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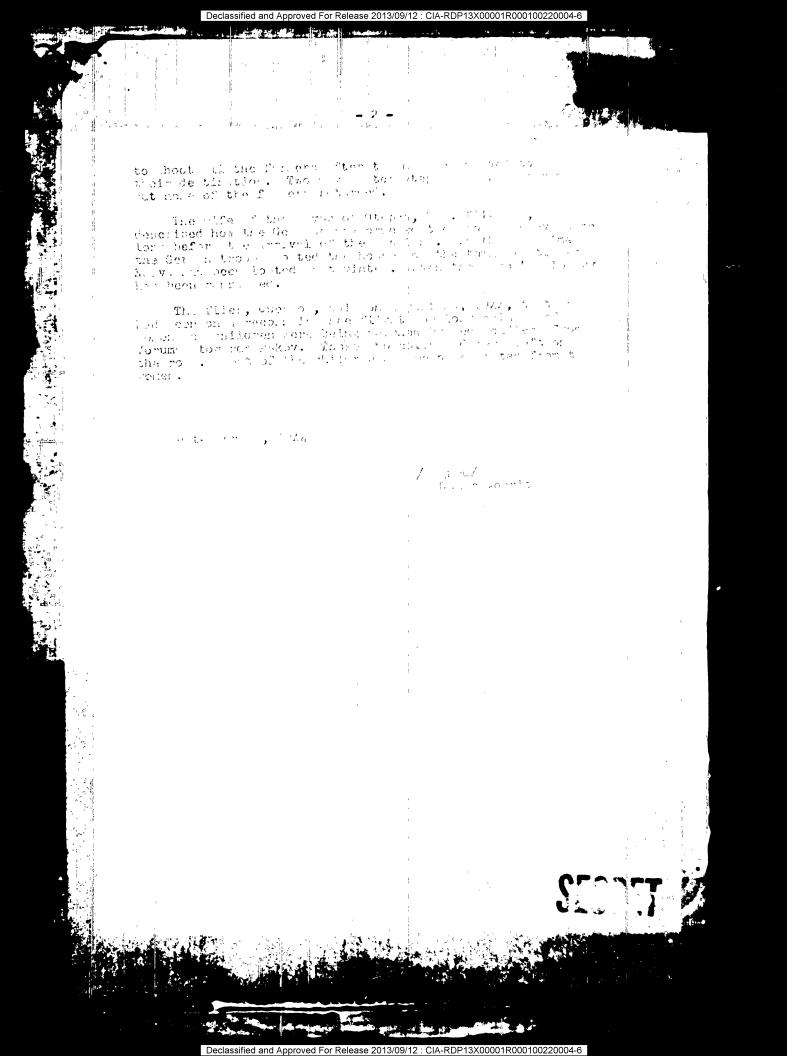
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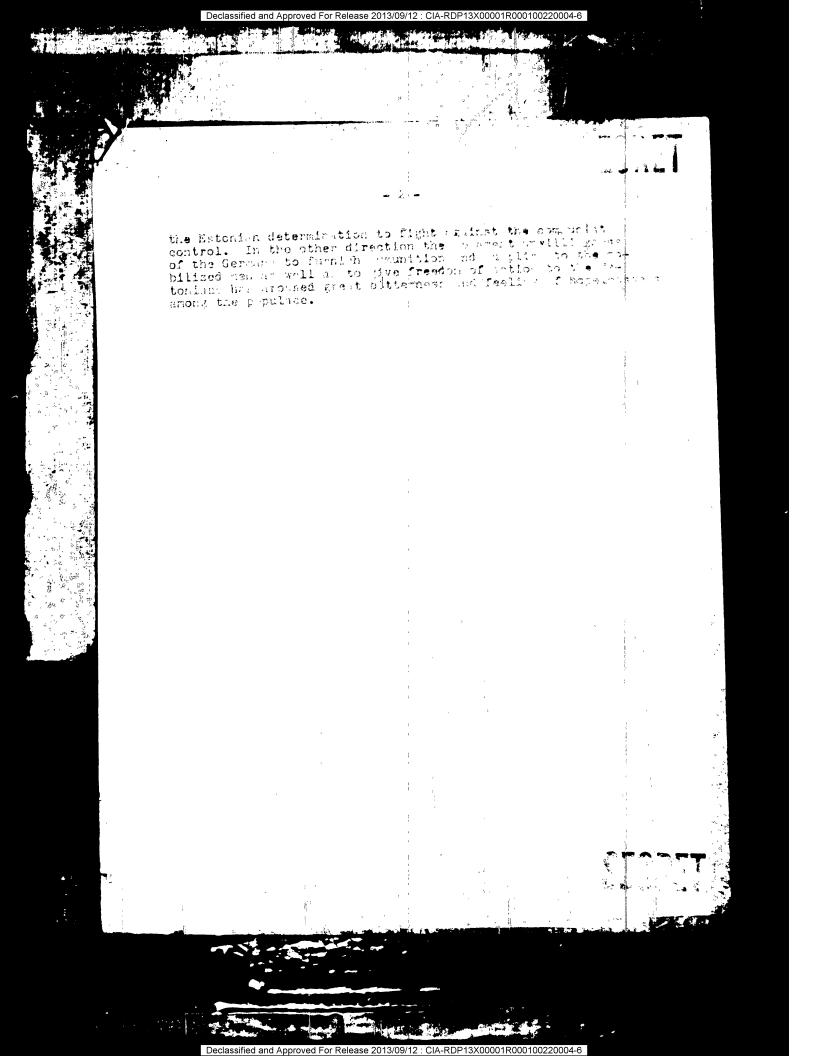
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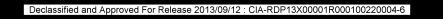
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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INTEROFFICE MEMONICO E. J. Putzels, Jr., bleut., USNR DATE 10/4/14 TO:

