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SENIOR CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

CIVIL DEFENCE PREPARATIONS IN IRON CURTAIN COUNTRIES

Note by the Senior Civil Defence Advisor

1. CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING

There is no direct knowledge of the existence of a Soviet equivalent to AC/98-D/14. However, it would certainly be impossible to carry out such a programme as the one which is implemented in Russia without some sort of basic assumptions. On some parts of Civil Emergency Planning, evidence has been gained of existing plans (e.g., classification of target areas in Hungary).

From information provided from various sources, it appears that Soviet assumptions are revised from time to time. At present, it seems that they envisage attacks by manned bombers, from western and southern Europe, using megaton bombs on larger targets and small nuclear, high-explosive and incendiary on other targets. Communications would be disrupted and most areas would have to rely on local organization for survival. The population would probably stay put, and evacuation would be primarily post-attack and short distance in nature. The stress is certainly put on self-protection and self-help; judging from the scale of training given to the population, civilians are undoubtedly expected to cope with a very large part of the post-attack situation without the diversion of troops to assist in rescue operations. Fairly simple measures, known to a large number of the population, are expected to reduce fallout of CBR casualties considerably. (?)

In organization the satellites follow the Soviet example very closely, but only in Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria have preparations been pushed forward as energetically as in the USSR.

Technical data given in the Appendices to AC/98-D/14 are generally given in handbooks published by Soviets. Radio and specialized magazines are frequently dealing with Civil Emergency Planning.

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2. WARNING SYSTEM

It seems probable that Civil Defence liaison officers are located at the Air Defence centres, which control the early warning radar systems. There is a complete chain of reporting centres, up to a main control centre in each country and a chief control centre in Moscow, which contain liaison officers of the AA artillery, missile forces, manned interceptors, etc. Civil Defence action could be initiated as soon as the approaching force has been identified and warning could be given as soon as its most likely objectives had been established. The warning time in USSR may vary, according to location of targets, from 20 to 90 minutes in case of a high altitude force approaching from Western Europe. In satellite countries, the warning time would vary between 15 and 30 minutes. It might be less in case of low-flying aircraft. Anyway, if the instructions given in the various manuals are observed and if shelter construction is as widespread as it appears to be, most of the population could be in shelter in less than ten minutes.

One source of information reports that within the Warsaw Pact there is a complete integration of national warning system into an international one.

3. SHELTER

The most widespread form of shelter in the USSR is a reinforced concrete basement incorporated into new apartment blocks during construction. This type of construction was first noted in 1950 and has been stepped up since 1955. No public announcement has been made about these shelters. But they have been mentioned by defectors from many towns; they may therefore be presumed as a standard feature. If this is so, about one-quarter to one-third of Soviet urban dwellers already have access to shelters, and by 1965 this should be true of approximately half the urban population.

There has been an increase during the last two years in construction of free-standing shelters in town centres, while large numbers of shelters have been built in factories and new office buildings usually seem to have them. Many World War II shelters have been renovated. The metros in Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev are also used.

Reports from various Intelligence Sources show that in Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia progress has been achieved in the construction of larger blast shelters, either for high officials of the Party, officers and their families, or within industrial establishments.

All shelters appear to be designed to protect against blast, fire, falling debris and fallout. They usually are provided with a ventilation and air filtering system, with blast-proof doors, emergency exits and such amenities as to enable people to stay for some time in the shelters. The protective factor against radiation is, in most cases, of the order of 1,000.

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In rural areas, much less has been done. The types of shelters generally proposed are simple earth-covered wooden dug-outs, intended to offer short-term fallout protection. The contrast in preparedness between urban and rural areas and the lack of literature about evacuation tends to reinforce the view that in general a stay-put policy is proposed.

No information has been collected on the financing of shelter construction in USSR and satellite countries.

4. SELF-HELP

The basic unit of non-industrial Civil Defence is the "self-defence group." All reports indicate that the remedial measures to be taken after the attack will in general be carried out by the population itself, directed and assisted by the Civil Defence operational services. These are mainly formed from their equivalent departments of the peacetime fire, police, construction, medical and sanitary services of the local authorities.

There has never been any mention of the existence of Civil Defence Mobile Columns in USSR. Moreover, no indication has ever been given of the total strength of the Civil Defence Services.

In Russia, as well as in the satellite countries, a great emphasis is placed on self-help and self-protection.

