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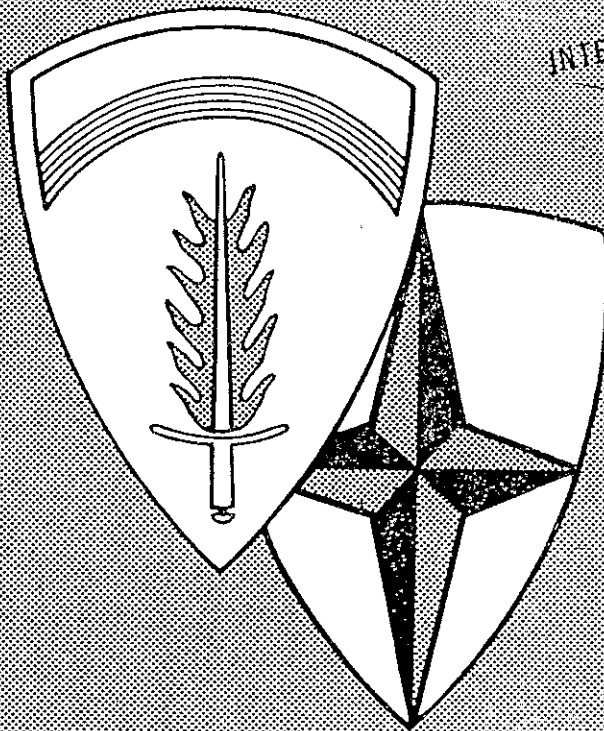
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PERINTREP 1-59  
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# PERIODIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT 1-59 (U)

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## FOREWORD

The USAREUR/CENTAG Periodic Intelligence Report (PERINTREP) is published quarterly in April, July and October and is designed to serve as a complementary publication to the USAREUR/CENTAG Intelligence Estimate. The PERINTREP is intended to support and augment the Intelligence Estimate through the dissemination of current and basic detailed intelligence.

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**USAREUR / CENTAG PERIODIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT**

( I-59 )  
01 APRIL 1959

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UNITED STATES ARMY, EUROPE  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G2  
01 APRIL 1959

PERIODIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 1-59

Period Covered: 15 November 1958 - 31 March 1959

Maps: 1/250,000

This Publication will be regraded CONFIDENTIAL on 01 April 1962.

1. (S) General Soviet/Satellite Situation

Military developments in the Soviet-Satellite area of eastern Europe during the period under review have been characterized by generally routine activities, although there have been indications that the GSFG training program recently has been accelerated, and both the Soviets and the East Germans are taking measures which would permit the turnover by the USSR of Berlin occupation functions to the East Germans.

Efforts by the Satellite armed forces to improve their military organization and mobilization procedures were evidenced by developments particularly in Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Bulgaria. In addition to the revision of mobilization procedures undertaken by Czechoslovakia earlier this year, the Poles are currently proceeding with a major overhaul of their mobilization system. Detailed instructions have been issued to individual reservists correcting obsolescent and incomplete provisions of the call-up system. Further improvement of the tactical capability of Soviet Bloc ground forces was highlighted by the continued reorganization and modernization of the Polish and East German Armies. The major developments in the Polish program include the inactivation of one infantry division, with the subsequent absorption of personnel by armored units; and the conversion of two mechanized divisions to tank divisions. In the East German Army, a motorized rifle division has been deactivated and personnel and equipment have been reallocated to form a third motorized rifle regiment in each of the remaining four motorized rifle divisions. This action has materially improved the potential of the

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army, since each of the motorized rifle divisions now have three, rather than two, motorized rifle regiments in an operational status. In the Bulgarian program, two rifle divisions and a tank brigade have been inactivated and personnel reassigned. The overall result of the reorganization programs in both Poland and Bulgaria has been to create a more mobile force, better adapted to meet the conditions of modern warfare.

