

[REDACTED]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FULLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE  
REPORT CLASS [REDACTED]

DIST: 01 APRIL 1986

COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJ: INCARCERATION OF PRISONERS

DOI: 1955-1979

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

TEXT: ONLY THOSE PEOPLE ACCUSED OF CRIMES WHOSE CASES HAD NOT  
BEEN FULLY INVESTIGATED WERE INCARCERATED IN PRISONS, ACCORDING TO  
SOVIET LAW. AS SOON AS THE INVESTIGATION WAS COMPLETED AND  
SENTENCING HAD OCCURRED, THE PRISONER WAS MOVED TO A LABOR CAMP. FOR  
[REDACTED]

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Approved for Release  
Date  MAR 1997

COMMON CRIMES SUCH AS THEFT AND HOOLIGANISM, THE INVESTIGATION PERIOD USUALLY LASTED ABOUT TWO MONTHS. HOWEVER, THE INVESTIGATION COULD TAKE AS LONG AS SIX MONTHS, AND EVEN UP TO NINE MONTHS WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. THE ONE EXCEPTION TO THE REMOVAL OF PRISONERS TO LABOR CAMPS AS SOON AS SENTENCE HAD BEEN PASSED WAS THAT THE COURT COULD DECREE, IN THE CASE OF PARTICULARLY HEINOUS CRIMES SUCH AS A BRUTAL MURDER OR A POLITICAL CRIME AGAINST THE STATE, THAT UP TO THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF THE SENTENCE BE SERVED IN PRISON AS AN EXCEPTIONAL FORM OF PUNISHMENT.

2. SOVIET PRISONS WERE USUALLY OVERCROWDED, BUT THERE WERE NO KNOWN PLANS TO CONSTRUCT NEW FACILITIES. ON ONE OCCASION, THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION ORGANS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE ESTONIAN SSR COMMENTED THAT NO NEW PRISONS WOULD BE BUILT FOR IDEOLOGICAL REASONS. TO DO SO WOULD BE TO ADMIT THAT THE COMMUNIST SYSTEM HAD NOT DRAMATICALLY REDUCED THE AMOUNT OF CRIME IN RUSSIA AS HAD BEEN PREDICTED BY THE FOUNDERS OF COMMUNISM.

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