
State Security Information on the Attention of Representatives of NATO Countries in Sofia to the "Balkan-87" Exercise, 4 June 1987

PERSONAL TOP SECRET!

Ministry of the Interior

No 610, copy No 3
04.06.1987

I N F O R M A T I O N

SUBJECT: *NATO Diplomats' Interest in "Balkan-87" Command-Staff Exercise*

During the second half of May, the military attachés of NATO member-states residing in Sofia increased their activity and made intelligence trips all around the country, aiming at obtaining preliminary data about the "Balkan-87" Command-Staff Exercise. Their attention was directed at establishing the regions where it would take place and the military units, which would take part in it.

For the time being, NATO military attachés have the information that the exercise had started on 25 May this year and units of Bulgarian Armed Forces were moving in the regions of Vakarel, Plovdiv, Chirpan, Sliven, Michurin, Varna, Silistra and Russe. According to them, the exercise was taking place in five "sectors" of Bulgaria. The Greek military attachés were assigned to investigate the third sector. For that purpose on 27 May this year they carried out an investigation trip along the route Sofia – Pazardjik – Plovdiv – Chirpan – Stara Zagora – Nova Zagora – Sliven – Kazanluk - Sofia. On 30 May they succeeded in reaching a prohibited zone and took pictures of the airport near the Cheshnigirovo, Plovdiv district.

During the evening of May 29 of this year, a meeting of the military attachés of NATO member-states was held in the British Embassy during which they informed each other about the results of the observations from the exercise regions. They took a decision on 29 and 30 May to swap the regions in which they had already done investigation trips. In this way they hoped to acquire more information.

During the evening of May 31, a new meeting was held for specify and verify the obtained data. The Greek intelligence agents shared the acquired data regarding military units and combat equipment in the regions of Pazardjik, Avramovo village, Sliven district, Nikolaevo town, Nova Zagora, etc., as well as about the movement of combat equipment from Stara Zagora in the direction of Dimitrovgrad and Haskovo and from Sliven to Burgas.

The First Secretary of the Albanian Embassy collected information about the number of Soviet and Romanian servicemen participating in the exercise, the points through which they came into the People's Republic of Bulgaria and whether a ferry was used for that purpose.

The Ministry of Interior is carrying out complex activities for finding and neutralizing the enemy's activity and its misinformation about "Balkan-87" Command-Staff exercise.

MINISTER: [signature]

[Source: Bulgarian State Security Archives, AMVR, Fond 1, Opis, 12, a.e. 823, pp. 1-4. Translation by Vania Petkova]