Evidence of continuing efforts to improve air defense capabilities in the central European sector is provided by the planned activation of a second East German Army antiaircraft artillery division and the introduction into the GSFG of the "Guideline" surface-to-air missile.

In addition to their efforts to increase the effectiveness of their military forces, the Soviets have continued unabated their political campaign on the Berlin-German issue. By playing upon the vulnerabilities of the Western position in Berlin, the Soviets clearly hope to force the West into negotiating concessions which will strengthen the relative Soviet position in Europe. The current balance of strategic striking power, Soviet long-range strategy in Europe, and Soviet conduct to date, all strongly suggest that Soviet campaign actions will continue to fall short of aggressive military action and blockade. Formal Soviet acceptance on 30 March, of a Foreign Ministers' Conference and subsequent "summit" conference ended the first phase of the Soviet campaign.

2. (S) Soviet/Satellite Activities During the Period

a. Group Soviet Forces, Germany (GSFG)

Troop rotation, accomplishing the exchange of 95 - 100,000 troops, was completed in December. Personnel completing three years service were returned to the USSR and were replaced by new inductees. Individual basic training, close order drill, and physical exercises marked the first few weeks of the training year, followed by a gradual increasing tempo and scope of activity as the recruits were integrated into the units.

The start of the new training year was highlighted by the move-out of an estimated five regiments of antiaircraft to Wuestrow during the early part of December, indicating reversion to the normal GSFG pre-1958 annual training cycle commencing December 1st. Some

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decrease in emphasis on combined arms exercises, following initial individual and unit training by GSFG units, was offset by an increase in engineer river crossing practice during the first half of February, entailing considerable activity in ponton bridge building. Whereas in 1958, the line divisions appeared to move directly into extensive combined arms exercises involving somewhat difficult river crossing operations and control problems, this year showed a more steady advance apparently in accord with a more realistic appraisal of training capabilities.

The latter half of the period included reinforced tactical and movement exercises, conducted by most divisional units, and an army level command post exercise. The quarter terminated with the imposition of a large restricted area, encompassing most of the Third Guards Army and the northern part of the First Guards Tank Army areas, denying access to the Western Liaison Missions from 16 to 24 March. Large numbers of Soviet and East German Army units entered the area, and a field exercise at army level, probably with combined GSFG-EGA forces, was conducted during the period of restriction.

Soviet forces in East Berlin continued their normal activities and at the end of the quarter, no indication of an actual move of tactical units was apparent.

b. Northern Group of Forces (NGF)

Training is estimated to have reached regimental level by the end of the period. The sighting of ZSU 57/2 self-propelled anti-aircraft guns in the Soviet 20th Tank Division at Swietosow indicates a similar organization and priority on modern equipment to that of the GSFG.

c. Southern Group of Forces (SGF)

Training within SGF progressed through the basic phase and into small unit exercises; there were probably some regimental level field exercises during the period. In January 1959, the Soviet press referred to the Soviet Forces in Hungary as the "South Group of Troops". This is the first report of this force as a group and the title parallels that of "Northern Group of Forces" in Poland. Use of the term "Group" indicates that this headquarters is designed to command additional divisions in time of war. This command is now accepted as "Southern Group of Forces" - SGF.



Continued evidence of the modernization of this force was provided by the sighting of ZSU 57/2 self-propelled twin 57mm anti-aircraft artillery guns in one of the divisional medium tank regiments. Assault bridges mounted on T-34 tank chassis have also been observed in divisional engineer units for the first time.

d. USSR

Major changes in ground force line division holdings were accepted during this period. Some divisions previously held were dropped and new ones added. The total is now 109 line divisions held in the area west of the Ural-Caspian Sea line, with 14 additional divisions listed in the probable category. For the USSR as a whole, 175 line divisions have been identified and 28 additional divisions are likely to be in being.

Reorganization of Soviet divisions to provide greater mobility and flexibility continues. Approximately 100 of the total Soviet divisions are now identified as Tank, Mechanized or Motorized Rifle. It is anticipated that the trend toward 100 percent mobility will continue.

