



# SOVIET MILITARY ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL

Background Guide

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# **Letter From The Executive Board**

#### Greetings!

I welcome you to the eighth session of the Jaipuria Model United Nations and consequently, the Soviet Military Administration Council.

This Background Guide has been compiled to assist you and give you a little lift to your understanding of the council. The Guide will direct you during various situations in the committee. However, the Background Guide is not an all-inclusive source for research. It is only a foundation to begin your research.

As an EB member, I would recommend spending some time and understanding the situation around the blockade and the history of events that have led up to this date. Doing this would definitely help you in the committee, and also understanding the portfolio you have been allotted. To assist you with this, we have included a timeline and portfolio description but again, do not rely on it to be the entirety of your research, there is always more available to find.

As it is always said, see you in the committee.

Have a query? Stuck at something? Do not hesitate to drop us a message.

Regards,

Vasu Sumeet Seth (Premier)

Samarth Dwivedi(Director)

Manya Srivastava(Director)

Sarthak Agarwal(Senior Assistant to the Premier)

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Слава Красной Армии!

Glory to the Red Army!

# **About The Committee**

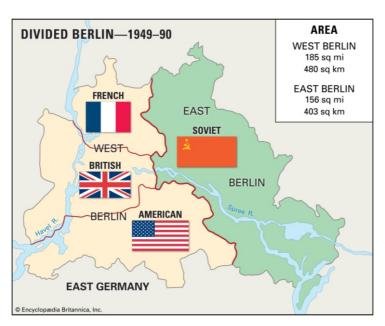
#### FREEZE DATE - 22nd June, 1948

The new currency has been introduced in East Germany and East Berlin and the Soviets have been put on notice. The initial stages of a Blockade alarmed the allies and it was time for the Soviet Military Administration to answer the call of the Soviets and take decisive action and implement it.

#### **History:**

After our great Motherland, in tandem with our allies, defeated the Axis in the Second World War, Germany was divided into four zones. Each zone was handed over to one of the victorious nations of the Allied Powers.

The zones were as illustrated in this map:



According to the Potsdam Agreement, the Soviet Zone was placed under Soviet Military Administration. The committee emulates the Soviet Military Administration in post-war Germany, specifically focusing on the 1948-49 period, which witnessed the Berlin Blockade.

In June 1948, the Allied powers introduced a new currency, the Deutsche Mark in their zones. Clearly, a move to devalue the existing currency circulated by the Soviet Administration in our own zone, strict actions were imminent to control the situation, coupled with a display of power which would serve as a befitting reply and lesson for the enemies of the motherland for ages to come.

#### **Politico-Geographic profile of Berlin:**

The so-called Stunde Null- zero hour -marked a new beginning for the city. Greater Berlin was divided into four sectors by the Allies under the London Protocol of 1944, as follows:

The occupied sectors of Berlin:

- The Soviet sector (402.8 km2), consisting of the boroughs of Mitte, Prenzlauer Berg, Pankow, Weißensee, Friedrichshain, Lichtenberg, Treptow, and Köpenick;
- The American sector (210.8 km2), consisting of the boroughs of Neukölln, Kreuzberg, Tempelhof, Schöneberg, Steglitz, and Zehlendorf;
- The British sector (165.5 km2), consisting of the boroughs of Tiergarten,
   Charlottenburg, Wilmersdorf, and Spandau;
- The French sector (110.8 km2), consisting of the boroughs of Wedding and Reinickendorf.

#### **Operation:**

The members of the administration committee can take direct measures, after approval from the Premier. The scope of action is limited to the use of Police force, and not direct offensive military action.

#### West Berlin Air Corridor:

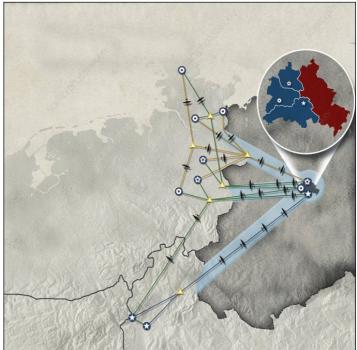
Three air routes to West Berlin were established after the end of World War II to give the Western Allies air access to their garrisons in the former Nazi capital. When the Soviet Union imposed its blockade in 1948, these air routes became famous as the vital corridors of the Berlin Airlift, which enabled the British and Americans to supply the beleaguered city. It is less well known that they were also, for 44 years, how the Allies collected intelligence on the densest concentration of Soviet military forces in the world. The "Berlin for Lunch Bunch," as the aircrews called themselves, used three routes in operations for what was arguably the most important, longest lasting, and successful military reconnaissance program of the entire Cold War.