5. TRAINING

Every Soviet citizen is required by law to take a Civil Defence course.

There are Civil Defence schools in a number of "oblast" centres. Though no list of schools has ever been issued, there is probably at least one in each "oblast." The primary purpose of these schools appears to be the training of instructors. Little is known about Staff Colleges, though these do exist. The DOSAAF (Organization of Volunteers for Co-operation with Land, Air and Navy Forces) has responsibilities for Civil Defence Instructional methods.

Medical personnel are trained for Civil Defence action in their own establishments. They also assist in training instructors and the public. There is in Minsk a post-graduate Medical Institute giving advanced training, over a 3-year period, on medical care of casualties after mass attacks. A textbook based on the training given in this Institute has been widely distributed.

The training programme for the general public has passed through several stages. From 1955 to 1957 general training consisted of 10 hours of instruction. In early 1957, it was

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superseded by a 22-hour course, which in turn gave place in 1959 to a 14-hour programme. Each course has had more practical testing of knowledge than the previous one. The latest one leads to the award of a badge "Ready for Civil Defence - 1st Grade." It appears that the course must be retaken if the trainee does not pass the examination for award of the badge. A new course "Ready for Civil Defence - Grade II" is to be initiated soon and at present instructors are being trained in it. It consists of 15 hours of instruction and 3 hours of testing.

It is very difficult to assess how many people have been trained. For the 10-hour course instituted in 1955, it was claimed that 85.5% of the adult population had been trained. The 22-hour course was to be completed by the entire adult population by the end of 1958, but was behind schedule in most areas. However, areas containing about 40% of the population claimed to have trained all adults and many others claimed a high percentage of completion. Some rural areas, however, have not yet started training. One area was mentioned as "lagging" because only 29% of the public had been trained. Instruction in the 22-hour course was still under way in late 1959, by which time most of the country had switched to the 14-hour course, which was to be completed some time in 1960, though it, too, is much behind schedule.

In general, industrial enterprises are fairly well advanced with training and the rural areas are most behindhand.

Rough estimates on the total number of people which have been trained in USSR may be given as follows:

		<u>Cumulative Total</u>
10-hour programme	61 million	61 million
22-hour programme	51 million	13 million
14-hour programme	29 million	7 million
		<hr/>
		81 million
		<hr/>

This figure may well be too low. On the other hand, it cannot give any idea of the quality of training which, on the whole, appears to be mediocre.

The percentage trained varies on a regional basis, and is higher in Western USSR than elsewhere, and also on an occupational basis, being higher among industrial workers than in the rest of the population, and lowest of all among the collective farm peasantry.

A course for schoolchildren, called "be ready for anti-air defence" began in autumn 1959. No information is yet available.

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Two different medals have been prepared by the Soviet Government to encourage people in Civil Defence activities. These medals are:

- (a) Distinguished Civil Defence;
- (b) Completion of Red Cross Courses.

6. CONTROL OF THE POPULATION

The directives issued on the behaviour of the population in time of emergency make it clear that they are to take their orders from the Civil Defence authorities.

Until early 1960, the department responsible for Civil Defence in USSR was the Federal Ministry of Interior (MVD) and, under it, the Ministry of Interior of each Republic. As the Federal Ministry of Interior has been suppressed, on the 13th January, 1960, Civil Defence now comes under the MVD in each Republic. There is no accurate information on what body deals now with Civil Defence at Central Government level.

As regards tactical control of the population in emergency - and in particular under nuclear conditions - some information has been collected. First of all, nobody is allowed to get out of shelters until the local Civil Defence Organization (MPVO) has sounded the "All Clear." But in case a warning of CBR has been given, people must ignore the "All Clear" and stay in shelters until MPVO tells them to come out.

There is no information, however, on the length of time people are expected to stay under cover. But, as has been reported in paragraph 3, shelters are designed for more than "short stay" use.

Control of the population, as well as emergency operations, is the task of Civil Defence units, as was said above (MPVO). These units exist in all communities in USSR, from villages up to the biggest cities. Each organization has a Commissioner as officer in charge. In each factory there is an Industrial Civil Defence team, as well as in every school, farm, commercial establishment, etc. The Manager or Head of each establishment is also responsible for Civil Defence. In towns, there is a Civil Defence team for every 300 people (block protection). These units, together with the police forces, will assume the control of the population in case of emergency.

(Signed) Sir JOHN HODSOLL

OTAN/NATO,
Paris, XVIe.

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