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# INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY: Soviet Union (UR) REPORT NO: [REDACTED] (b)(2)

TITLE: Leningrad [REDACTED] Civilian Health Care Organization (U)

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**SUMMARY:** ~~(e)~~ This report contains information on the organization and capabilities of health care services in the Soviet Union. Besides the regular system of hospitals and polyclinics available to the general populace, there were separate medical service systems for ranking Party officials, the KGB, the MVD, management personnel in secret facilities, railway workers, and water transport workers. Norms establishing the doctor-patient ratio in various kinds of hospitals are given. Information on shortages of various types of medicines and blood and on general problems in hospitals are discussed. There is detailed information on the types and numbers of mobile medical care units in Leningrad oblast, as well as on the introduction of helicopters for emergency medical use. Development of a plan for a standard 1000-bed hospital resulted in the construction of several such oblast hospitals in large population centers, listed herein. Official information on the type and extent of epidemics occurring in the last few years in the USSR is presented. Industrial accidents which have occurred in Leningrad oblast are listed.

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~~(e)~~ DETAILS

(b)(1) ~~(e)~~ Introduction

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The Ministry of Health issued a bulletin monthly or bimonthly on the status of epidemics in the USSR. The bulletin was secret, but chief doctors were given limited access to the information in connection with containing epidemics. The bulletins were always coded: form 1 was plague; form 30, cholera; form X, yellow fever. The chief doctors were told when and where outbreaks of a contagious disease occurred but not how many deaths had resulted. There were frequent outbreaks of Brucellosis in Volosovskiy rayon [REDACTED] and in Luzhskiy rayon [REDACTED]. The disease mostly struck animals but also lab technicians working in labs in those two areas. Sizeable areas of these two regions were quarantined. There were frequent outbreaks of Tularemia in Ryazanskaya oblast [REDACTED] and in Rzhev [REDACTED]. In summer 1978 there was a widespread epidemic of cholera in the Caucasus and Crimea; Astrakhan [REDACTED], Odessa [REDACTED], Batum [REDACTED], Sukhumi [REDACTED] were the hardest hit areas. It was a weak form of cholera but the authorities overreacted, for example destroying all watermelons and shutting up tourists under military guard for 3 weeks. The whole area was guarded by military units and quarantined. No one knew how many died. Siberian ulcer (Siberskaya yzva) occurred frequently in Stavropol' ( [REDACTED] ), Krasnodar, the Urals, Belorussia and Mal'chik [REDACTED] in the Caucasus. A serious outbreak occurred in Sverdlovsk [REDACTED] 2 years ago. It was rumored to have been caused by an accident in a facility which produced weapons for bacteriological warfare. There was an outbreak of plague in Simferopol' [REDACTED] 2.5 years ago. Over the past 10 years the incidence of leukemia had increased. Many hospitals had special departments for treating blood diseases. In the Institute for Blood Transfusion (Institut perelivaniya krovi) was an 80-bed department for treating patients with blood diseases. There was also a special department at the Leningrad Military Medical Academy and in Moscow and Novosibirsk. There was no information on the reasons for the increase, but many doctors speculated that it was a result of the proliferation of atomic power plants and the number of facilities work with radioactive materials. In spring and fall every year there were flu epidemics throughout the USSR at times causing a rate of absenteeism in some schools and enterprises as high as 80 percent. Many of the diseases reached epidemic proportions because of the low health standards in the country. Twelve percent of the patients admitted to the Leningrad oblast hospital had lice. In Moscow this figure was higher. Hepatitis often hit whole schools because rats and mice. All patients admitted to hospitals were asked if they had hepatitis. If the answer was yes these patients were supposed to get their own individual syringes for shots. Otherwise syringes were simply sterilized and used for several patients. In villages in the Leningrad oblast only 10 percent of the children cleaned their teeth at irregular intervals. At age 18 the average person had 4-5 bad teeth and 15 percent of 18 year olds needed bridgework or false teeth. There was also an increase of venereal disease in large cities which was attributed to an increase of foreign tourists in the USSR.

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