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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE As indicated

DATA ON RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE COURSES IN THE SATELLITES

[Comment: Selective scanning of the Satellite press for the years 1950-1954 produced the figures contained in this report on the number of Russian-language courses and students during those years. Although the press did not give absolute numbers for all these years, it did show the existence of Russian language instructions in one form or another. Although numbers on a local basis were found often, only national figures are given in this report. Russian-language courses, however, were just one aspect of a Russification policy manifested in many other forms, such as Soviet friendship societies, special months devoted to this friendship, Russian literature, exhibitions, plays, movies, advisers, and teachers.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Albania

No absolute, national figures on Russian-language instruction were found in the press of Albania. The Soviet-Albanian Friendship Society offers Russian-language courses in various areas of the country and sporadic mention was made of them on a local level. The teaching of Russian in schools as a general policy was not brought out in the press.

Bulgaria

The following are total figures for Russian-language courses and students, as given in the press, for the school years indicated:

School Year	No of Courses	No of Students
1950-51	No figures available	No figures available
1951-52	5,000 (planned)	100,000 (planned) (1)
1951-52	3,000 (actual)	60,000 (actual) (2)
1952-53	7,143	110,000 (3)
1953-54	6,750	90,909 (4)
1954-55	6,500 (5)	No figures available

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Czechoslovakia

During the 5 years just completed, over 1.5 million persons studied the Russian language in Czechoslovakia. (9)

The following are the total figures, on an annual basis, of the progress of the People's Russian Course (Lidove kursy rustiny).

School Year	No of Study Groups	No of Students
1950-51	18,000 plus	320,000 plus (6)
1951-52	19,363	309,774 (7)
1952-53	21,911	326,444 (8)
1953-54	17,700	266,000 plus (9)

German Democratic Republic

Scanning of current as well as back issues of GDR newspapers (namely, Taegliche Rundschau and Neues Deutschland, central newspapers; and Deutsche Lehrerzeitung, semiweekly newspaper for GDR teachers) and periodicals (including several issues of Freie Welt, organ of the German-Soviet Friendship Society) revealed only one publication which carried any references to Russian-language courses or students.

Nine issues (January-August 1954 and October 1954) of Russischunterricht, monthly periodical for Russian-language instruction in elementary and secondary schools (published by the GDR Ministry of Public Education), were scanned. The following issues were the only ones containing information directly concerned with the extent of Russian-language instruction in the GDR:

1. The May 1954 issue contains excerpts from the 4 March 1954 Decree of the GDR Council of Ministers concerning the improvement of work of non-technical schools. Stipulations include: (a) recruitment of secondary school graduates for training as Russian-language teachers to be intensified; (b) admission quota for training of teachers in Russian studies at pedagogic institutes to be increased to 500 students annually; and (c) as of 1 September 1954, technical advisers for the instruction of Russian language are to be assigned to all Kreise by the Public Education Departments of the Bezirksraete (Bezirk councils). (10)

2. The June 1954 issue contains an article reviewing progress made in 10 years of Russian-language instruction in the GDR (e.g., improvement in teaching methods and political qualifications of Russian-language teachers). A great part of the article is devoted to political propaganda. (11)

3. The October 1954 issue contains an article concerning teaching methods and requirements for Russian-language courses in GDR universities and schools of advanced education (Hochschulen). The article points out that, in 1951, the Russian language was made a required subject for all students at universities and schools of advanced education. (12)

The 24 November 1954 issue of Informationsbuero West, an anti-Communist daily news bulletin published in West Berlin stated:

"Fritz Lange, new GDR Minister of Public Education, has announced that some of his first measures will be to increase Russian-language instruction, to utilize fully the capacities of the schools for training Russian-language

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teachers, and to induce those Russian-language teachers who left the teaching profession after 1945 to return to their former occupations. Lange announced that in 1955 there would be an increase in the number of GDR secondary school students who will be sent to study at universities in the USSR. He stated that at least 800 such students will be studying at Soviet universities in 1955, and that, by 1960, this figure would be increased to 1,000 students annually. In 1954, a total of 486 secondary school students were sent to study in the USSR." (13)

Hungary

A screening of Szabad Nep, official paper of the Hungarian Communist Party, for September 1951, September 1953, June 1954, and September 1954, disclosed only one item on Russian-language courses. This appeared on 26 September 1954 and stated that the Hungarian-Soviet Society (Magyar-Soviet Tarsasag) was starting new courses in Russian as of October 1954. The courses were to last from October through 15 June 1955 and would cost 10 forints per month. No enrollment figures were given.

Hungarian radio broadcasts were checked for the same 4 months. A half-hour Russian lesson was given 8 times in September 1951, 12 times in September 1953, 10 times in June 1954, and 8 times in September 1954. (14)

The bimonthly periodical Kozneveles, discussing the 1954-1955 curriculum for elementary schools and high schools, provided the following information on Russian-language instruction.