The air routes into Berlin came about as a result of the Potsdam Conference in July 1945. President Harry Truman, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and their entourages needed to fly in and thus required air access to the city. The Soviets cooperated fully with the

British and Americans, setting up temporary air facilities at Gatow Airfield in the British sector. Two ad-hoc air corridors, as well as navigation and landing aids, were established. Air support to the conference went well, and the Western Allies assumed this would continue as they established their garrisons.

However, shortly after the conference ended, the Soviets began to complain that the Allies were flying outside the agreed corridors and this would not be tolerated. Much detailed discussion ensued, at the beginning of which the British recorded Marshal Georgy K. Zhukov, commander of Soviet forces in Germany, as stating that a corridor was necessary "to prevent your aircraft from observing Russian armies." The four powers ultimately signed a written agreement in November 1945, establishing three corridors, a circular control zone, and the four-power Berlin Air Safety Center to coordinate air activity within the corridors and control zone. This was a written document, unlike the arrangements on land and water access to West Berlin. It may have been a major reason the Soviets did not try to shut the air corridors down during the Berlin blockade and helped avoid a violent East-West confrontation, ensuring the success of the Berlin Airlift. The corridors also led to the successful covert reconnaissance that was about to begin. The history of the reconnaissance squadrons destined to become corridor intelligence collectors is intricate.





# **Important Dates And Timeline**

#### 1945 February 4–11: The Yalta Conference

Each leader had an agenda for the Yalta Conference: Roosevelt wanted Soviet support in the U.S. Pacific War against Japan, specifically for the planned invasion of Japan (Operation August Storm), as well as Soviet participation in the UN; Churchill pressed for free elections and democratic governments in Eastern and Central Europe (specifically Poland); and Stalin demanded a Soviet sphere of political influence in Eastern and Central Europe, an essential aspect of the USSR's national security strategy.

Poland was the first item on the Soviet agenda. Stalin stated that "For the Soviet government, the question of Poland was one of honor" and security because Poland had served as a historical corridor for forces attempting to invade Russia. In addition, Stalin stated that "because the Russians had greatly sinned against Poland," "the Soviet government was trying to atone for those sins." Stalin concluded that "Poland must be strong" and that "the Soviet Union is interested in the creation of a mighty, free and independent Poland." Accordingly, Stalin stipulated that Polish government-in-exile demands were not negotiable: the Soviet Union would keep the territory of eastern Poland they had already annexed in 1939, and Poland was to be compensated by extending its western borders at the expense of Germany. Complying with his prior statement, Stalin promised free elections in Poland despite the Soviet-sponsored provisional government recently installed in Polish territories occupied by the Red Army.

Stalin agreed that France would have a fourth occupation zone in Germany if it was formed from the American and the British zones.

#### 1945 June 5: Allied Control Council or Four Power Council

The Allied Control Council, also referred to as the Four Powers, was the governing body of the Allied Occupation Zones in Germany and Allied-occupied Austria after the end of World War II. Members were the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and France.

As the four Allied Powers had joined themselves into a condominium asserting 'supreme' power in Germany, the Allied Control Council was constituted the sole legal sovereign authority for Germany as a whole, replacing the extinct civil government of Nazi Germany. The council was convened to determine several plans for postwar Europe, including how to change borders and transfer populations in Eastern Europe and Germany. It dealt with matters such as war criminals, dissolution of the German army and government agencies, restoration of order into German hands, de-nazification and eradication of militarism, etc.

#### 1945 July 17 – August 2: The Potsdam Conference

According to the Protocol of the Conference, there was to be "a complete disarmament and demilitarization of Germany"- all aspects of German industry that could be utilized for military purposes were to be dismantled; all German military and paramilitary forces were to be eliminated; and the production of all military hardware in Germany was forbidden. Furthermore, German society was to be remade along democratic lines by repeal of all discriminatory laws from the Nazi era and by the arrest and trial of those Germans deemed to

be "war criminals." The German educational and judicial systems were to be purged of any authoritarian influences, and democratic political parties would be encouraged to participate in the administration of Germany at the local and state level. The reconstitution of a national German Government was, however, postponed indefinitely, and the Allied Control Commission (which was composed of four occupying powers, the United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union) would run the country during the interregnum.

