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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY

(C) USSR

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT

DATE DISTR.

13 March 1957

NO. PAGES

7

REQUIREMENT NO.

RD

DATE OF INFO.

REFERENCES

*E025x1 CIA*

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

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**Declassified Authority:**  
**33546 By: Dorothy Johnson**  
**Date: 02-08-2017**

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STATE	#x ARMY	#x NAVY	#x AIR	#x FBI	AEC	#x			
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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DEFECTOR RECEPTION CENTERREPORT NO. RC-3982  
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CS-3,308,294

COUNTRY Hungary  
SUBJECT Observations of Two Soviet Atomic Warfare Films  
DATE OF INFORMATION June 1956  
PLACE ACQUIRED Germany

DATE DISTR. 6 Feb. 1957  
NO. OF PAGES 6  
REFERENCES:

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE DS-746 is a Hungarian citizen born in 1932 in Kolarovo (N 47-55, E 18-00), Czechoslovakia. He claims to have served in the Hungarian 9th Mechanized Division Headquarters at Keszthely (N 46-46, E 17-15) as the division's assistant technical officer from 10 December 1955 until his defection on 4 November 1956. From September 1950 to December 1955 he attended engineering universities in Miskolc (N 48-06, E 20-47) and Budapest under the Hungarian ROTC program and graduated as an army technical engineer. At the same time he was commissioned a lieutenant of the engineer branch. Source has special parole status qualifying him for early entry into the United States. Because of the time limit imposed, no normal establishment of bona fides has been made. Any information adversely affecting source's bona fides will be reported.

Attached is a report prepared by the Army unit at DRC. It is circulating within the Department of the Army as Report No. 746-A-2024 and is a partial answer to USAREUR ICM I-19-55.

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RC-3982Partial Answer to USAREUR ICM I-19-55

## OBSERVATIONS ON TWO SOVIET ATOMIC WARFARE FILMS

Introduction

This report outlines a sequence of scenes as Source remembers them from two films shown in July 1956. The films were shown in the Ministry of Defense building in BUDAPEST to about 50 selected Soviet and Hungarian officers including Source. They depicted two alleged Soviet atomic explosions. One film showed an alleged daylight ground burst, the other an alleged night air burst. Both films were silent and the scenes were narrated by an unknown Soviet Army officer. No one was permitted to take notes. The films were classified Secret.

Source could not deduce any detailed information on tactical disposition or equipment because the scenes showed only individual shots of vehicles, aircraft, and troops advancing without showing disposition or frontage. The narration did not cover troop strength.

1. Time, Place, and Attendance of Showings

In July 1956 Source attended the showings of two secret films in the Ministry of Defense building in BUDAPEST concerning two alleged Soviet atomic explosions. Approximately 50 persons attended, among them approximately 10 unidentified Soviet officers, ranks unremembered, who were technical advisers to various Hungarian Army units; the remainder of the personnel were Hungarian Army officers from the staff of the III and VI (Source's) Corps and subordinate division staff including the 9th and 32d Rifle Divisions (his own parent unit?). See Annex A for a list of officers Source remembered as attending. Source attended in his capacity as 9th Division Technical officer.

2. Films

Both films were silent, black and white, and each was approximately four hours long. A Soviet Army officer who spoke Hungarian fluently narrated as the films were shown and conducted a critique following the films. Both films were shown the same day (either 14 or 15 July 1956). Source did not know if this was the first showing in Hungary, nor had he ever heard of the films as being available for showing. Source did not know the dates of the films, where they originated, or where they were stored.

a. Scene of the Explosions

The area in which the films were made was not specified, but the Soviet narrator told the group, as the picture started, that the same troops participated in both films and that they comprised two unspecified mechanized divisions. Source described the terrain shown in the demonstration area as resembling the terrain between (sic) "BUDAPEST and VIENNA" in Austria. Source assumed these films were made in the summer because of the appearance of the vegetation and surrounding wooded area.

b. Sequence of Scenes in the Daylight, Surface Burst Film

This is the title as Source remembered it: ATOMTAMADAS NAPPOL-VEDELMTRENDSZER KIEPITESE (Atomic Attack During Daylight -Structure of CER Defense).

