FLI
16

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

[redacted]

COUNTRY	USSR/Austria (Soviet Zone)	REPORT NO.	50X1
SUBJECT	New Soviet 7.62 mm Semi-Automatic Carbine SKS, Submachine Gun, and 7.62 mm Pistol	DATE DISTR.	14 April 1955
	50X1	NO. OF PAGES	13
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	50X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

50X1 Attached is a copy as received

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1

ATE	#x	ARMY Ev	#x	NAVY	#x	AIR	#x	FBI		AEC						

: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

REPORT

50X1

COUNTRY USSR/Austria (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 28 Mar. 1955

SUBJECT New Soviet 7.62 mm Semi-Automatic Carbine SKS, Submachine Gun, and 7.62 mm Pistol

NO. OF PAGES 12

50X1

DATE OF INFORMATION

50X1

REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

NEW SOVIET 7.62 mm SEMI-AUTOMATIC CARBINE, MODEL SKS 1

50X1

(See page 10 for sketch)

Issue of the Carbine and Its Accessories

1. Sometime in March 1954, a sufficient number of the new Soviet 7.62 mm semi-automatic carbines, model SKS, arrived to replace the 156 carbines, M1944, previously issued to the privates of the 735th Sep Radio Communication Bn. The carbines were issued a few days after their arrival, with the M1944 carbines being turned in and sent out of the unit to an unknown destination.

50X1
50X1
50X1

2.

50X1

3. The cleaning kit consisted of a cleaning rod, a bore brush, a cleaning-rod stop, a cleaning-rod handle pin, a cleaning-rod attachment, a cleaning-rod handle, and an oil can. 3

4. The carbines were kept in the company arms room of the 2d Co. under the supervision of a "duty soldier" (dnevalnyy).

50X1
50X1
50X1
50X1
50X1

50X1

Security Measures

5. The men were all repeatedly informed in classes and formations that the new carbine was a classified weapon and would not be taken out of the garrison area except under specific instructions. weapon out of the garrison only on one occasion, to a maneuver in Hungary in the summer of 1954. When on guard duty and assigned to the post attending the main gate of the garrison, drew one of six old PPSh SMG's retained in the company for use when personnel were expected to be seen by Austrians.

6.

c. Shortly after the new carbines were issued to the men company first sergeant went on business to his (the sergeant's) old unit, an unidentified Soviet Army unit, about 200 km away and came back with a story that a sentry had been kidnapped and that the new carbine that the soldier had been armed with had been stolen. this act was performed by revengeful Austrians.

7. the rounds used by the carbine were also considered to be secret. the system of accountability for this ammunition was very strict. On the two occasions when carbine firing while on the firing range, each marksman was flanked by a second soldier whose function it was to retrieve all ejected brass with his garrison cap (pilotka). After a day on the range all the brass and unexpended rounds were carefully counted to insure that none was lost. The men were warned that if one round or brass cartridge was lost, the entire battalion might have to be called out to search for it. 4

Instruction and Training

8. In addition to range firing on the unit firing range, located 15 km from the garrison on the outskirts of Baden, the men had a minimum of one hour per week of classroom instruction by company NCOs. Source described firing and classroom instruction as follows:

a. Range firing was preceded by dry-firing exercises in the company area using the triangulation sighting method. Range firing was at bulls-eye targets from a prone position at a range of 100 m the first time and 200 m the second time. The men were instructed to set their rear sight on the cyrillic "П"(permanent - postoyannyy) setting. 5

b. Each man was allowed five rounds on the initial range firing to zero the weapon. Those men that were not firing their weapons accurately received assistance from the platoon CO or one of the platoon NCOs. If these individuals decided that the fault lay with the weapon, the company armorer was called and used a special vise-like tool to move the front sight to compensate for the error. weapon was never zeroed in properly and

50X1

50X1

c. Classroom instruction was conducted by the platoon sergeant or one of the squad leaders who generally read from the infantry manual on this weapon. The manual was titled "NSD (nastavleniye po strelkovomy delu or manual on infantry matters) Karabin SKS (skorostrelnyy karabin simënova or rapid firing carbine of Simënov) OBR 43 (model 1943) goda (year)." It was dark brown in color, contained about 20 pages, and was about 12 x 8 cm in size.

