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**INFORMATION REPORT**

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Estonian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 8 Aug. 1952

SUBJECT Communist Activity, Morale, and Resistance in Estonia

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE OF INFO.

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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PLACE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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Propaganda

1. The stream of propaganda in the press and on the air in Estonia is continuous; pictures of Stalin and other leading Communist figures are displayed everywhere: in the streets, offices, shops, railway stations, etc. The pictures of Estonian Communists, such as Nikolai Georgevich Karotamm, Eduard Nikolayevich Pall, and Arnold Veimer, were all removed after the purge of 1950 and have not been replaced by those of their successors, such as Ivan Kabin and August Jakobson.
2. After working hours, frequent meetings are held in all establishments, factories, commercial undertakings, etc., at which the speeches are always full of Communist propaganda. Attendance at these meetings is obligatory and the meetings arouse little enthusiasm. People try to avoid them or to leave before they end. In all speeches, articles, and broadcasts, the name of Stalin is featured and so often repeated that the greater part of listeners and readers are surfeited.
3. During the past year, very little Estonian and classical music has survived in the programs of the Tallinn broadcasting station. The music and songs now being broadcast are those of Soviet Russia, or of Uzbek, Georgia, Tatar, and other Estonian "brother republics".

Morale

4. The mood of the majority of Estonians in the towns, as well as in the country districts, is one of depression. There is a constant feeling of living under a steadily increasing pressure. People are waiting for the outbreak of war, which appears to them as the only way of escape from the

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Document No. 10  
 No Change in Class.   
 Declassified  
 Class. Change For: TS S 6  
 AUTH: 101 10-2  
 Date: 11/29/75

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present situation. It is well known that the weapons of the future (atomic and hydrogen bombs and bacteriological warfare) are extremely powerful, for which reason destruction will be on a vast scale. Yet whoever survives it will be freed from the nightmare of Communism. There is growing impatience and anxiety as to why the war has not yet begun, why the Western Powers and the USA delay so long, and whether preparations really take such a long time. It is feared that, if the present situation continues for very much longer, the Estonian national potential will be reduced to insignificance.

#### Psychological Resistance

5. The potential strength of the psychological resistance at the present time, as compared with 1944 when the German and Estonian troops who had been fighting the Soviet Forces retreated from Estonia, has decreased to some extent for the following reasons:
  - a. A great many people have been arrested and deported, thus removing an important proportion of Estonians from Estonian territory.
  - b. The delay in the liberation of Estonia causes a feeling of despair among the Estonians, who feel that they have been abandoned.
  - c. A section of Estonians have become fellow travelers, and a part of them with the tendency to stay Communist. Their percentage, however, is not large and therefore they may not be of great importance.

#### Practical Resistance

6. Practical opposition to the Communist regime manifests itself in many ways: in industry and trade by stoppages, failure to supply goods on time, pilferage from warehouses, and confusion in the administration; in agriculture by lack of cooperation in the work on the collective farms, which permits crops to go to waste and disrupts the economy. For example, during the winter of 1950-51, large quantities of potatoes were not harvested and went to waste, grain stacks remained uncovered in the fields throughout the winter, and so on. These are not single instances, but cases occurring all over Estonia, which are not planned sabotage, but evidence of sullenness caused by lack of personal interest combined with dislike of the regime. The Soviet authorities find it very difficult to combat these trends, and local minor Communist officials cannot do much to alter the situation.

#### Communist Holiday Demonstration

7. The number of people taking part in the May Day and other Communist anniversary demonstrations has increased with the years. The reason for this is that all workers and employees must now report at assembly points early on the day of the demonstrations (most people arrive late). When the parade has assembled, a check is carried out by an official from every enterprise and establishment to see if everybody is there. Formerly, there was no check; but, fearing trouble later because of this control, more people are now taking part. Marching starts about two hours after the time fixed for assembling the parade, when the pictures of prominent Soviet officials, the banners, and the slogans, have been distributed for carrying. Since May Day of last year (1950), the pictures of high-ranking Estonians that were formerly carried at these demonstrations have all disappeared, and they are now replaced by pictures of Polish, Chinese, Rumanian, etc., personalities.

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8.  Boulevard, along the Vabaduse Valjak (Freedom Square) past the saluting base (in front of the former Gloria movie theater), and past the building of the Bank of Estonia to the Estonia Theater, where they disperse. When the marchers are assembled, however, and later, on the march, they start "getting lost" one or more at a time, so that the ranks grow thinner and thinner the nearer they get to the Vabaduse Valjak. Meanwhile, the route

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of the parade is lined with spectators, whose numbers are constantly increased by those who have "fallen out" of the parade, so that in the end it is hard to say whether the spectators or the marchers are the more numerous. Of course, anyone who has a picture or slogan to carry cannot "get lost" so easily. People say it is only the fools who take something to carry during the march, and if the bearer says, "Hold this for a moment, please, I want to tie my shoe laces", then one may be certain that he will vanish somewhere on the side and not return.

9. Many drunken persons are to be seen among the demonstrators, especially on May Day, when they drink during the march, and consequently there have been many cases of people's "passing out". Estonians generally march along and pass the tribune of the saluting base rather quietly, but a great deal of noise is made by the Russians, many of whom carry their accordions, and the streets are filled with Russian shouting. As soon as the obligatory marching is over, there is a general scramble to get home as quickly as possible to have something to eat and then enjoy the remaining leisure.
10. As a rule, the building of the tribune is started in great haste some days before the parade; and, as soon as the first boards are put up, armed MVD sentries are placed on guard. The guards are stationed there night and day, and no one is allowed to stop near the building; every passerby is told to move along. There are generally three sentries, one in the middle and one at each end of the tribune.

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