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- file frontie

Estonia 15,316 X husua # October 1944 K JULINAMY

Hise Grace Fully The White House Fashington, D. C.

Dear Grace:

I believe the President will be interested in the attached reports. Will you kindly see that they reach his deals.

Thank you.

Sincerely.

Declassified and Approved For Release 2013/12/18: CIA-RDP13X00001R000100020007-5



7 October 1944

JEVORANINU POR THE PROSIDENT

I believe you will find of interest two reports which I am enclosing concerning developments in Estonia as a result of the Russian advance.

Willes J. Donovan Birêctor

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September 12, 1944

STATEMENT BY DR. OFCAR LOOPITE

Dogent in the University of Tartu, Director of the Estonian Folklore Archives, now political refugge in Sweden. (The recorded events all took place in southerstern Estonia.)

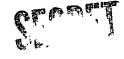
The prefect of the Velk police, Osmo Temmenagi, told me on August 12, 1944, that on the Voru front the petrol chartage was such that 440 horses had to be sent to the front for the was such that 440 horses had to be sent to the local German transport of amounition. At the same time the local German fuehrers had enough retrol for their cleasure trips and the petrol reserves at the Keeni railway station remained untouched.

After the departure of the German: from Laure a number of local people went with red flags to meet the Russian mi Lucal people went with red liags to meet the Russian Filberators. Later, when the Estonian Felf-Defence Corps recaptured Laura, it appeared that the Russians had before their retreat killed all those who had thus hoped to save their retreat killed all however civilians are not killed their retreat killed all however civilians are not killed. their lives. As a rule, however, civilians are not killed on a large scale by the Red Army. This is done some days later by the NKVD units.

The chief of the Self-Defence Corps of Vorumas, Titvel, told me on August 16, 1944 that immediately after a Russian told me on August 16, 1944 that immediately after a Russian tank unit had entered Antsla, the local Communists formed an tank unit had entered Antsla, the local Communists of tank unit had entered Antsla, the local Communists of tank unit had entered which the Restantan Salf-Defence Communist once organized resistance. the Estenian Self-Defence Corps at once organized resistance, Siving orders to open fire not only on the attacking Russians but also on the fleeing Germans. The town of Antela was encircles and retaken, all the Soviet tanks being captured. circled and retaken, all the Soviet tanks being captured. The members of the Executive Committee, among them a former German members of the Executive Committee, among them a former German set fire to the town while should be sere shot. Estenians extinguished the fire retreating but the local Estenians extinguished the retreating similarly, the town of Voru was set on fire by the retreating German. Nearly the entire namulation had find for fear of German. Nearly the entire population had fled for fear of the Bolsheviks. The head of the province, Hansen, and Tivel, proclaimed the Estonian proclaim proclaimed the becommended procedure Republican regime in the town after the Germans hit as an isstonian Republican military form not as a German, but as an isstonian Republican military unit, displaying blue-black-white banners. This national regime that displaying blue-black-white banners and the town the residence of the banners. Listed only ten hours, then the Russian tanks entered the town listed only ten hours, then the Russian tanks entered the town but were afterward repulsed. At the time this story was tid, but were afterward repulsed. At the time this story was tid, beavy fighting was going on in Voru with Russian infantry. The Russians was drawn and sand whereas the Germans abandoned neavy righting was going on in voru with nussian intentry.

The Russians were drunk and sang, whereas the Germans abandoned the Russians was recaptured that equipment and fled into the forests, Rouge was recaptured that equipment and fled into the Russians.

The spothscary Kunsk told me on August 23, 1944, that when the Soviet troops came to his father's farm near Otepaa he had hid under the floor of the farm house. His father and other farmers were ordered to transport Russian wounded Kouse heard how the Russians gave instructions soldlers t.o



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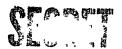
to shoot all the farmers after taking the sounded to their destination. Two days later Otepas was recaptured but none of the farmers returned.

The wife of the mayor of Otepan, Mrs. Tilteman, described how the Germans had ordered the people to evacuate long before the urrival of the Russians. In the meantime the German troops looted the houses of the town exactly as the German troops looted the houses of the town exactly as the German troops looted last winter. Even the Mayor's library Narva had been looted last winter. Even the Mayor's library had been ransacked.

