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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Estonian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 13 DEC 51

SUBJECT Partisan Activity in Estonia

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1. Partisans are known to be still in existence in the forests and marshes of Estonia, but no information is available concerning their numbers. The partisans are joined from time to time by persons seeking refuge, for one reason or another, from the authorities.

2. Since the introduction of collectivization, the food problem has become increasingly difficult for the partisans, as the farmers are now themselves short of food. In order to obtain supplies, the partisans often raid the cooperative stores and dairies, seizing cash, foodstuffs, and other necessities such as clothing, footwear, etc. Attacks are also made on cars carrying money. On one occasion, in the late autumn of 1948 or 1949, a mail train was held up between Valga (57-46N, 26-03E) and Voru (57-51N, 27-00E) and cleared of all valuables.

3. Civilians who may cross their path are not always molested by the partisans, except suspected Communists on whom the Party card is found, or one who has a permit to carry firearms and is discovered armed. Such people are killed without further ado. Similar treatment is also applied to persons who have been active during deportations; and in various parts of the country it has not infrequently happened that militia informers "who have been too keen" have disappeared, and later their bodies have been found with a note attached stating the "cause of death".

4. At the present time, nothing is ever heard about the identity of partisan leaders. In 1945-46, however, reports were current concerning the activities of particular groups, the name of whose leaders were known.

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