A few weeks before the surrender of the Reich, the Red Army had quickly occupied the eastern part of Germany, part of Austria and all of Central Europe. Stalin, aware of this territorial advantage, took the opportunity to install Communist governments in the countries liberated by the Soviets.

The Potsdam Conference is perhaps best known for President Truman's July 24, 1945 conversation with Stalin, during which time the President informed the Soviet leader that the United States had successfully detonated the first atomic bomb on July 16, 1945. Historians have often interpreted Truman's somewhat firm stance during negotiations as the U.S. negotiating team's belief that U.S. nuclear capability would enhance its bargaining power. Stalin, however, was already well-informed about the U.S. nuclear program thanks to the Soviet intelligence network so he also held firm in his positions.

#### 1946 February 9: Joseph Stalin Speech

In an election speech of February 9, the Soviet dictator announced that Marxist-Leninist dogma remained valid, for "the unevenness of development of the capitalist countries" could lead to "violent disturbance" and the consequent splitting of "the capitalist world into two camps and the war between them." War was inevitable as long as capitalism existed. The Soviet people must prepare themselves for a replay of the 1930s by developing basic industry instead of consumer goods and, in all, making enormous sacrifices demanded in "three five-year plans, I should think if not more."

https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/116178.pdf

#### 1946 February 22: The Long Telegram

Two weeks after Stalin's speech, in late February, United States diplomat George Kennan responded to a State Department request for an analysis of Soviet expansionism and global intentions with what became another such declaration of a Cold War. Kennan's response was later given the descriptive title of "The Long Telegram".

It warned that Soviet policies assumed western hostility and that Soviet expansionism was inevitable. Moscow would only be deterred by forceful opposition, be it political or military, and Kennan thus recommended that the United States employ a policy of "long-term patient but firm and vigilant containment." His analysis was well received by United States policymakers who felt that the telegram confirmed their views and the tougher stance the Truman administration was taking with the Soviets.

#### 1946 March 5: Iron Curtain – USSR's Sphere of Influence

Winston Churchill said "...From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia, all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and, in some cases, increasing measure of control from Moscow..."

#### https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/cold-war-on-file/iron-curtain-speech/

In the aftermath of World War II, the Soviet Union created a sphere of influence as a political fact in the territories of the nations of Eastern Europe, which was referred to as the Iron Curtain by Winston Churchill. It was a political, military, and ideological barrier erected by the Soviet Union after World War II to seal off itself and its dependent eastern and central European allies from open contact with the West and other noncommunist areas.

This illustrated a fundamental change in the attitude of leaders from the West towards Soviet intentions. Because of this change in attitude, western leaders saw Germany as a country that could be a future ally to the Soviets. This changed policy made the US authorities get more involved in Germany.

#### 1947 March 12: Truman Doctrine

#### What was the Truman Doctrine?

With the Truman Doctrine, President Harry S. Truman established that the United States would provide political, military and economic assistance to all democratic nations under threat from external or internal authoritarian forces. The Truman Doctrine effectively reoriented U.S. foreign policy, away from its usual stance of withdrawal from regional conflicts not directly involving the United States, to one of possible intervention in faraway conflicts. It committed the United States to actively offering assistance to preserve the political integrity of democratic nations when such an offer was deemed to be in the best interest of the United States.

#### Major setbacks that lead to the Truman Doctrine:-

- 1. The Soviets' refusal to withdraw their troops from northern Iran in early 1946 (as per the terms of the Tehran Declaration of 1943);
- 2. The Soviet attempts to pressure the Iranian Government into granting them oil concessions while supposedly fomenting irredentism by Azerbaijani separatists in northern Iran:
- 3. The Soviet's efforts to force the Turkish Government into granting them base and transit rights through the Turkish Straits; and
- 4. The Soviet Government's rejection of the Baruch plan for international control over

nuclear energy and weapons to the United Nations Security Council, in June 1946.

[The Soviets rejected the Baruch Plan and suggested a counter-proposal on the grounds that the United Nations was dominated by the United States and its allies in Western Europe, and could therefore not be trusted to exercise authority over atomic weaponry in an even handed manner.]

For years, the United Kingdom had supported Greece, but was now near bankruptcy and was forced to radically reduce its involvement. The withdrawal of British assistance to Greece provided the necessary catalyst for the Truman Administration to reorient American foreign policy. Accordingly, in his speech, President Truman requested that Congress provide \$400,000,000 worth of aid to both the Greek and Turkish Governments and support the dispatch of American civilian and military personnel and equipment to the region.

