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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Baltic States/Ukraine)

DATE DISTR. 25 Aug. 1951

SUBJECT 1. Anti-Soviet Feeling and Partisan Activity
2. Military Stockpiling
3. Voice of America Reception

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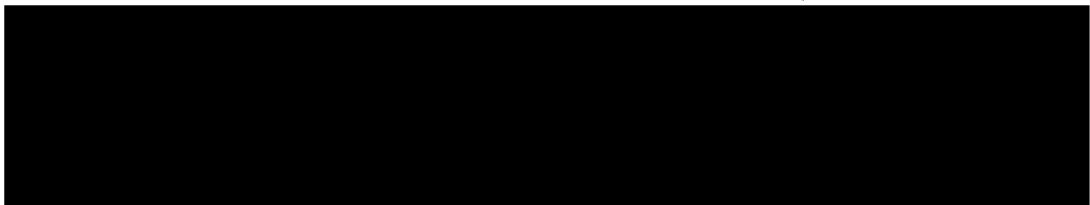


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SOURCE



1. Lithuania as well as Estonia and Latvia "face starvation" in the winter of 1951-52 or the spring of 1952 as the result of punitive collections of farm products, inefficiency, and the sullen non-cooperation of the farm population in the collectivization program. What prior reserves and caches of food the farmers had are now becoming exhausted.
2. It is generally known in Lithuania that the present drastic food collections are mainly the result of stockpiling for war purposes. The same applies to such items as metals; iron is virtually unobtainable for such farming essentials as horseshoes.
3. The hatred of the Baltic population against the Soviets is intense; it is particularly noticeable in Estonia, where the people studiously ignore the Russians and never respond to them in Russian.
4. In the Baltic area as well as "other parts" of the USSR, a war atmosphere definitely exists. The Balts pray for war as their salvation. It is problematical whether the Russians will rally to the defense of the regime if intelligent approaches are made to them by the West, particularly by the Americans.
5. In the Ukraine nationalism is rampant; it led to severe anti-partisan measures and deportations in 1947, 1948, 1950, and even early in 1951, as a result of which it is common talk in the USSR that "half of the Ukraine has been destroyed". Conviction is being instilled in the Great Russians that the Ukraine is a traitorous nation, in that it produced the turncoat Vlassov. Extensive latent anti-regime feeling exists among ex-soldiers, who frequently and bitterly complain, "When Zhukov wanted us to take Berlin, he promised to do away with the kolkhozes and to give us land; but after it was all over we came back to the same misery we had before. Is it for this that we fought?" If there is war, the surest appeal which the West can make in an attempt to win support in the USSR is to promise the people the return of the land.

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6. The consensus in the USSR is that the most active partisan area is the Ukraine. Up to 1950 "many" partisans were reported to exist in the forests and bogs of Belorussia. Partisans have been heard of in Estonia and Latvia. In Lithuania the height of partisan activity was reached in 1947. Since then the activity has been decreasing, but a movement still exists, replenished by evadees from deportation and military service. It covers most of Lithuania, with particular concentrations along the Polish and Latvian borders.

7. In spite of severe jamming, the Voice of America is listened to avidly in Lithuania. It is possible to comprehend it by catching a few words at a time. The program is best heard at 0645 hours, Lithuanian time. The program is "much too mild" in content in contrast to the reality at hand, but it is a godsend to the people merely to hear America speaking to them in their own tongue. Dr. Grinius, Sidzikauskas, and "one other speaker" are well liked in Lithuania, and particularly a "relate from Brooklyn" who has given "inspiring sermons on certain Sundays".

8. In the port of Klaipeda, out of 60 trawlers available for fishing, only approximately 20 are active and the regime is pressing every man who knows the sea into the fishing service. In wartime these trawlers are to be used for mining and mine sweeping purposes.

9. The 1926 to 1931 (inclusive) age groups are now in Soviet military service.*

Comment : According to the best previous reports, the 1926 class has already been demobilized except for volunteers and the 1927 class is being demobilized.

The Latvian-language newspaper Laiks, New York, of 4 August 1951, in the column "Happenings in Occupied Latvia", carried an article stating that a food shortage has set in in Latvia, at the same time that food shipments from Latvia to other parts of the USSR have increased.

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