50X1

50X1

d. The manual was available to all privates and was in a reading file in the company orderly room. It was not classified Each time an NCO needed the manual for classroom instruction, he went to the orderly room and drew a copy for the instruction period.

50X1

e. The text of the instruction, without variation, consisted of reading the manual from cover to cover. this included technical data on the weapon, and each private was required to commit this information to memory. after several such sessions most of the men would sit and sleep in the classroom.

50X1

50X1

Characteristics of Carbine and Its Ammunition

9. The following are the characteristics of the carbine and its ammunition: (Items marked with an* were as stated in the manual.)

a. Model * — SKS - Skorostrelnyy Karabin Simënova, M1943.

b. Caliber * — 7.62 mm

c. Operation * — Gas, semi-automatic, magazine-fed, counter-recoil-spring loaded.

d. Diameter of gas port * — Approximately 2.4 mm.

e. Magazine capacity * — Nine rounds and one in chamber in accordance with the manual. (However,

50X1

50X1

f. Magazine * — Integral box.

g. Weight:

With knife-type bayonet * — 3.950 kg

With four-edged prong-type bayonet * — 3.800 kg bayonet mounted on this weapon listed in the manual.)

50X1

50X1

50X1

Without bayonet or cleaning accessories

50X1

50X1

h.	Length:	
	With bayonet in folded position *	101 cm (40.4 in)
	With extended bayonet *	130 cm (52 in)
i.	Length of bayonet *	33 cm (13.2 in)
j.	Length of barrel	Unknown
k.	Muzzle velocity *	500 meters per second
l.	Maximum range *	2000 m (manual stated that at 1500 m the bullet still had sufficient velocity to penetrate a human body.)
	Maximum effective range *	365 m (The "П" (permanent) setting on rear sight equaled this range.)
m.	Rifling *	Four lands and grooves, uniform right hand twist, twist unknown.
n.	Cooling *	Air, assisted through three air vents on either side of the wooden upper hand guard.
o.	Sights:	
	Front *	Open post with circular guard.
	Rear *	Tangent curve - graduated from cyrillic "П" (permanent) and then numbers 1 through 10. Each graduation represented 100 m. The combat range setting of "П" is the same as if the sight was set for approximately 365 m on the sight scale. No windage adjustment.
p.	Stock assembly	Two pieces, wooden, unlaminated stock proper and upper hand guard. Yellow or black wood. (His unit had both colors of stocks.)
q.	Method of charging	Ten-round straight-line clip (non-expendable).
r.	Rate of fire *	35 to 40 rounds per minute was given as the optimum practical rate. (cyclic rate of fire unknown)
s.	Bayonet	Two types: Permanent, folding, knife; and permanent, folding, four-edged prong-type.
t.	Sling	Web, fastened under rear stock and front, left of upper hand guard.
u.	Weapon replaced (in source's unit)	7.62 mm Mossin Nagant Carbine M1944
v.	Place of manufacture	Unknown
w.	Year of manufacture	1953 was the date stamped on [redacted] weapon. Other SKS carbines in unit were stamped as being made in 1951. 50X1

50X1

x. First issue:

(1) Austria

50X1

(2) USSR

an unidentified infantry battalion (FPN-61595 or 51695) in Barnaul (N 53-20, E 83-48), Altayskiy Kray, Siberia, USSR, in the summer of 1953. Weapon was in the hands of the cadre, while trainees used the M1944 carbine.

y. Ammunition:

(1) Model

M1943 as described in class. Interchangeable with new SMG AK and new u/i pistol. Unit officers stated that the ammunition would fit the new pistol.

50X1 50X1 50X1

(2) Basic combat load

100 rounds. Three pouches, each pouch with three ten-round clips. An additional nine rounds in magazine and one round in chamber.

(3) Type

Ball ammunition used on firing range. incendiary, tracer, and armor-piercing types of this 7.62 ammunition. a color scheme was used. The ball ammunition had no paint markings, but a stripe around the point of the bullet would indicate the type.

50X1 50X1 50X1 50X1 50X1

(4) Packaging

20 rounds to a package in layers of five rounds.

50X1 50X1

z. Markings on weapon

50X1

this date and serial number were stamped in at least three places: (1) On rear top of barrel (2) On trigger mechanism (3) Receiver cover. It was also etched onto the side of the bolt.