The flier, Unesson, said on August 20, 1944, that he had seen on a reconnaissance flight how long columns of momen and children were being marched by Red soldiers from women atowards Pskev. Those who collapsed were left on Vorumae towards Pskev. Those who collapsed were left on the road. Most of the children had been separated from the women.

Septe ber 12, 1944

/Signed/ Ogkar Loorits



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DEVISIOPHENTS IN RETONIA

The state of morale at this time is very disheartening. The German's evacuating to Germany has made the native people doubt Germany's intentions to defend the country (Estonia) . A considerable part of the mobilized men, because of lack of amountains and supplies, are inactive in the training areas, are Germans preventing them thus from engaging in a more decisive way in the defense of their native country. The Germans have not approved the forming of new independent Pitonlan fighting groups and the regiments of mobilized (Estonian) men are made subordinate to German divisions. forming of Estonian fighting groups would surely raise the morale of the soldiers as well as the home front in their demorale of the soldiers as well as the home front in their demorale of the soldiers as well as the home front in their demorale of the soldiers as well as the home front in their demorals of the soldiers as well as the home front in their demorals of the soldiers as well as the home front in their demorals of the soldiers as well as the home front in their demorals of the soldiers as well as the home front in their demorals of the soldiers as well as the home front in their demorals of the soldiers as well as the home front in their demorals of the soldiers as well as the home front in their demorals of the soldiers as well as the home front in their demorals of the soldiers as well as the home front in their demorals of the soldiers as well as the home front in the soldiers as well as the home front in the soldiers as well as the home front in the soldiers as well as the home front in the soldiers as well as the home front in the soldiers as well as the home front in the soldiers as well as the home front in the soldiers as well as the home front in the soldiers as well as the home front in the soldiers as the home front in the soldiers as t sire to fight for their own national freedom. The return of the Estonian Regiment that had been stationed in Finland was arranged in the most inconspicuous manner, and its treatment after that has aroused great bitterness and discouragement after that has aroused great bitterness and discouragement as not used among those who are in the Regiment. The Regiment is not used as a whole, as the Estonians had hoped, but about 20 Estonians have been used to make up deficiencies of the SS-voluntary division, a part being at Klodgas and Kehra for training. The Germans do not consider an officers those who have received their officer's training in Finland, but have intended to send their officer's training in Finland. ill of them to Germany for further training. As a result of this activity about twenty of the men from the regiment have escaped back to Finland.

Distrust and bitterness have brought about disorder in the evacuation activity in the southeastern and southern parts of the country. Evacuation orders (directions) are often given too late or not at all, and very little time is given for evacuation in which case the people have had to start out without the necessary artisles of clothing, food, etc. Abundant without the necessary artisles of clothing, food, etc.

evacuation preparations a large part of the southeastern evacuation preparations a large part of the southeastern lateral people were left in Russian invaded territory. In standard people were left in Russian invaded territory. In large of the front troops come the disciplinary commanding back of the front troops come the disciplinary commanding back of the front troops come the disciplinary commanding back of the front involved with the Germans are shot cally ind communists, whose their mapping up job without callity and change who had operated with the Germans are shot delay, when these who had operated with the Germans are shot delay, when these who had operated with the Germans are shot delay, when these who had operated with the Germans are shot delay, when these who had operated with the Germans are shot delay, when these who had operated with the Germans are shot delay, when these who had operated with the Germans are shot delay, when these who had operated with the Germans are shot delay, when these who had operated with the Germans are shot delay, when these who had operated with the Germans are shot delay, when these who had operated with the Germans are shot delay, when these who had operated with the Germans are shot delay, when these who had operated with the Germans are shot delay, when these controls are the delay in the Germans are shot delay, when these controls are the delay in the Germans are shot delay.

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the Estonian determination to fight against the communist control. In the other direction the apparent unwillingness of the Germans to furnish ammunition and supplies to the mobilized men as well as to give freedom of action to the Estimians has aroused great bitterness and feeling of hopelessness tonians has aroused great bitterness and feeling of hopelessness among the populace.

