

**Situation Report from Andrei Grechko and A. Tarasov to Nikolai Bulganin, 17 June 1953, as of 11:00 p.m. Moscow Time (9:00 p.m. CET)**

OPERATION DIVISION, MAIN OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION  
GENERAL STAFF OF THE SOVIET ARMY

TOP SECRET

Copy #6

To Comrade Bulganin, N.A.

I am reporting on the situation in the GDR and Berlin as of 11 p.m., 17 June 1953 (Moscow time).

1. The Soviet forces, namely the 1<sup>st</sup> mechanized infantry division, the 14<sup>th</sup> mechanized infantry division, and the 12<sup>th</sup> tank division (altogether 600 tanks), have for the most part restored order in the Soviet sector of Berlin. The provocative plan of the reactionary and fascist elements has collapsed.

There have been only minor groups around the Alexanderplatz and Stalinallee area downtown in the evening, which are being dispersed and arrested by our troops.

[We] can surmise that a special organization based in West Berlin has directed the strikes in East Berlin.

Analyzing the situation, I have also come to the conclusion that the provocation was prepared in advance, organized and directed from Western sectors of Berlin. The simultaneous actions in the majority of the major cities of the GDR, the same demands of rebels everywhere as well as the same anti-state and ant-Soviet slogans, are proof for this conclusion.

As the result of measures undertaken in the Western sectors of Berlin, there were large gatherings of German residents at the borders between the Soviet sector and the British and American ones by 8:00 p.m.

The border with the Western sectors of Berlin was closed by our troops.

There were no clashes at power stations, gas plants, water supply, and railroads.

About 300 organizers and provocateurs were arrested in Berlin by 8:00 p.m.

2. Order was restored in the majority of the cities of GDR. A normal state of affairs and activity of state institutions were restored toward the end of the day. Order was restored by measures undertaken in Magdeburg. Fifty Germans were killed and wounded, and over 100 instigators and provocateurs have been arrested during the restoration of order.

3. With the purpose of preventing possible further riots, the forces of the Group [of the Soviet Occupation Forces in Germany] were dispatched from the field camps into the following major, important population centers by the morning of 18 June:

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Army – the 19<sup>th</sup> mechanized division into Magdeburg; the 13<sup>6th</sup> artillery-technical, tank & self-propelled gun regiment into Burg; the 13<sup>th</sup> mechanized division into Parchim, Ludwigslust, Perleberg; the 207<sup>th</sup> infantry division into Gardelegen, Stendal.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Guards Army – the 20<sup>th</sup> Guards mechanized division into Weimar, Jena, Zeitz; the 21<sup>st</sup> Guards mechanized division into Halle, Merseburg; the 57<sup>th</sup> Guards infantry division into Naumburg, Weissenfels and its one infantry regiment into Eisenach.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Guards Army – the 11<sup>th</sup> tank division into Dresden (the main forces) and Meissen, Königsbrunn (the minor forces); the 8<sup>th</sup> Guards mechanized division into Leipzig (the main forces) and Borna, Grimma (the minor forces); the 9<sup>th</sup> tank division into Piescha, Oschatz, Zeithain.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Guards Mechanized Army – the 6<sup>th</sup> Guards tank division into Dessau, Wittenberg; the 9<sup>th</sup> mechanized division into Lubben, Cottbus, Spremberg.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Guards Mechanized Army – the 6<sup>th</sup> Guards mechanized division into Bernau, Eberswalde, Bad Freienwalde; the 7<sup>th</sup> Guards mechanized division into Fürstenwalde, Frankfurt an der Oder.

The motorbike battalion and the howitzer battalion of the 10<sup>th</sup> tank division into Brandenburg; the 25<sup>th</sup> tank division (a tank regiment and a mechanized infantry regiment) into Oranienburg.

4. According to preliminary information, the losses of the strikers in the whole territory of the DDR have been: 84 people killed and wounded, 700 men arrested. Our exact losses are being determined.

5. Martial law was declared in the British sector of Berlin. Soldiers are not allowed to leave the barracks. The patrols at the border with the Soviet sector have been reinforced. Troops in the American and French sectors of Berlin are in Barracks.

Grechko  
Tarasov

“Correctly”: COLONEL-GENERAL MALININ  
17 June 1953

*[Quelle: AGSh, f. 16, op. 3139, d. 155, II. 12-14. Übersetzung: Victor Gobarev. Zuerst veröffentlicht in: Cold War International History Project Bulletin, No. 10 (March 1998), S. 89. Auch dok. in: Christian F. Ostermann (Hg.), Uprising in East Germany. The Cold War, the German Question and the First Major Upheaval Behind the Iron Curtain. National Security Archive Cold War Readers, New York: CEU Press 2001, Dokument Nr. 33, S. 196/97.]*