the operational and combat training of the Combined Armed Forces

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of the member states of the Warsaw Pact for the year 1970.

In developing the concept of the exercise, consideration was given to such important requirements for it as, for example, further improving the organization of and methods of conducting combined combat actions with the formations and large units of the allied armies, ensuring uninterrupted and stable troop control under different conditions of the situation, improving coordination between branches of the armed forces and groupings and arms of troops.

The operational concept and the plan for actual troop actions contained all the elements necessary to the performance of the key operational and combat training tasks set forth in the directive for the 1970/71 training year.

The conduct of the exercise on the territory of the German Democratic Republic was a great honor and at the same time a serious responsibility for our National People's Army. We endeavored to correctly understand the tasks entrusted to us and to ensure their fulfilment in full accordance with the socialist defensive alliance.

During the preparation for and conduct of the combined exercise, the party and government leaders of the German Democratic Republic devoted a great deal of attention to this important measure. The decisions made by the party and government leaders were the basis for the political and military work of the staffs and troops of the National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic.

Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces, Marshal of the Soviet Union I. I. Yakubovskiy, and the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces were of great assistance to us in the preparation and conduct of the exercise.

A control organ was set up to prepare the exercise. Its personnel included generals, admirals, and officers of the Ministry for National Defense of the German Democratic Republic and of the commands of the branches of the armed forces of the National People's Army. It was the responsibility of this organ to resolve all questions of planning and coordinating activities relating to the conduct of the exercise and its support, and to maintain coordination with the general staffs of the allied armies and the civilian institutions of the German Democratic Republic.

The preliminary work was carried out according to plan, making it possible for the representatives of the general staffs of the allied armies

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to familiarize themselves with their tasks in advance and to inspect the areas of combat actions and the training grounds. Thus they were given the opportunity to purposefully prepare their staffs and troops for actions during the exercise.

The control system established to direct the exercise bore out the accuracy of our conceptions of the organization and conduct of combat actions using coalition forces composed of troops from several socialist armies. We were convinced by the example of the organization and work of the directing staff, that integrated staffs having identical views on the principles of the use of troops and on the content and formulation of operational and tactical combat documents when there is a single command language, are necessary to ensure firm control of coalition forces operating in a theater of military operations.

The designation of generals from the allied armies as deputy directors of the exercise to direct the troops of their own armed forces, and the inclusion of operations groups of officers from the different national armies in the individual organs of the directing staff especially proved their value. In this way the director of the exercise was able to influence all aspects of the conduct of the exercise and take the interests of all the fraternal armies into consideration.

Because the exercise was conducted as a two-sided exercise, with the staffs and troops of all the allied armies participating, their actions had to be coordinated and based on a single concept. Realistic troop actions were planned so as to permit the practical testing of the suitability of the decisions made by the commanders. The exercise conducted showed that in accordance with this requirement, the director of the exercise and his staff succeeded in fully performing all tasks and in achieving all the assigned objectives.

The commanders and staffs acquired a wealth of experience in the area of troop control, which was distinguished by close coordination between the generals and officers of the allied armies. The overall coincidence of their operational and tactical views, which were based on a united approach to the performance of combat tasks, should be emphasized. It also should be noted that the commanders and staffs worked with exceptional efficiency during the preparation of the battle and while it was in progress. The method of simultaneous planning of troop combat actions with the use of conventional means of destruction, and with nuclear weapons, was fully proved. As a result of the parallel work of staffs at different levels, troop combat actions were planned in a limited amount of time.

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The problems involved in the organization of coordination were given particular attention, and this had a positive effect on the successful fulfilment of combat tasks by the formations and units during the exercise. It was confirmed that the exchange of operations groups and liaison officers between the large units and formations of different nationalities, which played an important role in ensuring coordination of troop actions, was both desirable and necessary.

Valuable experience was acquired in the use of the forces and means of automated and mechanized troop control. The experience gained demonstrates that the use of these means to a substantial degree increases the efficiency and precision of the work of commanders and staffs at all levels. The exercise again underlined the acute need for closer coordination of further work to create a single automated field control system for all the Warsaw Pact armies.

The variant in which combat operations initially would be conducted with the use of only conventional means of destruction was envisioned as the concept for the BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS exercise. With this in mind, the attention of the commanders and staffs was focused on the execution of a bold maneuver of forces and means to achieve multiple superiority over the enemy on the main axes, and on the massing of front aviation and field artillery strikes in the sectors where the enemy defenses would be broken through. At the same time the problems involved in maintaining the means of nuclear attack at the necessary level of readiness for the delivery of an initial nuclear strike under any conditions of the situation, were worked out. The participants in the exercise acquired good experience in all these matters and demonstrated a high level of training.