Large scale amphibious maneuvers were conducted last fall in the Gulf of Riga and a recent maneuver was held in the Karelian Isthmus between Leningrad and the Finnish border.

e. East German Army (EGA)

The East German Army began its training year 5 January 1959, and had reached platoon level by the 20th of the month. Training then progressed through successive command echelons to battalion level by the end of February. By late March, at least one regimental level exercise probably had been held in the Luebtheen training area. A combined exercise or command post exercise with GSFG was conducted in a large restricted area in the central part of East Germany, south of Berlin. All line divisions and major support units of Military District III, as well as two GHQ engineer regiments and a signal regiment, participated.

During the period, the inactivation of the 6th Motorized Rifle Division, which took place in December 1958, was accepted. Along with this reduction, two separate training regiments were established to relieve the line divisions of the mission of training

reservists of the East German Army. With the addition of personnel from the inactivated division, and the relief from reservist training duties, the combat potential of the remaining line divisions is expected to increase.

It has also been determined that the Railroad Security Police have reorganized as a precinct type organization similar to the civil police and are no longer a garrisoned police unit. Their mission remains the security of the state railroads in their areas.

f. Polish National Army (PNA)

Measures to improve mobilization procedures and control of reservists were taken during the reporting period. The improvements will enhance Poland's mobilization capability and may result in greater participation by reservists in the unit training program.

Reorganization and modernization of the Polish Armed Forces continues but at a slower pace when compared to the previous year. The deactivation of the 18th Infantry Division and the conversion of the 16th Mechanized Division to an armored type division are not expected to effect a significant change in the combat capability of the army. Personnel of the cadre strength 18th were transferred to other units in the Warsaw Military District and the conversion of the 16th to an armored division was not accompanied by a significant increase in tank strength. Reorganization of the non-divisional artillery of the Polish Army apparently is underway, but insufficient information is available to assess the overall pattern.

The equipment modernization program continues to show progress, as evidenced by an increase in heavier caliber anti-aircraft guns in air defense units, the receipt of additional T54 tanks, and the first reports of ZSU 57/2 self-propelled anti-aircraft guns.

g. Czechoslovak People's Army (CPA)

The Czechoslovak Army conducted fall exercises, which included air force support, from 2 to 4 October, in the area Olomouc-Prostejov-Vyskov in central Moravia. Although the scope of these exercises is not known, they were at least at divisional level and may have constituted a single large inter-divisional maneuver.

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The annual fall induction of recruits took place between 29 October and 1 November, and probably involved the class of 1939. Upon the completion of fall inductions and releases, units conducted basic training of new recruits at home stations from November 1958 until February 1959. Small unit exercises and some regimental size winter movement exercises were observed during February and March.

During the past few months there have been several indications that the Czechoslovak Army is redistributing some of its units; to date, exchanges of infantry and artillery units within divisions predominate. These changes in location of units may have resulted from the reduction in field training areas announced last summer or may indicate continued reorganization of Czechoslovak Army units.

A study of equipment holdings in the Czech motorized rifle divisions reveals that while they are following the basic Soviet organizational structure, some units continue to reflect the old, now non-standard, equipment patterns. This development parallels the activity observed in the motorized rifle divisions within the GSFG, where, for example, upgunning and standardization of artillery units has not been completed. In the interim period, prior to full implementation of revised TOES, the Czech line units will exhibit certain variants when compared to their Soviet counterparts; these modifications are the reflection of an indigenous weapons system and the phased implementation of the modernization effort. A comparable situation exists in the Polish Army (and probably in all Satellite forces), wherein current divisional organizations do not equate precisely with the accepted Soviet division TOES.

There are indications that a major overhaul of mobilization procedures is being effected in Czechoslovakia. All reserve officers and enlisted men were required to re-register at the nearest military installation during January and were issued new mobilization instructions. The occurrence of these changes just prior to similar ones in Poland indicates probable Warsaw Pact direction.

h. Hungarian People's Army (HPA)

Troop training during the period consisted primarily of basic and individual specialist training, plus some unit training at company level and below.