50X1

Packaging

50X1

Carbines arrived in his unit in wooden boxes, each containing ten carbines. The weapons were covered with heavy cosmolene.

50X1

Cleaning

50X1

After firing, the weapons were cleaned until the bore and all parts were clean. Then a light film of oil was placed on all portions of the weapon. bore cleaner was not used because this allegedly rusted the weapons. Hot soap and water was unheard of used "spit and clean clothe." Daily cleaning of the weapon after firing was compulsory for one week; after this, it was cleaned once a week.

50X1 50X1 50X1

50X1

50X1

12. The men were told to use the cleaning rod attachment to prevent bell mouthing of the bore. They were told that the bores of and bayonets on the weapons were chrome-plated and would not rust. However, this was not altogether true as some of the bayonets were not smooth and shiny but had a rough finish that was definitely not chromed.

13. Cleaning accessories for the weapon fitted into the cleaning-rod handle and were kept in a well in the butt of the stock, with the exception of the cleaning rod which slipped into a space under the barrel between the barrel and the bayonet.

Disassembly and Assembly

14. Disassembly and assembly, loading and operation of the weapon coincided closely with other data received on this weapon. The following differences were noted, however:

a. the trigger assembly was released by pushing a release catch under the stock and just to the rear of the trigger assembly.

b. The forward portion of the trigger assembly hooked onto two lugs connected to the receiver, and in no way did the trigger assembly touch the magazine.

c. The magazine release catch was attached to some other unknown part of the weapon and not the trigger assembly.

d. The barrel and the receiver were in some way connected by a pin and two hooks that released when the trigger mechanism assembly was released.

e. The pin described in sub-paragraph d above was visible on the exterior of the lower hand guard on either side.

f. The bayonet-catch lug was straight on its bearing surface.

g. The bayonet was more pointed.

NEW SOVIET SUBMACHINE GUN

15. (See page 11 for sketch).

Issue

16. Issue of the new Soviet SMG occurred in the 735th Separate Radio Communication Bn, at the same time as that of the new SKS carbines. Approximately 24 of these weapons were issued to the unit and were used to replace the old SMG PPSh used by squad leaders and platoon sergeants of his unit. Six of the old SMG PPSh were retained by each of the companies to be used as weapons at main gate of the garrison and on those occasions when personnel had to leave the area under arms.

17. The SMGs were issued a few days after their arrival in the unit in March 1954.

18. The weapons arrived in smaller cases than those the carbines came in The weapons were cosmolene coated; and, upon issue, each NCO was required to clean his weapon with gasoline. accessory items were issued along with the weapon a shoulder strap, a pouch with a capacity of five magazines, and six 32 round, curved box magazines.

19. The new SMGs were kept in the company arms room along with the carbines and the same instructions as for the carbines governed how they were to be drawn for use.

Security Measures

20. The men were all informed by unit officers that the SMG was a secret weapon and that under no circumstances would it leave the garrison except by the direct order of a responsible officer. the new SMGs were taken out of the garrison only on one occasion, to travel to Hungary for maneuvers in summer 1954. 50X1 50X1 50X1 50X1

21. The ammunition used by the new SMG was identical with that used by the new carbine SKS, and the same security measures were adopted on the firing range for ammunition accountability as in the case of the carbine. on the two occasions on the firing range to fire the carbine, the unit NCOs fired the SMGs. In addition to this he had heard that the NCOs went out on the range an additional time to fire. The ammunition used by the weapons came from the same box. 50X1 50X1 50X1

Instruction and Training

22. Prior to firing, the NCOs received dry-firing instruction and, during the period from the time of issue the NCOs received from two to three hours per week of classroom instruction on the weapon. it followed the same general pattern as that given on the carbine for the privates. The instructors for NCO classes were always officers of the company 50X1 50X1 50X1

23. used were full-length silhouettes. On the first occasion the course was 100 m and the second time 200 m. The NCOs on both occasions were each given nine rounds and instructed to fire from the prone position on three silhouettes using three-round bursts for each one. He heard that the results were scored as follows: One hit on one silhouette was satisfactory, one hit on each of two silhouettes was good, and one hit on each of the three silhouettes was excellent and resulted in public praise from the company CO. 50X1

