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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

Fld 186

COUNTRY USSR (Georgia and Crimea)

DATE DISTR. 7 APR 1949

SUBJECT 1. Alleged Uprising in Tbilisi
2. Anti-Soviet Protests in the Crimea

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A6a [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INF[redacted]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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[redacted]

1. [redacted]

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2. In 1944, some 600 individuals in Soviet areas formerly occupied by the German Army were sent to camps about 150 kilometers from Tbilisi. About half this number were subsequently sentenced to camps in Siberia and the rest remained in the Tbilisi area because charges had never been preferred against them. They remained until 1948, working in mines and collective farms of the region, while the MVD made investigations necessary to prefer charges. Many acquired families in the meanwhile. They allegedly were told that if they worked well they would be liberated at the end of the harvest in August 1948; but, instead, they found themselves at that time transferred to three jails in Tbilisi, facing technical charges of unauthorized change of residence. This, in addition to the fact that it was the time of year when the products were taken away from the collective farms, caused considerable discontent among the people.

3. A considerable number of women, incited by relatives of the jailed men, went to the jails under pretext of visiting the prisoners and there began to protest to the authorities the treatment that had been accorded the prisoners. Some residents of the city later characterized this protest as an uprising. MVD officials then made a round-up of participants in the city and surrounding country. About 6,000 persons, chiefly women, were sentenced to Siberia and prison in other parts of the USSR, as were the men originally jailed. A number of army deserters were uncovered in a subsequent check of the countryside.

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4. [redacted] states that Tbilisi has been and continues to be a center of disaffection, because it is in a rich agricultural region. The people formerly could enjoy the fruits of their labors, and they now resent losing them to the present regime. However, source is aware of no

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organized anti-Soviet movement either in Tbilisi or in any other part of the country. There have been cases of persons who joined bandit groups in the mountains in protest against the system of government, but such actions appear to be spontaneous and unplanned.

5. Source claims knowledge of the following incidents in the Crimea in 1946: In the Yevpatoriya region, the president of the Stalin collective farms divided all of its products among the workers and was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. In the same area, the president of the Terman farms did the same thing and was questioned in court concerning his motivation. He stated that, when he was drafted into the army, he was told that the collective farms would be abolished at the end of the war. After fighting for four years and seeing the bad conditions which still existed among the workers, he had made the division in protest. In Simferopol, a baker divided his entire stock of bread among the poor people outside his bakery and told the authorities that he preferred to die rather than to contribute to their starvation. In 1946, there were allegedly about 150 similar instances in the Crimea. Finally, the authorities of Simferopol went in trucks to the farms and took away all the products on hand, leaving the workers without food for the following year.

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[redacted] Comment: Probably Tumanyan (40°57'N, 44°39'E), on the railroad between Tbilisi and Leninakan.

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