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Modernization of HPA units has continued, as evidenced by the acquisition of 100mm antiaircraft artillery guns by home defense (Ollep) antiaircraft artillery units and the sighting of 57mm antiaircraft artillery guns in motorized rifle regiment antiaircraft elements. There are indications that HPA field artillery units are adopting six-gun batteries.

Three motorized rifle division headquarters were located during the period, and the existence of an additional motorized rifle division and a new antiaircraft division has been reported; the latter are not accepted. HPA division count remains at six motorized rifle, one artillery and two antiaircraft.

### i. Rumanian Army

Rumanian Army strength has been reduced from 215, 000 to 200, 000, and from twelve infantry divisions to ten (the army now comprises twelve divisions; ten infantry, one tank and one mechanized). This reduction probably is the result of modernization and mechanization efforts along Soviet lines, and should contribute to the relief of Rumania's economic burdens. A much more gradual motorization trend has been evidenced in the Rumanian Army than in other Satellites; currently only two infantry divisions probably have been motorized.

Security troop strength is believed to have been increased slightly as a result of the Rumanian Government's efforts to tighten security controls.

Training has followed the normal winter pattern of recruit and individual type training, progressing into specialist and low level unit training.

### j. Bulgarian Army

Rumors of Bulgarian troop movements along the Greek and Yugoslav borders in February and March, probably resulted from an early initiation of field training, rather than any move threatening those countries. Recent reorganizations and relocations of some Bulgarian Army units have resulted in the concentration of the bulk of the Army in southern Bulgaria, opposite the Greek and Turkish borders. Bulgarian air defense has undergone a reorganization providing more effective control and bringing its organization closer to that of other Satellites.

k. Albanian Army

Tank units in the Albanian Army are reportedly expanding due to receipt of additional more modern tanks and other vehicles from the Soviets. Low level reports of missiles and missile bases continue to be received and the development of Soviet submarine bases and coastal air defense installations continues.

3. (C) Other Intelligence Factors

Other developments of significance during the first quarter of 1959 included:

a. The Twenty First Party Congress, held in Moscow from 27 January to 6 February, formally acknowledged Khrushchev as the supreme Soviet leader and adopted an audacious plan for Soviet economic growth during the next seven years.

b. There were indications of increasing unrest in Czechoslovakia.

c. The Polish Third Party Congress confirmed Gomulka's leadership of Poland and reasserted an essentially middle course for Polish policy.

d. Yugoslav-Soviet Bloc relations continued to be strained, while Yugoslav-Albanian relations deteriorated.

e. Bulgaria and Rumania initiated programs for economic growth and increased socialization.

f. The Hungarian regime has introduced a new drive for agricultural collectivization.

(See Annexes 21 through 23 for a complete appraisal of the above activities.)

4. (C) Counterintelligence

The counterintelligence situation, for the past quarter, was strongly effected by the heightening East-West tensions over the Berlin and German problems. Both the hostile intelligence services and the subversive elements responded to Soviet requirements in support of Communist Bloc maneuvers concerning Berlin.

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The Soviet and Satellite espionage services directed increased attention to collection of basic Order of Battle information on USAREUR/CENTAG forces, and emphasized coverage of Allied alert plans. As expected, the national Communist Parties and adjuvant elements gave widespread support to announced Soviet intentions in an attempt to popularize the Khrushchev proposals. The hostile intelligence services continued to pose the greatest current threat to USAREUR/CENTAG security.

(See Annex 24, page 106, for a complete appraisal of the past quarter's counterintelligence activity.)

5. (S) Soviet/Satellite Capabilities

Soviet forces in the Satellite area are continuing to improve their tactical capabilities through intensive training; efforts by the Satellite armed forces to improve their military organizations and to streamline mobilization procedures are in progress. Continued Soviet efforts to develop and deploy all categories of missiles have been evidenced and particular attention is being directed toward improvements in air defense capabilities in the central European sector. The overall result of these programs has been to create a more mobile, responsive military structure, which will be better able to meet the conditions of modern warfare.

