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NOFORN/CONTINUED CONTROL

USSR/Poland

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

Activities of General Ivan A. Serov
in Poland

DATE DISTR.

NO. PAGES

REFERENCES

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1944 - 1945

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Germany

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

[REDACTED SECTION]

1. Source first met General Ivan Aleksandrovich SEROV in the fall of 1944 in Wolomin, Poland, where SEROV, who was then head of all Soviet SMERSH operational groups in Poland, had his headquarters. SEROV was introduced to source as General IVANOV, and this is the only name source knows him to have used while in Poland. From other Soviets source learned soon after this meeting that IVANOV's true name was SEROV. Source has also positively identified photographs of SEROV as the man he knew under the name of IVANOV. Source does not know the name MALINOV and has never heard this name in connection with SEROV. Source states the following facts from very close personal association with SEROV during 1944-1945, and from information obtained from other Soviets attached to SMERSH, with whom source lived and worked during this period.
2. SEROV arrived in Poland with the advancing Red Army in 1944 as the head of SMERSH ("Death to Spies," Soviet Military Counter-Intelligence). His first headquarters were in Lublin, then these were transferred to Wolomin, then - about early 1945 - to the Warsaw suburb of Praga on Sieradzka Street. About May 1945, sometime after the fall of Berlin, when the headquarters of the Soviet Army were transferred to Germany, SEROV also transferred to Germany, and after that date had nothing more to do with Polish affairs and as far as source knows never returned to Poland.
3. Successors to SEROV as top Soviet security officer in Poland were the following generals, all of whom are believed to have been officers of the NKVD: Nikolay Nikolayevich SELIVANOVSKIY (1945 - for unknown period), DAVIDOV (unknown period up to ca. 1951-1952), Nikolay Kuzmich KOVALCHUK (ca. 1951 to 1953), and IALIN (from ca. 1953 for an unknown

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period). During SEROV's tenure of office as chief of SMERSH in Poland (1944-1945), one of his subordinates was a General MELNIKOV, also personally known to source. Source at no time has heard the name MALINOV, or of anyone else, other than the above named generals, who was the chief Soviet security officer in Poland.

4. During SEROV's stay in Poland he was exceedingly active in all security matters. He personally planned, directed, and was informed of all security cases of significance. No operations were run, or prominent individuals arrested, without his knowledge and approval, and, according to source, "all security actions were under his personal supervision and personal care." SEROV was responsible for counterespionage in Poland, and personally saw all interesting documents and reports, personally attended portions of most interesting interrogations, etc. According to source, he personally had his hand in almost every case, and knew most details of everything that was being done in counterespionage in Poland. He had the overall direction of all operations against the AK (Home Army, non-Communist underground), the SN (Peasant Party), etc. He devised the plan for the arrest of Wincenty WITOS, leader of the Peasant Party. He personally recruited many agents, including Boleslaw PIASECKI, now chairman of the PAX organization of proregime Catholics; BIENKOWSKI, AK leader who was later in the Polish Parliament; Tadeusz REK, who was Vice Minister of Justice in 1953; one unidentified agent with the pseudonym ATAMAN; and an unidentified woman from Lublin who had been active there in the AK and who identified to him all AK personnel in that area.
5. SEROV was unusually energetic and worked very long hours. He often woke source in the middle of the night to arrest a particular individual of interest to him in an investigation. He also took one of source's agents, a woman, GRUBER (fnu), born ca. 1918-1919, with him to Germany when he left to use her in operations there. An insight into SEROV's operational mentality can be had from the following incident. Source first met SEROV at a meeting which had been arranged in Wolowin in order that SEROV express his views regarding the future of a certain case. The case was that of the AK leader of the Warsaw district, Colonel "ALEKSANDER", who had been arrested by the MO (Citizens Militia), and whom the leader of the MO for the Warsaw district, Grzegorz KORCZINSKI - today head of Polish Military Intelligence (Q-II) - wanted to liquidate on the spot. SEROV rejected this proposal, and ordered the case taken over by the Soviets, pointing out to KORCZINSKI that "ALEKSANDER" could and should be made to talk, thereby being much more useful in the OE investigation than if he were dead.
6. Source believes that SEROV was unquestionably the motivating force behind the arrest of the 16 Polish underground leaders in 1945 who surrendered themselves to the Soviets after being

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located at Pruszkow under the command of the Soviet officer PIMONOV. These and all other SMESH units were directly responsible to SEROV. Most or all of these units were involved in operations against the AK in their area, and there was close coordination of these operations from Wolomin, i.e., by SEROV. PIMONOV somehow got in touch with an underground general and offered him and others safe conduct if he and others would reveal themselves. This was obviously done with SEROV's knowledge and approval, since nothing of this magnitude was ever done without his approval. The underground leaders were then arrested by PIMONOV and his men. SEROV probably planned this betrayal himself, but the operation was actually carried out by his subordinate PIMONOV.

7. Source knows nothing further about SEROV's activities. He has very great respect for him, considering him extremely intelligent, a very hard worker, with great experience and knowledge in the field of intelligence work, capable of making decisions whenever necessary and not afraid to accept responsibility. Source states that SEROV was not only highly respected by his subordinates for his ability, but was very well liked for his human treatment of subordinates - knowing, for example, when they had earned a rest from the intense pace of operations at that time, and showing appreciation when work was well done. Source believes that SEROV must have had a high protector in Moscow because of his complete self-confidence and willingness to assume responsibility in the direction of these CE operations. Source believes that he is probably also a completely convinced Communist.
1. Headquarters Comment: It is believed that SEROV was not merely head of SMERSH in Poland but had wider responsibilities for intelligence and counterintelligence activities in Poland.