Walter C. Languam FROM:

Reports on Estonia SUBJECT

Lome time ago General Donovan requested all materics we have available on political and morale conditions in Estonia. At the time, I sent him through you whatever he had on the subject. Since them the additional reports have come in and I am herewith former ing copies thereof to you. Please let me know whether in for I should continue sending these as they come in.

Enclosure:-(z)

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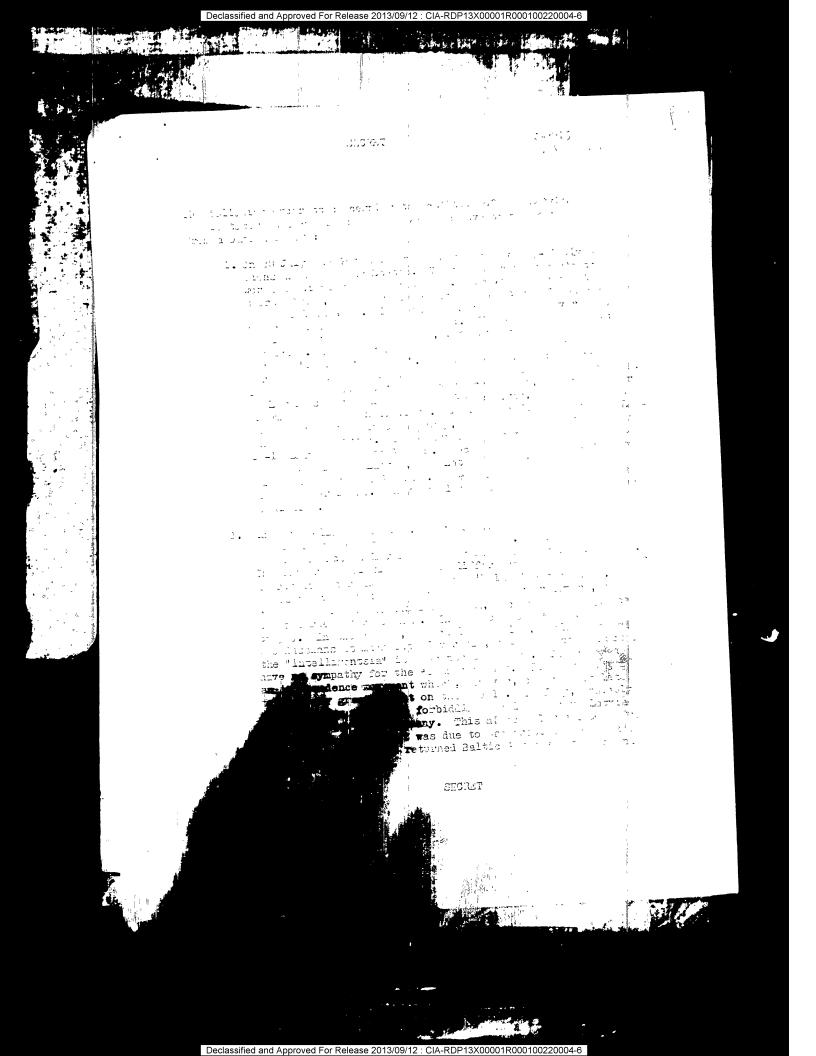
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PUBLIC SENTIMENTS IN LEGISLA