Although the Soviets and East Germans are continuing to take measures which would permit the turnover of Berlin "occupation functions" to the East Germans, it is improbable that the USSR will effect any drastic change in the Berlin situation during the period of the scheduled East-West negotiations.

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## STRENGTHS

1. (S) Number of line ground divisions and estimated personnel strengths of Soviet Armed Forces outside the USSR.

	<u>Line Divisions</u>	<u>Ground Forces</u>	<u>Air Forces</u>	<u>Security Forces</u>	<u>Total</u>
GSFG (Germany)	20	323,000(1)	28,500	5,500	357,000
NGF (Poland)	2	42,500	10,500(2)	2,000	55,000
SGF (Hungary)	4	68,000	10,000	5,000	83,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>433,500</b>	<b>49,000</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>495,000</b>
				Soviet Mission in Albania	300
				Soviet Mission in Bulgaria	1,000(3)
				Soviet Mission in Czechoslovakia	100
				Soviet Mission in Rumania	2,000
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,400</b>

2. (S) Number of line ground divisions and estimated personnel strengths of Satellite Armed Forces.

	<u>Line Divisions</u>	<u>Ground Forces</u>	<u>Air Forces</u>	<u>Security Forces</u>	<u>Total</u>
East German	6(4)	67,500	7,000	67,000(5)	141,500
Polish	13(6)	226,000	32,000	45,000(7)	303,000
Czecho- slovakian	14	143,500	25,000(8)	44,000	212,500
Hungarian	6(9)	67,000	4,000	30,000	101,000
Rumanian	12(10)	200,000(11)	13,000	78,000	291,000
Bulgarian	8(12)	110,000	10,000	36,000(13)	156,000
Albanian (5 Brigades)	0	25,000(14)	2,000	10,000	37,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>839,000</b>	<b>93,000</b>	<b>310,000</b>	<b>1,242,000</b>

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3. (S) Number of line divisions and estimated personnel strengths of Soviet Armed Forces within the USSR located in the thirteen military districts west of the Ural-Caspian line.

	<u>Line Divisions</u>	<u>Ground Forces</u>	<u>Air Forces</u>	<u>Security Forces</u>	<u>Total</u>
USSR	109(15)	1,700,000	600,000	250,000	2,550,000

4. (S) Total Soviet Order of Battle - Line Division estimate based on latest reorganization trends.

Total number of Soviet Line Divisions - 175 Divisions

Motorized Rifle	110
Tank	45
Airborne	10
Mountain Rifle	10
TOTAL	175

5. (S) Soviet line divisions in Satellites - 26 Divisions

a. East Germany	20 (10 tank, 10 motorized rifle)
b. Poland	2 (1 tank, 1 mechanized or motorized rifle)
c. Hungary	4 (motorized rifle)
TOTAL	26 (11 tank, 15 motorized rifle)

6. (S) Satellite Ground Forces - 59 Divisions

a. East Germany	6 (2 tank, 4 motorized rifle)
b. Poland	13 (4 armored type (tank), 5 mechanized, 4 infantry)
c. Czechoslovakia	14 (3 tank, 11 motorized rifle)
d. Hungarian	6 (motorized rifle)
e. Rumanian	12 (1 tank, 1 mechanized, 9 rifle, 1 mountain)
f. Bulgarian	8 (1 tank, 7 rifle)
g. Albania	0 (5 infantry brigades)
TOTAL	59