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Following is the sequence of scenes in the film showing the daylight explosion, as Source remembered it:

(1). Pre-Explosion Preparations

Unidentified Soviet troops were stationed in trenches five to seven km. long, approximately one meter wide at the top and 20 to 30 cm. wide at the bottom, and approximately 1.10 m deep. The sides of the trench were lined with wooden planks. T-34 tanks and unidentified artillery pieces were in bunkers behind the entrenched troops. Trenches were approximately 8 to 12 km. from anticipated ground zero. Troops participating in the demonstration wore conventional uniforms topped by rubber protective boots which reached to the crotch, rubber gloves, gas masks (Schlem-I), and a protective cape.<sup>1</sup>

The target area had buildings and mock constructions made of various materials to simulate a city. Various types of equipment, including T-34 tanks, trucks and artillery pieces, all manned by dummies, were scattered throughout the target area. There was also a simulated airfield in the target area, with two unidentified aircraft. Dummies wearing the conventional field uniform with all items of personal equipment, including small arms, were placed in prone positions on the surface of the ground in and around the target area. Source did not see any animals in the film. An aerial view of the entire area, including the positions of the troops, was shown prior to the alleged bomb drop.

Troops were not told the expected time of explosion; however, they were warned that an alert would be sounded. The alert was given through the normal chain of command by telephone.

(2). The Explosion

An unknown number of unidentified planes approached the target area with an unidentified two-engine plane following the formation. The Soviet officer narrating stated that the two-engined plane (which supposedly dropped the bomb) was flying at approximately 12,000 meters and that the alleged bomb to be dropped was a "medium"-sized bomb. The Soviet narrator told the group that this was to be a surface burst, and that there were three other-type bursts: subsurface, air, and underwater, which he did not describe further.

When the alleged bomb exploded, there was a brilliant flash of light, followed by a large column of smoke rising in the air, forming a mushroom cloud. The narrator stated that this particular explosion caused complete destruction within a radius of approximately three to four km. The film then showed aerial scenes of the various fires and damage done to the simulated city, airfield, vehicles, and equipment in the target area. It continued to show various degrees of destruction radiating outward from ground zero back to the troop emplacement. However, Source could not estimate distances in relation to the damage done, nor was any information given by the narrator.

c. Post-Explosion Activities

A formation of an unknown number of unidentified planes approached the target area and allegedly dropped practice bombs and allegedly fired conventional rockets in the target area. The Soviet narrator told the group that these bombers arrived approximately 15 to 20 minutes following the alleged atom bomb explosion, their purpose being to simulate hampering or preventing recovery measures.

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The scene then shifted to the trenches and bunkers where the men and equipment were located. Artillery opened fire on the target area. T-34 tanks appeared and moved forward as the troops left the trenches with gas masks and the other protective items listed above. They mounted the tanks as they moved forward.

The tanks approached to a point allegedly .8 km. from ground zero. An unknown number of bulldozers then appeared and started scraping the top surface of the ground, moving forward between the tanks in a line of columns towards ground zero.

Foot troops were shown in skirmish formation, starting toward ground zero. The Soviet narrator told the group that these troops were going forward approximately 45 minutes after the bulldozers had passed, following the paths through the area made by the bulldozers on the surface of the ground. An unidentified truck with a container of alleged chloride of lime solution appeared and two men were shown decontaminating a tank, spraying from hoses which were attached to the solution container. Source estimated the capacity of the container to be about 3,000 liters.

(1). Radioactivity Monitoring Team

The film then showed a two-man monitoring team going forward wearing rubber suits. One man carried an unidentified instrument to measure the radioactivity, and the other man carried an unidentified pack radio. Source could not further describe this instrument or the suit; they were not shown close-up. The instrument for measuring radioactivity had a bulb on it which allegedly lit up when radioactivity was present, and a meter scale which gave the radioactive intensity in roentgens. The man operating the instrument passed his readings on to the radio man who relayed the readings to an unknown destination. As this team went forward, they carried a rubber rug to lie on while taking their readings. The Soviet narrator told the group that 150 roentgens would cause death. No further information.

