August 16, 1954 Letter, G. Zhukov to the Marshal of the Soviet Union, Comrade N.A. Bulganin

Citation:

"Letter, G. Zhukov to the Marshal of the Soviet Union, Comrade N.A. Bulganin", August 16, 1954, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, Dmitriĭ Antonovich Volkogonov papers, 1887-1995, mm97083838. Translated by Theresa Billow-Supple. https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/220035

Summary:

Zhukov informs Bulganin of his efforts to ensure the safety of troops and ordinary citizens during the Totskoye nuclear exercise.

Original Language:

Russian

Contents:

Original Scan Translation - English



DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Identifier	Central Committee of the Ministry of Defense
Title	
Date	April 1954
Туре	Report
Creator	
Contributor	
Subject	Resolutions from the Soviet Defense Ministry
Description	Advice from the Soviet Ministry I. General measures II. General measures taken during the duration of the atomic bomb. III. General measures taken during artillery preparation IV. General measures taken during aviation preparation V. Safety measures in the presence of a region with a high level of radiation The rest of the report further elaborates on safety measures. Part II A report from the marshal of the Soviet Union G. Zhykov to N.A.Bulganin. Measures on securing troops and inhabitants Part 3: Report to I.V. Stalin Part 4: Statement Marshal of the Soviet Union G.K. Zhykov on the gathering party assets of the Ministry of Defense and the Moscow garrison July 2, 1957
Coverage	Soviet Union
(Geographic Location)	
Source	TSAMO, Reel 4-6, 9
Publisher	CWIHP

Rights	CWIHP
Format	Original
Language	Russian
Relation	Soviet Defense measures



МАРШАЛУ СОВЕТСКОГО СОЮЗА

товарищу БУЛГАНИНУ Н.А.

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Докладывав:

Изучив по Вашему указанию на месте вопросы, связанные с. обе спечениюм безопасности войск и населения на предстоящем корпусном учении в райсие Тоцких лагерей при сбросе сласомной бомбы, а такие обсудив на узком свро Чкаловского обкома КНСС вопросы, овязанные о временной эвакуацией населения и уборкой зерновых и овощных культур в районе учения, пришли к решению о необходимости проведения учения в период о 10 по 15 сентября с.г. по следующи сообралениям

I. Со второй половины сентября по Чкаловской области ощилается облачная погода о доплями, встры прешиущественно северные и северо-восточные.

Облачная погода и долди Серьезио затруднят действия самолета-носителя, личат возмолности визуально наблюдать заранее подготовленную цель, без чего сброс Стомкой бомбы на учении запрецен.

Ссверние и северо-восточные встры, дующие в направлеили пелезной дороти и крупных населенных пунктов Бузулук. <u>Тонког. Сорочинск</u>, а также донди могут повлечь оседание радноактивных вецеств из облака вэрыва как в районе цели, так и по пути его двишения в направлении указанных населенимх пунктов. При такой погоде сброо *ситомной* сомон по услевным без она спости будет абсолютно невозмолен.

Кроме того, одидаемая ненастная погода /понижение температури, долди/ вызовет большие затруднения при выполнений мероприятий, Овязанных С эвакуацией и временным отводом населения:

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F. E Y K O B

- из населенных пунктов, располоденных в 8-километровой запретной зоне, за 5 суток до начала учения - 2000 человек;

- из пунктов, располоденных в воне от 8 до 15 км, от центра цели, за 2-3 часа до Вврыва - до 30.000 человек;

- из пунктов, располоденных по боевому курсу самолетаносителя в полосе шириной 10 км и глубниой 20 км от центра цели, за 2-3 часа до взрыва - 1000 человек.

Наличие среди населения больных, престарелых и детей серьез по услощит проведение эвакуационных мероприятий в условиях холодной и доядливой погоды.

В связи о тем, что работи по подготовке отожных бомо, проводниме Миннотерством ореднего машиностроения, а такле тренировки экциалей самолетов-носителсй потребуют не менее двух педель, крайне необходимо ускорить репоние вопроса о сроке проведения войскового учения в районе Тоцких ла герси.

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"/<u>b</u> "<u>августа</u> 1954 года

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To Marshal of the Soviet Union Comrade N.A. Bulganin

I report:

Having studied your instructions on site, issues connected with ensuring the safety of troops and of the population at the upcoming corps exercise in the area of the Totskoye camps upon the dropping of an atomic bomb, as well as having discussed, in the small office of the CPSU oblast' committee, issues connected with the temporary evacuation of the population and the removal of grain and vegetable crops in the area of the exercise, we came to the decision on the necessity of conducting the exercise during 10 through 15 September of this year per the following considerations:

I. Cloudy weather with rain is expected in Chkalovskaya Oblast' in the second half of September. Winds will be predominantly north and north-easterly.

Cloudy weather and rain will seriously complicate the operations of the carrier-aircraft and deprive it of the chance to visually observe the prepared target in advance, without which the drop of the atomic bomb at the exercise is forbidden.

North and north-easterly winds blowing in the direction of the railroad and the large population centers of Buzuluk, Totskoye, and Sorochinsk, as well as rain, could trigger settlement of radioactive substances from the explosion cloud both in the area of the target as well as along the path of its movement towards the mentioned population centers. With such weather, the drop of the atomic bomb under safety conditions will be absolutely impossible.

Moreover, the expected inclement weather (a drop in temperature, rain) elicits more complications in completing measures connected with evacuation and the temporary removal of the population:

- from population centers within the 8-kilometer restricted zone, 5 days before the start of the exercise – 2000 people;

- from centers, in the zone of 8 to 15 km from the center of the target, 2-3 hours prior to the explosion – up to 30,000 people;

- from centers along the flight path of the carrier aircraft in a strip 10 km wide and 20 km deep from the center of the target, 2-3 hours prior to the explosion – 1000 people;

The presence of the ill, the aged, and children among the population seriously complicates carrying out evacuation measures in cold and rainy weather conditions.

In connection with the fact that operations to prepare the atomic bombs, being conducted by the Ministry of Medium Machine Building, as well as training of the carrier aircraft crews, will take no less than two weeks, it is urgently necessary to expedite a decision on the issue of the period for conducting the military exercise in the area of the Totskoye camps.

Marshal of the Soviet Union

G. Zhukov

16 August 1954 N. 2095ss