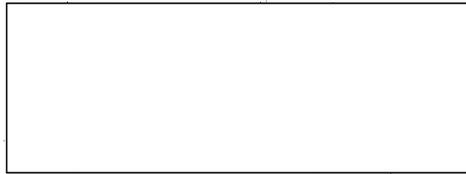


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION



COUNTRY	USSR (Lithuanian SSR)	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	Situation Report on the Jurbarkas Rayon: Partisan Activity, Kolkhozy, Transportation, and Deportations	DATE DISTR.	29 May 1953
DATE OF INFO.	Prior to May 1951	NO. OF PAGES	4
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE:



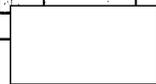
Partisan Activities

- In 1948 an amnesty was announced for those partisans who would voluntarily return from the forests. A partisan named Valius Gedaitis returned. The Russians questioned him for a very long time, took him to various villages, and, after some time, released him. However, the inhabitants avoided him and considered him a traitor.
- In 1950 there was heavy fighting in Girgzdai (probably Girdziai 55-10N, 22-48E). The fight took place when the partisans attacked a store next to the church in Girgzdai, and took all the food from it. During the fight, many Russians were killed.
- In March 1951, the istrebiteli, led by Russian army men, often visited Meskininkai (55-08N, 22-42E). They searched for partisans hiding among the kolkhozniki.
- On 1 May 1952, the partisans killed the chairman of the kolkhoz in the village of Dainiai (55-06N, 22-44E). reports the name of this kolkhoz as Geguzes Firmos Dienos (Kolkhoz of the First of May) and states that the chairman was killed because he had given the order to move individual farmhouses to the center of the kolkhoz. On the night of 1 May 1951, the "bandits" shot the Russian Chairman. The MVD and the istrebiteli were called out and a battle took place, According to reports, there were six partisans, but none of them was caught. Sometime later, however, partisans were betrayed. Their bunker in Drebulyne near Erzvilkas (55-15N, 22-42E) was located and three partisans were shot on the spot. The Russians later shot the farmers who had been providing the partisans with food. The farmers, under threat of Russian punishment, were afraid of having contact with the partisans, but some of them secretly gave them assistance.
- the situation in Lithuania would be much worse if there were no partisans. considers the partisans the second and real government of the State. The partisans have always been numerous and they were still active in 1951.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI	X	AEC						
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")



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Source thinks that their numbers may have been increasing, because whenever there is a new Russian call-up large numbers of young men make for the forests. There are no partisans near Jurbarkas, but subject considers that there are some in the Geigaudiskis area. [] also considers that there are large numbers near Erzvinikas.

Kolkhozy

- 6. The inhabitants of Dainiai have been forced to join the kolkhoz Artojas. At the beginning of 1951, work was begun in dismantling farmhouses in Dainiai for the purpose of reconstructing them in the center of the kolkhoz. As most of the houses were old, the timber fell apart during the process and it was not possible to rebuild the houses. The lumber was finally used as firewood. When dismantling the houses proved unsuccessful, houses were moved to the kolkhoz center on special platforms drawn by six tractors. However, at the end of March 1951 when the weather became warmer, houses were not moved further and many remained along the road.
- 7. From his 60 ares of land, the kolkhoznik must make the following deliveries to the State: 15 centners of potatoes, 60 eggs per chicken, 12 kilograms of butter, and 1 centner of meat per cow (sic). There is also a head tax of 70 rubles for each person over 16 or 18 years old. Source could not remember the exact age. [] in spring 1951 all young horses were taken for the army.
- 8. In Jurbarkas (55-05N, 22-47E) 1,000 head of cattle are butchered every week. The meat is transported to factories where it is canned for the army. Most of these factories are in Kaunas (54-09N, 23-55E).
- 9. There are large storehouses in Jurbarkas for storing hay. From Jurbarkas, the hay is even transported to army units in Rusne (55-18N, 21-22E). This is necessary because the meadows in Rusne are neglected and are overgrown with weeds which reach a man's height.

Prices

- 10. In 1951 prices in Jurbarkas were as follows: Bread cost two rubles per kilogram. It was very difficult to obtain, and people stood in lines of at least 100 people from the early hours of the morning. The Russians, on the other hand, received bread at the same time as they received their salaries. Butter was 14 - 15 rubles per kilogram (in winter 25 - 27 rubles). Eggs cost 40 - 50 kopeks each. The price of cabbages fell progressively from 3 rubles to half a ruble to such an extent that in 1950 farmers were no longer bringing them to market as their sale was unprofitable. Chickens cost 10 - 17 rubles. These are bought only by Russian women. Flour was 10 rubles per kilogram, rye 150-200 rubles per cwt but by 1951 was practically impossible to buy; sugar was a rarity and could only be obtained through acquaintances among store clerks. The price was 12 rubles per kilogram. Potatoes were 30 - 40 rubles per cwt. There is no shortage of salt, matches, or kerosene, but when the war in Korea broke out the people nevertheless began to store these commodities. The State store in Jurbarkas had its sign in both Lithuanian and Russian language; most of its employees were Lithuanian. There was no great shortage of food in the villages, but there was in the town itself. Some of the townspeople endeavored to keep pigs and fed them with mushrooms or greenstuffs. The fishermen have been organized collectively and fish for the State. A large amount of fish is caught in the river Nemunas with floating nets, a form of fishing which was previously prohibited.

