This Stasi document shows that the East had an accurate indication of how NATO evaluated the Warsaw Pact. The authors judge that NATO’s knowledge is “mostly accurate and reliable,” and that the west has concluded that Warsaw Pact military strength and war preparations are constantly on the rise. Intelligence information, such as that compiled in this kind of document, usually came from various sources, mainly West German, thus showing that East German spies and their informants had an extensive run of the FRG Defense Ministry as well as of NATO headquarters.
All in all, the adversary is believed to possess an appropriate, and in the details mostly accurate and reliable, state of knowledge about the Warsaw Treaty. Two major conclusions have been drawn from this intelligence:

1. The Warsaw Treaty is constantly increasing its military potential, especially in quantitative terms. Concerning the technological state of armaments, the Warsaw Treaty does not lag behind NATO in most areas (with the exception of electronics). This tendency will continue.

2. The Warsaw Treaty’s war preparations have reached a high level and will be pushed further.

The adversary is going public with its knowledge in a targeted and planned manner. That activity is cleared within NATO as well. There are limits, however. In particular in the U.S. they are restrictive with certain kinds of intelligence. For instance, this results in the publication of drawings instead of pictorial documentation that has been obtained, as the 1985 issue of *Soviet Military Power* demonstrated. Demands by NATO’s supreme commander, U.S. General [Bernard W.] Rogers, “not to protect the enemy’s secrets” were not accepted. The U.S. in particular goes to some lengths to prevent the Warsaw Treaty from obtaining clues about the real internal state of NATO’s knowledge. In general the other NATO countries follow the same principle. Thus a contradiction exists between increasing requirements for classifying information, and the intention to influence their own people and the public around the world with the “Warsaw Treaty Threat” by means of outwardly correct facts.

[Source: *Die Bundesbeauftragte für die Unterlagen des Staatssicherheitsdienstes (BStU), Zentralarchiv, HVA, 39, pp. 62–147. Translated by Bernd Schaefer.*]