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7 Stories

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES ET API

INTEROFFICE MEMORY OUT 4 PIN 5 54 E. J. Putzell, Jr., Lieut., USNR DATE: 10/4/44

FROM:

Walter C. Langsam

SUBJECT:

Reports on Estonia

Some time ago General Donovan requested all material we have available on political and morale conditions in Estonia. At the time, I sent him through you whatever we had on the subject. Since then two additional reports have come in and I am herewith forwarding copies thereof to you. Please let me know whether or not I should continue sending these as they come in.

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File Belle Countries

22 September 1944

TO:

Lt. E. J. Putzell

FROM:

Walter C. Langsam

SUBJECT: SAR 6186.

This document is forwarded to you to be transmitted to the General for his information and retention.

Weh.

Declassified and Approved For Release 2013/12/18 : CIA-RDP13X00001R000100020007-5

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PUBLIC SENTIMENTS IN ESTURIA

Extract from a private letter, dated August 1944

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....The feelings of the Estonian people at present may be summarised in the ancient Roman exclemation: "moritura te salutant!" This is a conscious appreciation of the situation facing the Estonian people today. The Soviet armies have reached the Estonian frontier and threaten to re-occupy the country. The Estonian people are aware that the military occupation will be followed by arrests, executions, and deportations on a scale exceeding the horrors of 1941. The Soviet Union covets the Baltic States and Finland in order to establish her own "dominium maris Baltici." She claims to have incorporated the Baltic States in 1940, and nurses puppet governments for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on Russian soil. The Finns fear a similar fate if the Russians succeed in establishing their control over Finland. The reality of this danger is clearly illustrated by the ominous developments in Russo-Polish relations. Reports have reached Estonia from Soviet occupied Inthuania, Poland, and White Russia of large scale deportations of the intelligentsia and even of more prosperous farmers, who, according to the Soviet view, had seen exposed too long to the influence of the bourgeois world. Broadcasts from Leningrad are constantly threatening the so-called Estonian Nazis with dire punishment when the Red Army reaches Estonia. An appeal was made to the partisens to prevent those "Nazi plutocrats" from leaving Estonia. They must be liquidated in order to prevent them from carrying on the fight against the Soviets from abroad. The Estonians have no doubt that the people branded by the Soviets as "Estonian Nazi Plutocrats" are primarily those patriotic Estonians who firmly stand and fight for the independence of their country, and of whom hundreds have been placed under arrest by the Germans For their pro-British sympathies. And since the aim of the overwhelming majority of the Estonian people is the restoration of Estoria's independence, mass reprisals on an unprecedented scale are expected. Such appeals from abroad would seem to serve the purpose of providing the Soviets with an clibi since any atrocities committed after the entry of the Red Army into Estonia could later on be blamed on the partisans. An impartial investigation of the facts under war conditions would obviously be very difficult. There is little hope for help from outside for the Estonians know that one Western Democracies are at present in no position to help, no help can be expected from Sweden, and the Finns have too many troubles of their own.

Tespite all this, however, the Estonian people are united in the purpose of resisting by force of arms to the last possibility the reoccupation of their country by Soviet Russia. They are determined to carry on the fight their country by Soviet Russia. They are determined to carry on the fight their country by Soviet Russia. They are determined to carry on the fight their country by Soviet Russia. They are determined to carry on the fight their country by Soviet Russia. They are men the Committee is engaged on organizing a shadow administration and its own the Committee is engaged on organizing a shadow administration and its own armed forces which is a most difficult task in view of the German occupation. The members of the Committee represent all political parties. They are men of the younger generation with truly democratic views who hither to had organized of the younger generation with truly democratic views who hither to had organized