Truman justified his request on two grounds. He argued that a Communist victory in the Greek Civil War would endanger the political stability of Turkey, which would undermine the political stability of the Middle East. This could not be allowed in light of the region's immense strategic importance to U.S. national security. Truman also argued that the United States was compelled to assist "free peoples" in their struggles against "totalitarian regimes," because the spread of authoritarianism would "undermine the foundations of international peace and hence the security of the United States." In the words of the Truman Doctrine, it became "the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures."

Critics of the policy have observed that the governments of Greece and Turkey were themselves far from democratic at this time, and neither was facing Soviet subversion in the spring of 1949. Historian Eric Foner writes that the Doctrine "set a precedent for American assistance to anticommunist regimes throughout the world, no matter how undemocratic, and for the creation of a set of global military alliances directed against the Soviet Union."

## 1947 January 1: Formation of Bizone (also known as Bizonia)

In 1947 the American and British control zones teamed up to create what became known as the Bizone during the occupation of Germany after World War II. Convinced that Communism and the Soviet's beliefs had to be contained, the two countries decided to take a more active role in Germany. The creation of the Bizone was significant because it helped establish the disparate blocs in Europe. Its purpose was the advancement and development of a growing economy accompanied by a new political order in northwestern, western and southern Germany.

## 1948 April 3: European Recovery Program or Marshall Plan

Truman signs the Marshall Plan into effect. By the end of the programs, the United States has given \$12.4 billion in economic assistance to Western European countries.

The Marshall Plan gave dollars to cash-strapped European countries, enabling them to rebuild their own industrial capacity. In France and Italy, stalled agricultural production and shortages of important goods was giving momentum to communist organizers, who tapped into the unrest and organized strikes and protests against the French and Italian governments. This trend greatly alarmed the United States. The CIA issued a report saying that greater danger for the U.S. lay in the possibility of Western European economic collapse and a communist

expansion. The Marshall Plan was a plan to stop Communist Expansion and curb the influence of communism in Western Europe. The aid was available to all European countries. But it wasn't only meant to defuse internal conflicts within countries—it was a strategic attempt to fend off aggression from the communist Soviet Union. The Marshall Plan also institutionalized and legitimized the concept of U.S. foreign aid programs, which have become an integral part of U.S. foreign policy.

Although the participation of the Soviet Union and East European nations was an initial possibility, Soviet concern over potential U.S. economic domination of its Eastern European satellites and Stalin's unwillingness to open up his secret society to westerners doomed the idea. To the Soviet, this European economic proposal was a way of denying them the chance to reap the benefits of their victory over fascism. The Soviets considered the proposal to be a direct threat to its communist ideology. They termed this plan a "US economic imperialism". As a result, the Soviet Union refused to participate in the program. The Eastern European states also refused to participate in this program following the example by the Soviet Union.

https://www.marshallfoundation.org/marshall/the-marshall-plan/foreign-assistance-act-1948/the-european-recovery-program/

#### 1947: Molotov Plan

The Molotov plan was symbolic of the Soviet Union's refusal to accept aid from the Marshall Plan or allow any of their satellite states to do so because of their belief that the Plan was an attempt to weaken Soviet interests in their satellite states through the conditions imposed and by making beneficiary countries economically dependent on the United States. The Molotov Plan was the system created by the Soviet Union in 1947 to provide aid to rebuild the countries in Eastern Europe that were politically and economically aligned with the Soviet Union.

The plan was a system of bilateral trade agreements that established COMECON to create an economic alliance of socialist countries. This aid allowed countries in Europe to stop relying on American aid, and therefore allowed Molotov Plan states to reorganize their trade with the USSR instead. The plan was in some ways contradictory, because at the time the Soviets were giving aid to Eastern bloc countries, they were also demanding that countries who were members of the Axis powers pay reparations to the USSR.

#### 1948 June 20: Introduction of Deutsche Mark

The Soviets printed large amounts of marks, which decreased its value. As a result, American cigarettes were used as currency.

A functioning currency system was also needed for a growing economy. The war economy of the National Socialist government had created an oversupply of currency not matched by a supply of goods. To combat the resulting black-market economy, especially noticeable in large cities, and to aid economic recovery in western Germany, a central bank was founded and a

currency reform was proclaimed on June 19, 1948.