Industry

- 11. There is a saw mill and charcoal factory (?) operating in Jurbarkas, and nothing is known of any other form of industry. Just below Jurbarkas in Kalenai there is a river port and ship repair workshops. The workers are Lithuanians and Russians, the chief being a Russian who owns two farms in the vicinity.

Deportations

- 12. In 1950 there were mass deportations from the area of Erzvilkas (55-16N, 22-42E). Among the deportees from the villages of Dainiai, Meskininkai, Ruksniai (55-07N, 22-43E), Mantviliai (55-09N, 22-40E), and Smukuciai (55-06N, 22-43E), []

Ruksniai
Griskus family

Mantviliai
Maciulevicius family
Frisman (fnu)

Dainiai
Borchertas (fnu)

Meskininkai
Jonas Markevicius
and family

Smukuciai
Paulaitis (fnu)

13. In Adiniai a few Russian families have been settled in the homes of those who have been deported. In Jurbarkas the Russians are in the minority compared with the Lithuanians. Most of them are employed as informants, and therefore people avoid them as much as possible. They also occupy favored positions in collective farms.

Military

14. Quarters for the militia and istreibiteli in Jurbarkas are located in a two-story house near the Protestant church. The military garrison in Jurbarkas consists of about 50 soldiers. The quarters of the MVD in Smalininkai (55-04N, 22-35E) are in the apartment of Jigeris (fnu) next to the post office. Thirty-two MVD members live here.
15. The Russians started to construct an airfield at Smukuciai (55-06N, 22-43E) but stopped when the work was half completed.

Movement

16. There are two steamships per day in each direction between Jurbarkas and Kaunas. Departures are at 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. from each city. In Jurbarkas, tickets for the trip are purchased at the steamship communication ticket office, which is located next to the dock at the market place on the shore of the Nemunas River.
17. The steamboats LUITAS (now called MARTUSOVA) and LAISVE (now called MELNIKAITI) still operate on the Nemunas River, and there is also a tug called VOIGA which was formerly on the Visla River. The journey by steamboat to Jurbarkas and Kaunas and return costs 72 rubles. The ferry journey across the Nemunas by State ferry near Jurbarkas is 1½ rubles. A private ferryman takes two rubles; one goes to the State and one is for himself. No special passes are required to travel by steamboat, but before being allowed on board one's passport must be produced.
18. On the road near the church there are large signboards indicating that people are prohibited from going into the forest or fields.¹

Churches

19. Both the Catholic and Evangelic churches at Skirsnemune (55-05N, 22-55E) were closed in 1950. The Evangelic church in Jurbarkas was closed in spring 1950 and converted into an MVD prison. The Catholic church in Jurbarkas is still open. The rector is a priest named Sabaliauskas, whose brother is in Venezuela. The two Catholic priests in Jurbarkas also attend to the needs of those who profess the Evangelic faith. The Evangelic church in Batakiai was closed in 1949. The pastor, named Preiksaitis, attempted to get authority to re-open the church but was unable to raise sufficient funds to have this done. The Catholic church at Sudargas (55-03N, 22-40E) has been closed. The church at Smalininkai has been completely destroyed and the bricks removed.

Miscellaneous Information

20. There were no doctors in Dainiai, merely a clinic for infectious diseases. Near Jurbarkas there is a large hospital. Treatment is free, but medicines which are prescribed have to be paid for and can be quite expensive. Some Russian nurses from this hospital came to Dainiai to buy milk and butter and boasted of the fact that in Russia they had participated in operations where 5000 Germans had had their tongues cut out. (sic). The doctors are usually Lithuanians.
21. Some of the population listen to foreign broadcasts, but when doing so they normally cover their sets with blankets in order that the programs should not be heard outside of the room.
22. In 1946 - 1947 a mass of beggars from Russia, mainly youths, flooded Lithuania and spread as far as Kaliningrad. The government organs eventually began to round them up and return them to Russia. At the present time they are no longer to be seen. The area near Rusne in the Klaipeda district is very sparsely populated. It is being colonized by Lithuanians from the Vilnius area who are not very good farmers and are not able to keep the land in good order.

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23. The localities between Kaunas and Jurbarkas on the banks of the Nemunas have not suffered much from war damage. The bridge and the church steeple at Raudonyaris have been destroyed. In Kaunas the two main bridges across the Nemunas have now been reconstructed of iron.

1. Comment: Probably in Smalininkai although possibly source meant Jurbarkas.

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