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- (1) 3,000 decrease reflects reduction of all reconnaissance battalions to companies (See Annex 3).
- (2) Increase of 37 Tactical Air Army fighter divisions from 2 to 3.
- (3) Reductions accomplished during 1957 and 1958.
- (4) Reduction of line divisions from 7 to 6 did not affect EGA strength.
- (5) BSP-37,000; SGP-3,000; SAP-15,000; DAP-3,500; RSP-8,500. Increased emphasis on recruiting added 2,000 to BSP. DAP strength reduced 3,500 by unit deactivations.
- (6) Deactivation of 18 Infantry Division reduced line divisions from 14 to 13.
- (7) Reflects Internal Security Troop (KBW) decrease from 32,000 to 25,000; Frontier Guards (WOP) remain at 20,000.
- (8) Strength increased by 5,000.
- (9) Three divisions at 60 percent strength, three at 30 percent.
- (10) Elimination of two infantry divisions reduced total from 14 to 12.
- (11) Reduction from 215,000 reflects elimination of two infantry divisions.
- (12) Reorganization resulted in reductions of two infantry divisions without change in overall strength.
- (13) Reflects Interior Troop increase from 15,000 to 21,000; Frontier Troops remain at 15,000.
- (14) Decrease of 5,000 reflects reanalysis of labor troop strength.
- (15) This does not include fourteen additional probable or possible Ground Force line divisions believed to be in this area.

## DISPOSITIONS

(C) GSFG

There has been no change in the disposition of major units in GSFG during the period.

(C) NORTHERN GROUP OF FORCES, POLAND

No change in dispositions during the period.

(S) SOUTHERN GROUP OF FORCES - Figure No. 1

The unidentified Army Headquarters at Kecskemet has been dropped, and the four motorized rifle divisions relocated as follows: 2nd Guards from Kecskemet to Esztergom; 13th Guards from Szombathely to Szekesfehervar; 35th Guards from Baja-Szeged area to Kecskemet, and the unidentified divisions from Szekesfehervar to the Pecs-Szekszard area.

(S) USSR

Total of confirmed line divisions in the USSR area west of the Ural-Caspian Sea line now amounts to 109, some previously held divisions being dropped and others added. In addition, fourteen (14) line divisions are now considered also to be in this area. Generally, these divisions are deployed proportionately according to the strength of the Military Districts and no inordinate concentration has been indicated.

(S) EGA - Figure No. 2

The only change in the disposition of major units during the period was the inactivation of the 6th Motorized Rifle Division. (See Annex 3)

(S) EAST GERMAN GARRISONED SECURITY FORCES

There have been no significant changes in the disposition of any element of the East German Garrisoned Security Forces.