With the so-called Currency Reform in 1948, the Deutsche Mark was officially introduced in the three allied occupied zones of Germany to prepare the country for a new currency and economic system, and also to stop the flourishing black market. The reform introduced the **Deutsche Mark** (in exchange for sixty Reichsmarks, each citizen received DM40). Additionally, controls over prices and basic supplies were lifted by authorities, thus abruptly wiping out the black market. This led to inflation in the Soviet-occupied zone in East-Germany and to the first tension between the occupants. It forced the Soviets to introduce its own eastern version of the mark in its zone. For the Soviet Union this measure represented the culmination of the Western policy to undermine Soviet efforts to build a socialist society in its zone.

# **Economic Conditions**

## **Germany after World War II**

The numbers tell the story of a nation in disarray. Industrial output was down by a third. The country's housing stock was reduced by 20%. Food production was half the level it was before the start of the war. Many of the nation's men between the ages of 18 and 35—the demographic which could do the heavy lifting to literally rebuild the country—had either been killed or crippled.

During the war, Hitler had instituted food rations, limiting the civilian population to no more than 2,000 calories per day. After the war, the Allies continued this food rationing policy and limited the population to between 1,000 to 1,500 calories per day.

Price controls on other goods and services led to shortages and a massive black market. Germany's currency, the Reichsmark, had become completely worthless, requiring its populace to resort to bartering for goods and services.

The country was occupied by four nations, and soon it would be divided into halves. The eastern half became a socialist state, part of the Iron Curtain that was heavily influenced by Soviet policy. The western half became a democracy.

#### Reichsmark

The **Reichsmark** was the currency of Germany from 1924 until 20 June 1948 in West Germany, where it was replaced with the Deutsche Mark, and until 23 June 1948 in East Germany when it was replaced by the East German mark.

After the Second World War, the Reichsmark continued to circulate in Germany, but with new banknotes (Allied Occupation Marks) printed in the US and in the Soviet Zone, as well as with coins (without swastikas). Inflation in the final months of the war had reduced the value of the Reichsmark from 2.50  $\mathcal{R}M$  = US\$1 to 10  $\mathcal{R}M$  = US\$1 and a barter economy had emerged due to the rapid depreciation. The Reichsmark was replaced by the Deutsche Mark at a rate of 10:1.

The Soviet Union demanded copies of the engraving plates, ink, and associated equipment in early 1944, and on 14 April 1944 Henry Morgenthau and Harry Dexter White of the U.S. Treasury Department authorized the immediate air transfer of these to the USSR. Using a printing plant in occupied Leipzig, the Soviet authorities printed large runs of occupation marks. Since these were convertible to U.S. dollars at a rate of 10:1, the exercise financed the Soviet occupation while causing inflation and financial instability. It was the retailitary attack to the Allies economic reforms which threatened the USSR's economy and sphere of influence.

## **Economic Condition of Berlin**

Berlin was in economic ruin.

Allied bombing had destroyed most of its industrial foundation, and even three years after the war most Berliners lived in the basements of shattered buildings. Some were living on just nine hundred calories a day. The biggest problem was the value of German currency, which was so low that a loaf of bread often cost an entire paycheck. The city's real currency at this point was cigarettes, and most civilians survived by a combination of black-market, food aid, and prostitution.

# **Visions for Germany**

#### The USSR's Vision

The Soviets had suffered two German invasions in a span of thirty years. They wanted this country broken and subordinate, so it could never threaten Russia again. They also wanted it to function as a buffer zone to keep the Western powers at bay. In the end, Stalin's goal was a communist puppet state in Germany, and the Allies out of Berlin.

#### The Allies' Vision

America and Britain believed that Nazi extremism had arisen due to the Great Depression, and that the best chance for a peaceful Europe was a prosperous, democratic Germany. They also hoped that it would be a bulwark against Soviet expansionism.

# **Composition and Portfolio Description**

Mayor of East Berlin: Friedrich Ebert Jr. - The mayor is the head of the city's municipal corporation. The major functions of the mayor are city planning, water management, waste management, social welfare and the building and maintenance of local public infrastructure such as roads. The mayor is empowered to enforce lockdowns and curfews.

<u>Berlin Presidium of Volkspolizei (People's Police)</u> - The Berlin Presidium of Volkspolizei (People's Police) is the highest rank in the police department. The major functions are maintaining law and order and monitoring traffic (Verkehrspolizei)

Interim Controller of Railways, Soviet Zone - German Railway operating in the Soviet Zone (Deutsche Bundesbahn) is administered by the Controller of Railways. Some of the functions include controlling and overseeing the smooth running of trains in the Soviet Zone, acquiring, repairing and upgrading rolling stock, undertaking repair and maintenance work of the existing, but damaged track network, expansion of the railway network and building of new routes, bridges, tunnels and stations.