Characteristics of SMG

24. The following are the characteristics of the new SMG:

a. Model	Unknown	50X1
b. Caliber	7.62 mm	
c. Operation	gas-operated; semi and full automatic fire.	50X1
d. Magazine capacity	32 rounds, according to NCOs.	
e. Magazine	Detachable, curved box.	50X1 50X1
f. Weight	this weapon was somewhat heavier than the old PPSh.	50X1

g.	Length	Approximately 80 cm.
h.	Length of barrel	Unknown
i.	Muzzle velocity	Unknown
j.	Maximum range	Unknown. Maximum effective range was 200 meters, as told to source by NCOs.
k.	Rifling	[redacted] 50X1 the bore in this weapon was also chrome-plated.
l.	Cooling	Air-assisted through two or three air vents in the upper wooden hand guard.
m.	Sights:	
	Front	Open post with circular guard.
	Rear	Unknown - leaf-type with no windage gauge.
n.	Stock assembly	Fixed wooden or metal folding
o.	Method of charging	Hand-loaded, detachable curved box magazine.
p.	Rate of fire	Unknown
q.	Bayonet	None
r.	Sling	Web type, fastening unknown.
s.	Weapon replaced in source's unit	7.62 mm PPSh SMG M1941
t.	Place of manufacture	Unknown
u.	Year of manufacture	[redacted] there were two years of manufacture for the weapons [redacted] 1951 and 1953. 50X1 50X1 50X1
v.	First issue	[redacted] March 1954 in Austria. 50X1
w.	Ammunition	
	(1) Model	M1943, interchangeable with carbine SKS and unidentified pistol described in this report.
	(2) Basic combat load	192 rounds. One pouch with five 32 round magazines and one magazine in the weapon. (Assumption [redacted] based on the number of magazines per pouch and weapon.) 50X1
x.	Markings on weapon	Unknown 50X1
y.	Performance	[redacted] 50X1 the old PPSh SMG was a much better weapon, being simpler in design, lighter in weight, more accurate in firing, and (with the drum) had greater fire power than the new SMG.

50X1

50X1

Cleaning of SMG

25. 50X1

50X1

the bores of these weapons were chrome plated and would not rust. 50X1

50X1

26.

NEW SOVIET 7.62 mm UNIDENTIFIED PISTOL 50X1
(See page 12 for sketch)

27.

28.

29. the pistol could be fired from the shoulder using the wooden holster as a stock. this pistol used the same ammunition as the new 7.62 mm SKS carbine and the new 7.62 mm unidentified SMG. the weapon carried 25 rounds in a magazine, fired semi-automatically, and was similar to the German World War II "Mauser" pistol. 50X1

50X1

50X1

2. Comment: This same tag was described by DS-616 as bearing the carbine serial number and the cyrillic initials "KP" indicating "karabin" (carbine). 50X1

50X1

3.

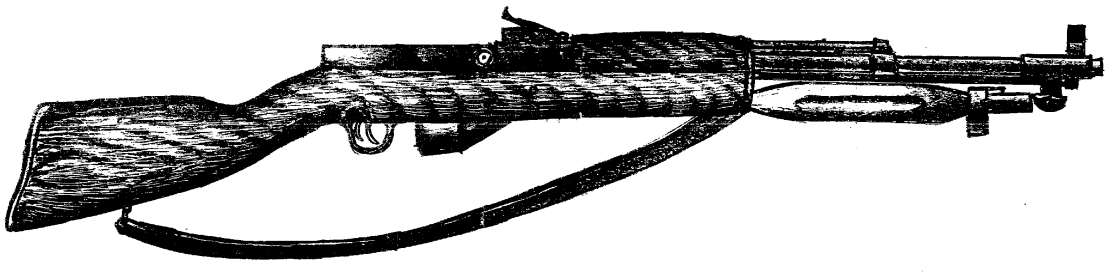
4.

5.

6.