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SAR-6186

the anti-German resistance movement in Ratonia. During the mass arrests in April and on May 1st a number of them were arrested but others are carrying on despite German efforts to capture them. These men are obviously no "Quislings," and yet the Soviets brand them as Nazis and their lackeys. While the Soviet forces are on the point of invading Estonian territory. the National Committee has insued an appeal to the people not to leave the country. As a result of this appeal the flow of refugees to Sweden and Finland has diminished. Some younger Estonians who had fled the country in order to avoid German mobilization are now eager to return from Sweden and to place themselves at the disposal of the National Committee for the defense of their country. The German attempts to mobilize the Estonians proved a failure because they endeavoured to draft them into their own army and to make them fight; for their own ends outside the territory of the Republic of Estonia. Now, nowever, they rally in response to an appeal by their own acknowledged representatives. The Estonian National Committee, whose aims are the restoration of National independence and the protection of Estonian lives and property. It may seem surprising that the Germans instead of supporting this popular movement are actually opposing the formation of an Estonian national army. It would appear that knowing the anti-German feelings of the Estonian people, the Germans fear that such an army under the political leadership of true patriots would not fight egainst the Russians alone, but would sooner or later turn against the Germans themselves. In their present difficulties, however, they have not been able to prevent the formation of Estonian national military units. At the same time they have sought to minimise the danger to themselves by resorting to political arrests. Hence the arrests of April and May ls, which affected primarily the Estonian intelligentsia. Puolic reaction to this step, however, was so ominous that a considerable number of those arrested had to be released again.

The main tragedy of the Estonian people is that they have to defend themselves egainst two enemies in opposite cemps. Though, owing to the imminent danger which threatens the National existence and the very lives of the Estonians, the National Committee, supported in this by the whole popu-Lation, is creanizing at present the defense of the country against a new Soviet investor, the Committee has to work underground and its members are in constant danger of being arrested by the Germans. If the resistance movement gainst the Germans is at present less active, it is due to the fact that a mass uprising would inevitably lay the country open to a Soviet Russian invasion. And the fear of Soviet Russia is even greater than the hatred for the Germans. Nevertheless, no one in Estonia doubts that in case the independence of the Republic of Estonia were guaranteed by the Allies such popular uprising against the Germans would take place, which would vitally affect their North-Eastern front. Such a guarantee, however, has not been given. The Atlantic Charter was received with enthusiasm by the Estonian people at the time of its proclamation. Recent pronouncements of responsible Allied statesmen, however, have cast doubts on its effectiveness and general application. And yet, there is a deep conviction among the Estonian people that if they manage to survive the present struggle the principles of the Atlantic Charter will prevail in the end

RESTRICTED

SECRET

T-2215 15 August 1944

The following excerpts concerning the attitude of the Latvian people toward the Russians and the Germans have been taken from a Danish report:

- 1. On 20 July the Germans were assumed to have 35-40 divisions in the Baltic States. They provide no resistence worth mentioning to the Russians. The Germans are not short of men, but there is a certain shortage of material in the Baltic Area. The essential reason is however that their combat morale is undermined. The German sold er is unable to arrange any defense, largely because of internal suspicion. No one wants to be left behind and become a sort of "Stalingrad Group". It is thought that a large part of the low morale is attributable to Latvian propaganda. In the days just after the German occupation, a small number of Latvians were taken into the German Army. They were put in among the German soldiers. During the first year many Latvians were forced into the army, and now the situation is in some cases reversed. There are German companies with about 10-15 Latvians to one German. Because of the hatred aroused by the Germans in Latvia, the Latvians do everything they can to sabotage the Germans. There is no doubt many of them are pure partisans. They steal weapons and sell them to the population.
- As for feeling in Latvia, there is no doubt that 90% of the people in the country favor the Russians. This is attributed to the absence in Latvia of a farming class owning its land. The country population sees no difference between working for a private owner and working for a "kolhos" association. The Germans have returned no ground to the former owners, but rather continued the Russian system, increasing the quotas to be turned over to them. In some cases these quotas go up to 50%. In the cities, especially in Riga, feeling toward the Russians is much less favorable, chierly because most of the "intelligentsia" is concentrated there. These people have no sympathy for the Germans either. They have begun an independence movement which, however, comes a bit late to have any great effect on the people. In July, probably the 13th, an order came forbidding people to leave Latvia or send property to Germany. This affects Germans both from Germany and Latvia. It was due to preparations being made by civil servants and returned Baltic Germans for abandoning the country in haste.

