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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [redacted]

CD NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

COMMUNIST INFLUENCE

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 24 November 1952

SUBJECT Construction of Emergency Hospital Trains by Lova Waggonbau Bautzen VEB and Lova Waggonbau Goerlitz VEB

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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[redacted] express train cars in good condition are being withdrawn from service in East Germany. These cars are transferred to the VEB railroad car plant in Bautzen (O 52/A 60) and Goerlitz (H 52/E 70) to be reconstructed for use on hospital trains. The Railroad Administration took the railroad cars out of service on the grounds that they will be required for so-called "Katastrophen-Einsatzzuege" (emergency hospital trains). After being reconstructed, the cars will have to pass an acceptance test by a Soviet Military Commission and will then be transferred to a Polish railroad station where they will be parked ready for service. *

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* [redacted] Comment. Information on this construction program was previously reported. [redacted] Under the initial car rebuilding program a total of 100 emergency hospital trains were ordered, consisting of three cars each; i.e. 1 car for surgical operations, 1 X-ray car and 1 car with unidentified equipment. Out of the total of 300 cars, 200 will probably be reconstructed by the VEB railroad car plant in Bautzen and 100 by the VEB railroad car plant in Goerlitz. The car rebuilding work is being pushed with the greatest possibly speed. Strictly speaking, these trains are not ordinary hospital trains but are surgical hospital trains which can be used as field hospitals in case of emergency. The transfer of the railroad cars to Polish railroad stations and the alleged use of normal gauge wheel sets indicate that these railroad cars are not scheduled to be shipped to the U.S.S.R. but are destined to be used in countries with normal gauge railroads.

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