During the past school year, the number of Russian teachers increased; consequently, more elementary schools now teach Russian. Required study material now will be reduced in elementary schools where more than one class is taught in the same room, but not in elementary schools having Russian departments. Russian courses are given also at workers' elementary schools; the results there have been unsatisfactory.

Enrollment has increased in the Russian courses given for children by the Hungarian-Soviet Society. More children are corresponding with students in the USSR and subscribing to Soviet youth periodicals.

The number of after-school Russian-language study groups has decreased, as has the amount of tutoring in this field. During the coming school year, the number and the standards of after-school Russian-language study groups will be raised. An effort will be made also to provide more tutors, because the Russian courses given by the Hungarian-Soviet Society cannot take the place of tutoring.

Instruction in Russian grammar and literature has improved in high schools during the past school year. In 1954-1955, the second-year high school students will receive new Russian textbooks. The second-year students of the workers' high school will continue to use the textbook issued by the Hungarian-Soviet Society. There will be a reduction of required study material in all high schools except those having Russian departments. (15)

Another issue of Kozneveles gives an indication of the quality of Russian-language instruction. It states that the practice of grading too leniently in some elementary schools is causing many pupils to fail in the upper grades, especially when they are permitted to reach the seventh or eight grade without knowing the Russian letters or basic arithmetic. Most pupils study Russian willingly, but their knowledge is superficial. (16)

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Poland

Scanning of Polish newspapers and periodicals for May, September, October, November, and December of the years 1950-1954, revealed continued popularization of Russian-language instruction as part of the much publicized campaign of the Polish-Soviet Friendship Society. A complaint made, however, in several of these years was the lack of Polish-Soviet Friendship Society organizations in the villages, with their associated activities, including Russian-language instructions. In 1954, the press made frank admissions in some localities that Russian-language courses could be increased. Thus, the Krakow daily, Dziennik Polski, stated on 14 December 1954 in its comments on the local situation that "not enough Russian-language courses have been organized (only 120 are active)." (17) The 1 September 1954 issue of Zycie Warzawy (Polish daily) was quoted by the emigre Polish-language newspaper, Ostatnie Wiadomosci, as follows:

"The number of our young intelligentsia is greater than before the war and is continually growing. Despite this, the number of those with a thorough knowledge of foreign languages is decreasing. Even the popular Russian language is not an exception...and knowledge of the Russian language is limited to what is passively absorbed." (18)

The following table shows figures obtained from periodicals and newspapers scanned during the above-mentioned period.

School Year	No of Courses	No of Students
1950-1951	9,645 (17)	No figures available
1951-52	7,000 plus (20)	No figures available
1952-53	No figures available	124,000 (21)
1953-54	9,000 plus	133,000 (22)

A Russian-language course given on the radio twice weekly is published as a part of each issue of the Polish Radio weekly periodical, Radio i Swiat (circulation, 60,000 copies).

Rumania

The frequency of articles on Russian-language instruction and the increased concentration on improvement of classes appear to indicate that Russian-language instruction is still on the increase.

Hitherto, three levels of instruction have been offered, but during the 1954-1955 school year, advanced classes for the graduates of the third level will be offered. Manuals have been improved and all types of propaganda will be used to popularize the courses. (23) The Ministry of Education, higher party institutes, and ARLUS (Soviet-Rumanian Friendship Society) will enact measures to increase Russian-language instruction throughout the country. (24)

The following table shows the numerical strength of Russian-language courses and students during the years indicated.

School Year	No of Courses	No of Students
1950-51	No figures available	No figures available
1951-52	4,000 plus	100,000 plus (26)
1952-53	No figures available	100,000 plus (27)
1953-54	12,000 plus	215,000 (28)

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1. Sofia, Otechestven Front, 16 Sep 51
2. Sofia, Vecherni Novini, 11 Oct 51
3. Sofia, Novaya Bolgariya, No 6, Mar 54
4. Sliven, Slivensko Delo, 27 Aug 54
5. Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo, 26 Sep 54
6. Prague, Svobodne Slovo, 11 Aug 51
7. Prague, Rude Pravo, 7 Jul 52
8. Prague, Zemedelske Noviny, 10 Jul 53
9. Rude Pravo, 21 Aug 54
10. Berlin, Russischunterricht, May 54
11. Ibid., Jun 54
12. Ibid., Oct 54
13. Berlin, Informationsbuero West, 24 Nov 54
14. Budapest, Szabad Nep, 26 Sep 54
15. Budapest, Kozneveles, 1 Aug 54
16. Ibid., 25 Nov 54
17. Krakow, Dziennik Polski, 14 Dec 54
18. Mannheim, Ostatnie Wiadomosci, 3 Dec 54
19. Warsaw, Trybuna Ludu, 17 Oct 51
20. Ibid., 14 Oct 51
21. Ibid., 6 Nov 52
22. Ibid., 21 May 54
23. Bucharest, Veac Nou, 10 Sep 54
24. Bucharest, Contemporanul, 24 Sep 54
25. Bucharest, Romania Libera, 4 Sep 52
26. Bucharest, Scanteia, 24 Oct 51
27. Romania Libera, 23 Oct 53

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