Interim Controller of Roads and Highways, Soviet Zone - German highway network (Autobahns) and road transport, in the Soviet Zone, is administered by the Controller of Roads and Highways. Main functions include Controlling and ensuring the smooth operation of highway networks. Undertaking repair and maintenance work of the existing, but damaged roads and highway network. Expansion of the road network and building of new highways, bridges and tunnels

Interim Controller of Aviation, Soviet Zone - German airports and passenger/cargo transport by air in the Soviet Zone are administered by the Controller of Roads and Highways. Controlling and ensuring the smooth operation of civil aviation in the Soviet Zone. Undertaking repair and maintenance work of the existing, but damaged airports. Expansion of the airport terminals and building of new airports.

<u>Interim Controller of Inland Waterways and Canals, Soviet Zone</u> - German inland waterways and ports, transport by water in the Soviet Zone are administered by the Controller of Roads and Highways. Controlling and ensuring the smooth operation of inland waterways and canals in the Soviet Zone. Undertaking repair and maintenance work of the existing, but damaged ports. Expansion of the river ports and building of new ports.

<u>Ministerpräsident of Brandenburg: Karl Steinhoff (SED)</u> - Representative of the German state of Brandenburg (Soviet Zone). His primary responsibility is being the Head of the legislative body of the state of Brandenburg.

<u>Ministerpräsident of Sachsen: Max Seydewitz (SED)</u> - Representative of the German state of Sachsen (Soviet Zone). His primary responsibility is being the Head of the legislative body of the state of Sachsen.

<u>Ministerpräsident of Sachsen-Anhalt : Erhard Hübener (LDPD)</u> - Representative of the German state of Sachsen-Anhalt (Soviet Zone). His primary responsibility is being the Head of the legislative body of the state of Sachsen-Anhalt.

<u>Ministerpräsident of Thuringia: Werner Eggerath (SED)</u> - Representative of the German state of Thuringia (Soviet Zone). His primary responsibility is being the Head of the legislative body of the state of Brandenburg.

<u>Ministerpräsident of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern : Wilhelm Hocker (SED)</u> - Representative of the German state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Soviet Zone). Head of the legislative body of the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

<u>Chief of Soviet Ground Forces: Ivan Konev</u> - Commander of Soviet ground forces and First Deputy Minister of Defense of the Soviet Union.

<u>Chief Marshal of the Air Force: Konstantin Vershinin</u> - Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Air Forces and Deputy Ministry of Defence of the Soviet Union.

<u>Marshal of Soviet Union: Vasily Sokolovsky</u> - Governor of Soviet Zone. It is the highest military rank of the Soviet Union.

<u>Propaganda Director/Major General: Sergei Ivanovich Tiulpanov</u> - Director of the Propaganda Administration of the Soviet Military Administration in Germany. The Ministry of Propaganda is the part of a government charged with generating and distributing propaganda.

Chief of Staff/Colonel General: Vladimir Kurasov - Colonel General of Soviet Zone.

Commandant of Soviet Zone: Alexander Kutikov - Commander of the Soviet Zone.

<u>Commissar of Defense USSR: Nikolai Bulganin</u> - Minister of Defence (USSR) is responsible for fielding, arming, and supplying the armed services. In peacetime, all territorial commands of the armed forces reported to it. The Ministry of Defense has been staffed almost entirely by professional military personnel.

<u>Commissar of Transport USSR: Boris Beschev</u> - Minister of Transport (USSR). Serving as the head of the Ministry of transport the body is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules, regulations and laws relating to transport, transport research and also to increase the mobility and efficiency of the transport system in India.

<u>Commissar of Food and Agriculture USSR: Ivan Benediktov</u> - Minister of Food and Agriculture (USSR). Serving as the head of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, i.e., the body at the apex for formulation of rules and regulations regarding Agriculture.

<u>Minister of Internal Affairs: Sergei Kruglov</u> - Head of MVD and held the military rank of Colonel General. The MVD had a wide array of duties. It was responsible for uncovering and investigating certain categories of crime, apprehending criminals, supervising the internal passport system, maintaining public order, combating public intoxication, supervising parolees, managing prisons and labor camps, providing fire protection, and controlling traffic.

<u>Minister of State Security: Viktor Abakumov</u> - Head of MGB and ex-NKGB. It is the Soviet state security apparatus dealing with internal and external security issues- secret police duties, foreign and domestic intelligence and counterintelligence.