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T-2226 13 August *44

The following report came from an Estonian source which we consider reliable:

Le There are several signs pointing to continued German resistance in the Estonian sector. Thus, Inspector General Soudla - leader of the SS in Estonia - was in Berlin recently seeking more arms, and it is reported that the Germans promised to comply with his request. Of the German troops evacuated from Finland since the beginning of the offensive on the Baltic front, one-half were sent from Hango to Estonia, while the others were sent to Danzig. Two divisions of Germans have been brought in as reinforcements since the beginning of the big offensive on the Estonian front. The Nazis also recalled all officials of the "Estonian German Civil Administration" from Köningsburg and East Prussia. These officials have now been sant to Estonia to organize the defense of that country. Similarly, Henrich Lohse, Reichskommisar for northern "Ostland", has moved with his staff from Riga to Parnu, in Estonia. Recently. Dr. Hjelmar Mae, leading Estonian Quisling and head of the so-called "Estonian Self-administration", proclaimed total mobilization in Estonia. Men, including eighteen-year-old boys, have been armed and are being sent to the front. It is alleged (no confirmation) that after the mobilization was proclaimed, the *Estonian Self-government*, was dissolved by the Germans. The *German Civil Administration*, however, continues to function under Commissar General Karl Litzman.

Two Estonians recently escaped from the Soviet-captured city of Vilne. They report that the Russian troops assured the frightened populace that they would remain in Eithuania. Two days later, however, the NKVD (Political Folice) forces arrived and the people were asked to fill in the following questionnaire:

Why did you not evacuate to the Soviet Union in 1941?

b) What have you done to sabotage the German war effort?

c) Did you belong to the police?

d) Did you aid the Germans? e) Give the names of three persons who did.

All persons falling under Category (e) were, without any checking whatsoever, rounded up and shot. Then, the women were sent to Russia, while the men were mobilized and sent immediately to the front. According to this report, Vilna was almost an empty town in about a week's time.

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HIBRIO III

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POLICE SECTION IN THE REPORTA

Bitran from a private letter detal August 1244

equation feelings of the Estonian people of present may be managined in the motent figure evaluation: "morture to calutant to This is a conscious appreciation of the situation fueling the Estonian people today. The Soviet similar here renebed the Intention fromther and threaten to re-escupy the country. The Satonian people are onthe that the military occupation will be followed by arrests, executions, and deportations on a state exceeding the horners of 1941. The Soviet Datos covers the Baltie States and Finland in erfor to establish her own significam maris Bultist. She claims to have incorporated the Bullsie States in 1940, and nurses purpos governments for Britain, Latvin, and Lithumia on Russian soil. The Finns fear a disiler fits if the Russians succeed in octablishing their control over Sinland. The reality of this desger is elearly illustrated by the contous developments in Annie Toliah relations. Reports have reached Estonia from Soviet complet Lithernia, Polund, and white Enough of large scale deportations of the in-Series view, his been emosed too long to the influence of the bourgests world. Accedenate from Laningrad are sometantly threatening the so-called Estesian Biggis with dire puntament when the Red Army reaches Estonia. An appeal was made to the partisans to prevent those "Rand plutocrate" from leaving Estonia. They must be liquidated in order to prevent them from earlying on the fight contract the Soriets from abroad. The Intentans have no count that the people branded by the Soriets as "Mahmim Hant Platecrats" are primarily those patrictic Retunions who firmly stand and flight for the independence of their country, and of thom handreds have been placed under arrest by the Germans for their pre-British sympothies. And pince the sim of the overwhelming majority of the Estatus people is the destoration of Estatus independence. man reprisely on an unpresedented scale are expected. Such appeals from alibi since any aspectives consisted after the entry of the Red Army into Retain could later on be blessed on the partisens. An importial investigation of the facts maker our souditions would obviously be very difficult. There is little keps for help from estable for the Estonians know that the Western Desperation are not present in no position to help on help can be exected functions are at present in no position to help, no help can from Sweden, and the Finns have too many troubles of their own.

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15 August 1944

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A Ma you wid the foremet

e) Give the name of three persons who did.

All persons falling under Category (e) were, without any checking minterest remided up and shot. Then, the would were sent to tracts, while the men were mobilized and sent immediately to the front. According to this report, Vilne was almost an cupty to a should would be the separate time.