In the critique, the director noted the capable performance of the commanders, staffs, and troops. For example, the troops of the Soviet Army and of the Hungarian People's Army displayed great skill during the breakthrough of the prepared defensive zones of the enemy. They accurately used effective aviation strikes and artillery fire, ably coordinated with each other, and successfully echeloned their forces and means in depth, thereby ensuring prompt expansion of the breakthrough during the battle and development of the offensive into the depth.

The troops of the Czechoslovak People's Army and the Bulgarian People's Army displayed efficient teamwork and the skilful use of fire means on the battlefield during combined combat actions to repel enemy counterattacks, demonstrating a high level of personnel combat training.

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Units of a Polish tank large unit convincingly demonstrated, during the forced crossing of a water obstacle, how they skilfully approach the solution of the problem of having large forces negotiate water obstacles without a substantial reduction in the rate of advance.

During the exercise, the troops of the National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic skilfully performed combat tasks in a meeting engagement in a border zone, and when breaking through enemy defenses under different conditions. They displayed great skill in conducting field firing by day and by night, and in capturing an inhabited area.

The officers, NCO's, and enlisted men of a division staff of the Armed Forces of the Socialist Republic of Romania demonstrated a high level of combat training during the organization and conduct of an offensive in the depth of the enemy defenses.

The troops of the fraternal armies displayed good training during the landing of tactical airborne landing forces, and the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union, in the landing of operational airborne landing forces. It was observed that there was precise coordination of the landing forces with the troops on the offensive, and with supporting aviation.

During the exercise, front aviation was used successfully to deliver strikes against enemy ground and naval forces. The exercise demonstrated that in offensive operations without the use of nuclear weapons, front aviation constitutes the most important means available to the commander, of destroying enemy troop groupings in the depth of enemy territory, and that it should be used massively in support of offensive actions of first-echelon large units.

Three allied Baltic navies demonstrated effective methods of using different forces to destroy enemy surface ships and submarines in the Baltic Sea. During an amphibious landing operation, the forces participating in it acquired a great deal of experience in conducting combat actions during the disembarkation of the amphibious landing force and seizure of important coastal objectives (airfields and ports), with a simultaneous forced crossing by the amphibious landing force of a wide water obstacle in coordination with an airborne landing, and with the support of aviation and light naval forces.

The BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS exercise was the most important operational and combat training measure for commanders, staffs, and troops during the 1970/71 training year. It can be stated with full justification that the

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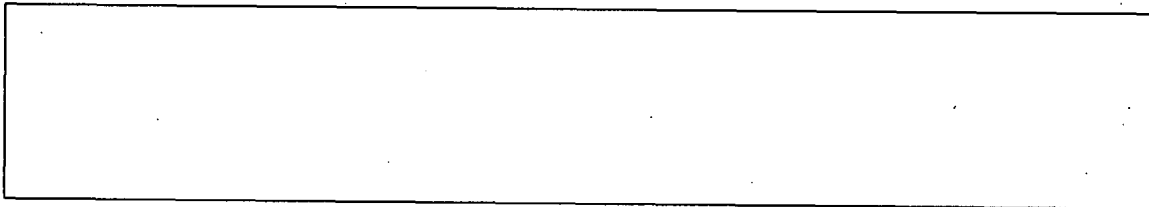
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political and military objectives set for the exercise were fully achieved.

The combined actions of the staffs and troops of the Bulgarian People's Army, the Hungarian People's Army, the National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic, the Polish Armed Forces, the Armed Forces of the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Soviet Army, and the Czechoslovak People's Army on the territory of the German Democratic Republic, convincingly demonstrated the indestructible unity and solidarity of the armies of the socialist countries.



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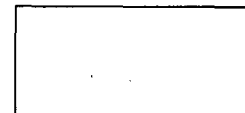
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Photograph 1. First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, E. Honecker and Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces, Marshal of the Soviet Union I. Yakubovskiy talk with Minister for National Defense of the German Democratic Republic, General of the Army H. Hoffmann.

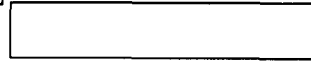
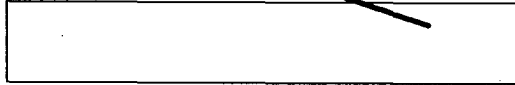


Photograph 2. Fighting men of the fraternal armies -- participants in the BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS Exercise.



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Photograph 3. A tank attack.



Photograph 4. Tanks included in an amphibious landing force.

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