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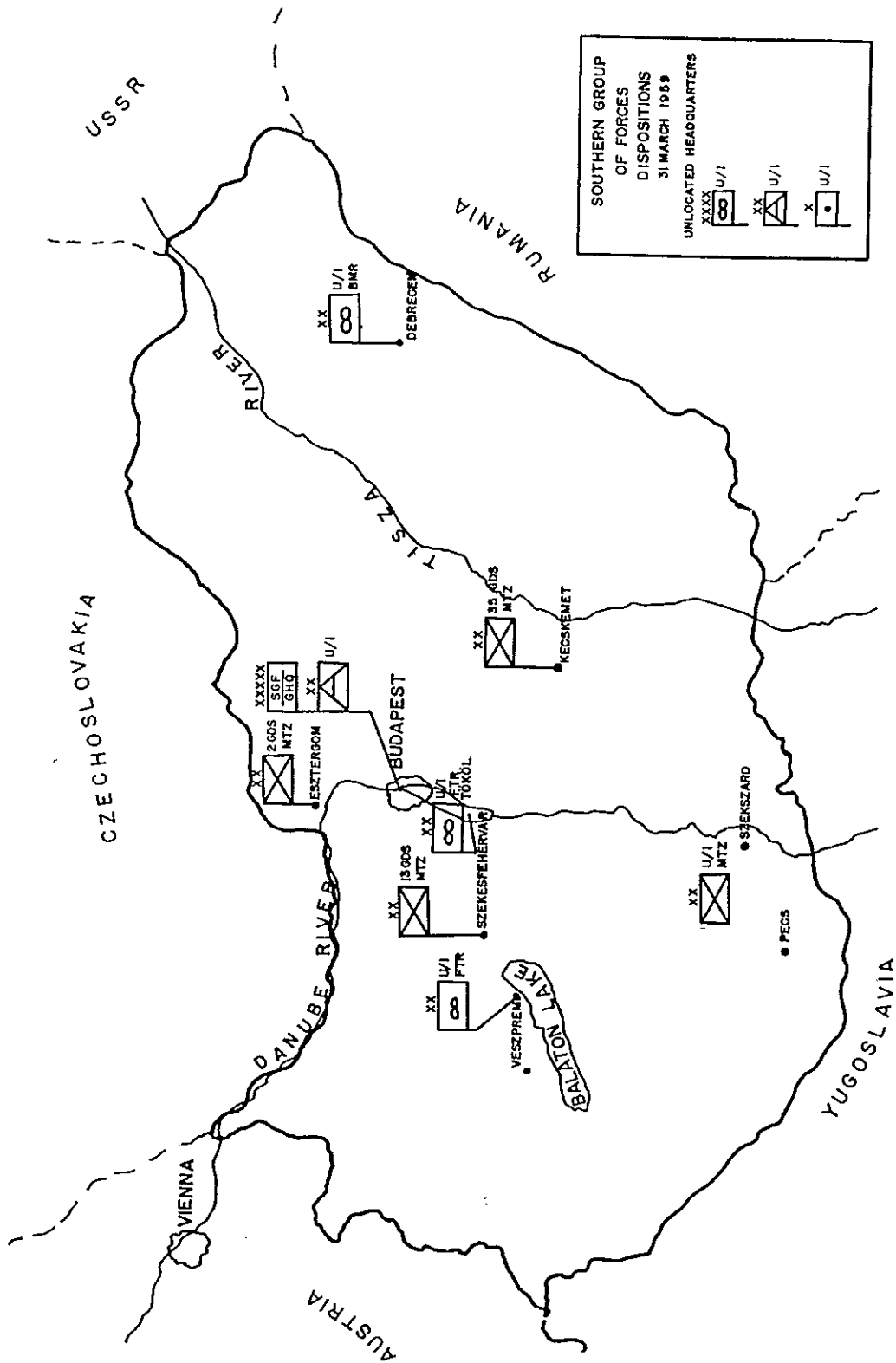