50X1

50X1 Sketch of Soviet 7.62-mm Carbine SKS (Skorostrelnyy Karabin Simonova) M1943*

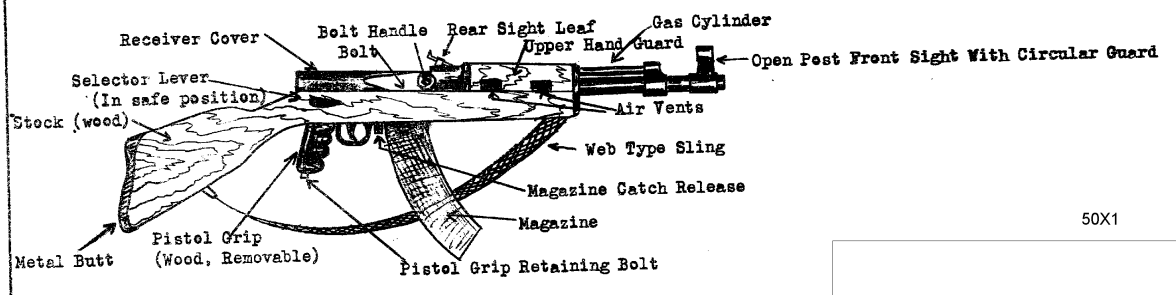


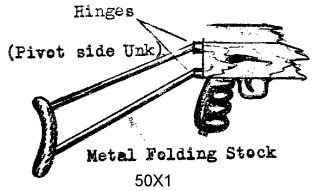
50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1 Sketch of New Unidentified 7.62-mm Soviet SMG With Three Types of Stocks *





50X1

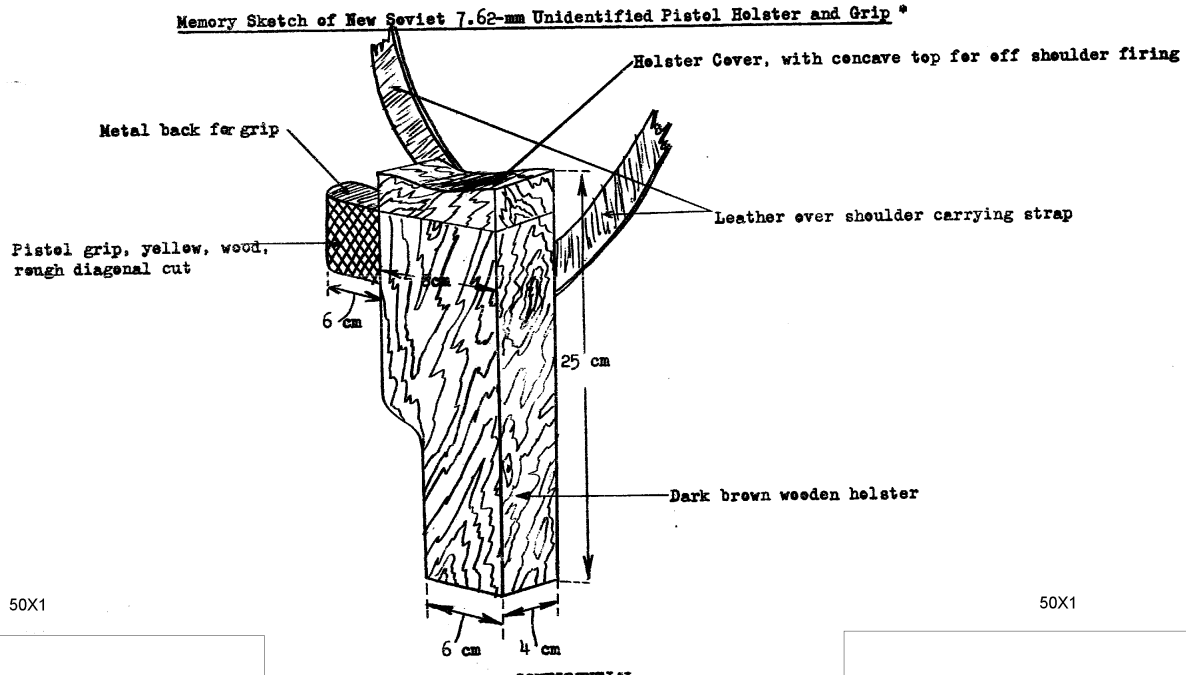
SMG with only pistol grip

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

Memory Sketch of New Soviet 7.62-mm Unidentified Pistol Holster and Grip *



50X1

50X1