This two-man monitoring team also marked the contaminated area, using diamond-shaped flags mounted on a stick or pole. Yellow flags were used for heavy contamination (intensity unknown); red, for mild contamination (intensity unknown); and white for no contamination. The narrator also stated that piles of earth sprayed with white paint or whitewash could be used to delimit a clear area.

(2). All Clear

At the command "all clear" (signal unknown) troops were shown ostensibly walking toward the rear and being met by unidentified decontamination troops. The troops who participated in the demonstration unmasked, undressed, and showered, using a shower unit mounted on a ZIS 151 truck. After showering, troops were issued clean uniforms. While the troops were showering, a squad of six or seven men decontaminated small arms and equipment by spraying them with chloride of lime.

The Soviet narrator told the group that "each battalion in the Soviet Army" had a squad of decontamination specialists who operated shower units and decontaminated equipment.

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d. Alleged Night Air Burst

The title as shown was ATOMTAMADAS ESTKOR-VEDELMIRENDSZER KIEPITESE (Atomic Attack at Night-Structure of CER Defense). According to the narrator the film showing the night exercises was conducted in the same area, approximately five to seven kilometers from the site of the daylight explosion. He did not mention which explosion came first or what time had elapsed between filmings. He noted no telltale evidence of destruction in either film prior to the showing of the burst, to indicate an earlier explosion. The same preliminary preparations were made for the night exercises as for the daylight exercises. The alleged bomb was an air burst detonated approximately 300 meters from the ground. The Soviet narrator stated that the nighttime explosion caused 50 percent more complete destruction, outward from ground zero, than the surface burst they had seen in the first film. The same sequence of events that were shown following the explosion in the first film were repeated in the second film; however, more time was given to showing tanks maneuvering in the demonstration area than in the first film. No further information.

The Soviet narrator told the group that the heat of the ground directly under the air burst was one million degrees Centigrade.

e. Critique

The following questions were asked during the critique after the showing of the films. All the answers were given by the Soviet officer who had narrated the film.

Q. How long a period would be needed for complete decontamination of a radioactive area?

A. Eight months, for any type of burst.

Q. How long a period would be needed for an individual to recover from radioactive burns?

A. The medical people are working on this.

Q. When will the USSR equip the Hungarian Army with atomic weapons?

A. In due time.

The Soviet narrator finished the critique by telling the group that the Satellites need not worry about atomic weapons since the USSR would destroy any nation using atomic weapons first.

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## Annex A

Following is an incomplete list of Hungarian officers by name, grade, and position (comprising all those whom Source remembered) who attended the showing of the two films on atomic exercises:

VI Corps Headquarters

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Position</u>
KEMENDI, Béla	Col	Chief of Staff
SZOSZNYAK, Sandor	Capt	Technical Assistant to CO
VIRAG, Gyula	Lt Col	Corps Armor Officer
CSIZMADIA, Béla	Sr Lt	Asst Armor Corps Officer
BIRO, Ferencz	Col	Artillery Staff

9th Rifle Division

FEJES, Lajos	Lt Col	Commanding Officer
FERECZI, Florian	Lt Col	Deputy to CO
ZSIROS, Balazs	Major	Chief of Artillery
TATRAI, Gyula	Major	Political Deputy
SZIKI, Gyula	Capt	Signal Chief
RAKOS, Sandor	Capt	Quartermaster Chief
RACZ, János	Lt Col	CO, 32d Rifle Regiment
BORKA, Zoltan	Major	CO, 33d Rifle Regiment
GUCSI, István	Major	CO, 38th Rifle Regiment
TOTH, Sandor	Capt	CO, 32d Artillery Regiment
REVESZ, József	Major	CO, 27th Tank Regiment
VARGA, István	Major	CO, 68th Engineer Battalion

32d Rifle Division

MOOR, (fnu)	Col	Commanding Officer
SEREGI, József	Sr Lt	Technical Officer

1. Interrogator Comment: Source could give no additional details on these items of equipment.

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