Figure No. 1

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EAST GERMAN ARMY

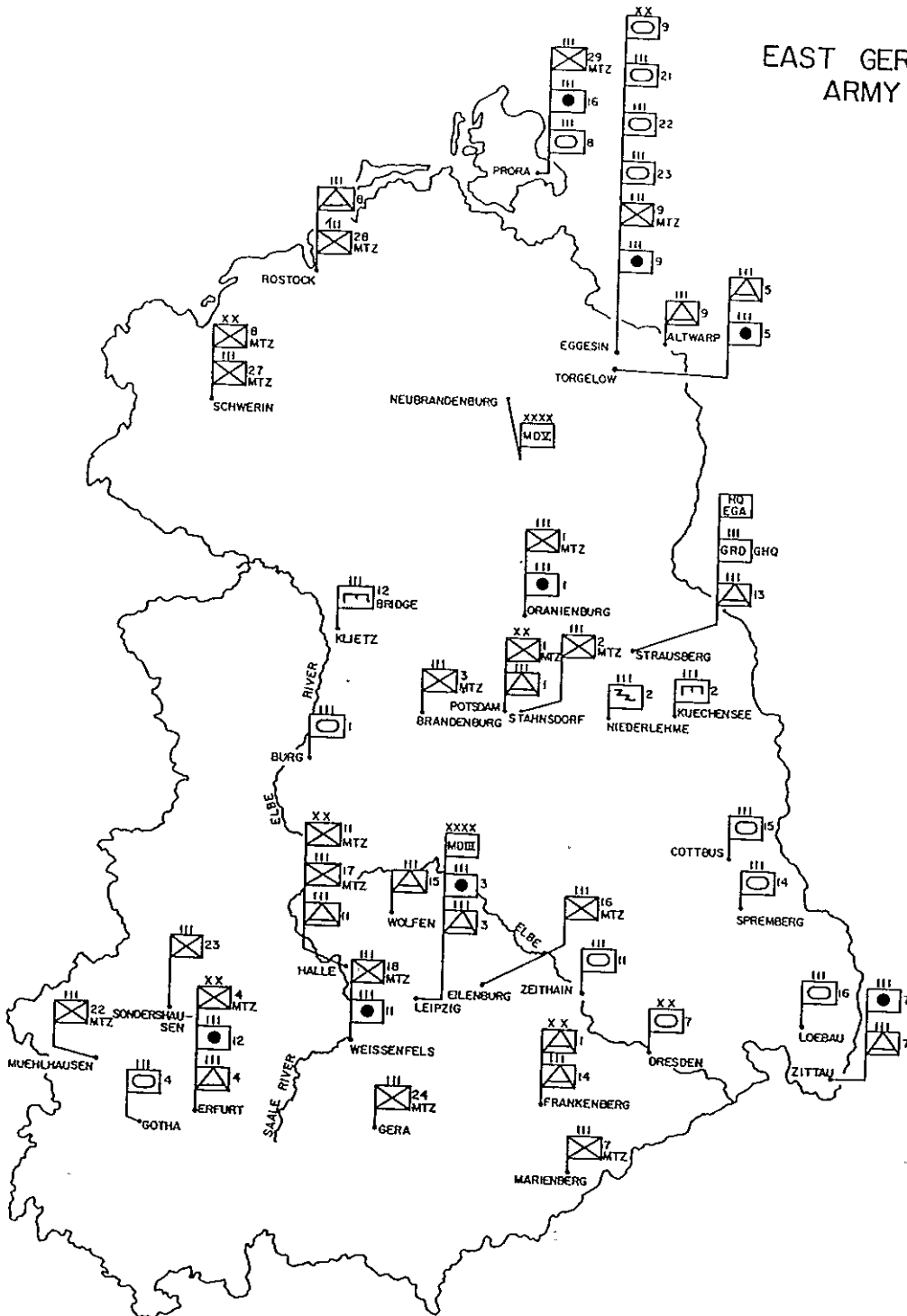


Figure No. 2

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(S) POLISH GROUND FORCES - Figure No. 3

The 16th Mechanized Division at Elblag has been converted to an armored type divisions. The 18th Infantry Division formerly located at Elk and the unidentified independent artillery brigades formerly at Kolobrzeg and Bydgoszcz have been dropped. Three home defense (OPL) antiaircraft artillery division headquarters have been dropped: the 9th at Warsaw, the 13th at Bytom and the unidentified division at Szczecin.

(S) POLISH INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES - Figure No. 4

The two unidentified KBW regiments at Koszalin and Gora Kalwaria have been dropped and the 3rd KBW Brigade has been reduced to a regiment.

(S) POLISH FRONTIER GUARDS

No change in dispositions during the period.

(S) CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY - Figure No. 5

The 12th Motorized Rifle Division at Karlovy Vary has been redesignated the 20th Motorized Rifle Division. The 13th Motorized Rifle Division at Kromeriz has probably been converted to a tank divisions, and will be carried as the 13th Tank (?) Division.

(S) HUNGARIAN PEOPLES ARMY - Figure No. 6

The 12th Motorized Rifle Division at Kiskunfelegyhaza is redesignated the 27th Motorized Rifle Division, and the 52nd (?) OLP Antiaircraft Division at Veszprem will be carried as an Unidentified Antiaircraft Division.

(S) HUNGARIAN SECURITY FORCES - Figure No. 7

Figure No. 7 shows current dispositions of Hungarian Security Forces.

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