Extract from a private letter, dated Assent 1944

.....The feelings of the Estonian people at present may be summarised in the ancient Roman exclamation: "morituri to salutant!" This is a conscious appreciation of the situation fasing the Estonian people today. The Soviet estains have reached the Estonian frontier and threaten to re-necessy 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 Beltie States and Finland in order to establish her own "dominium maris Baltiei." She claims to have incorporated the Baltic States in 1940, and nurses puppet governments for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on Russian soil. The Pinns fear a similar fate if the Russians succeed in establishing their control over Finls The reality of this danger is clearly illustrated by the ominous developments in Russo-Polish relations. Reports have reached Estonia from Soviet occupied Lithmania, Poland, and White Russia of large seale deportations of the intelligentsia and even of more prosperous farmers, who, according to the Soviet view, had been exposed too long to the influence of the bourgeois world. Broadcasts from Leningrad are constantly threatening the so-called Estonian Mesis with dire punishment when the Red Army reaches Estonia. An appeal was made to the partisans to prevent those 'Nazi plutocrats' from leaving Estonia. They must be liquidated in order to prevent them from earrying on the fight against the Soviets from abroad. The Estonians have no doubt that the people branded by the Soviets as "Estonian Hazi Plutocrate" 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 Estonia's independence. mass reprisals on an unpresedented scale are expected. Such appeals from abroad would seem to serve the purpose of providing the Soviets with an alibi 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 the 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.

Despite 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 sountry by Soviet Russia. They are determined to earry on the fight even after the collapse of the German armies or their general withirmal. An underground Mational Committee of the Republic of Estonia has been formed. 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 memoers of the Committee represent all political parties. They are man of the younger generation with truly democratic views who hitherto had organized

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the enti-German resistance movement in Estonia. During the mass arrests in April and on May let a number of them were arrested but others are carrying on despite German efforts to expture them. These men are obviously no "Quislings," and yet the Soviets brand them as Hesis and their lackeys. While the Soviet forces are on the point of invading Estonian territory, the Mational Committee has immed an appeal to the people not to leave the sountry. As a result of this appeal the flow of refagees to Sweden and Finland has diminished. Some younger Estonians who had fled the country is order to avoid German mobilisation are now ager to return from Sweden and to place themselves at the disposal of the Mational Committee for the defence 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, however, they rally in response to an appeal by their on 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 against 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 lst which affected primarily the Estonian intelligentsia. Public 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 hey have to defend themselves against two enemies in opposite camps. 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 population, is organizing at present the defense of the country against a new Soviet invasion, the Committee has to work underground and its members are in constant danger of being arrested by the Germans. If the resistance movement mainst 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 Rassian invasion. And the fear of Soviet Russia is even greater than the hatred for the Germans. Mevertheless, no one in Estonia doubts that in case the in-Me of Estable were guaranteed by the Allies such dependence of the Au uld take place, which would vitally popular uprising a guarantee, however, has not been affect their of the enthusiam by the Estonian given. Th premouncements of responsible people at de effectiveness and general Allied ot ong the Estonian people applicat the principles of the that if t

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7-0215 15 August 1944

The following excerpts concerning the attitude of the Lawien people toward the Russians and the Germans have been taken

- 1. On 20 July the Germans were assumed to have 35-40 dlv1sions 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 soldier is unable to arrange any defense, largely because of internal suspicion. No one mants to ue left behind and bocome 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 sverything they can to sabotage the Germans. There is no doubt many of them are pure partisars. They steal weapons and sell them to the population.
- 2. 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 forger owners, but rather continued the Russian system, increasing the quotes 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, chiefly 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 same forbidding people to leave Latvia or send property to Germany. This affects Germans both from Germany and Lawis. It was due to preparations being made by sivil servents and returned Baltic Germans for abendoning

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The following report same from an Estonian source which we con-

- 1. There are several signs pointing to continued derman resistance in the Estonian sector. Thus, Inspector Jeneral Scotle - leader of the S5 in Estonia - was in Berlin recently seeking more arms, and it is reported that the Germans promised to comply with his request. Of the Jerman troops eventete from Finland since the beginning of the offensive on the Baltie front, one-half were sent from Engo 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 Maxis also recalled all officials of the "Estonian German Civil Administration" from Köningsburg and Rast Prussia. These officials have now been sent to Estonia to organize the ofense of that country. Similarly, Henrich Lohse, Reichskomiser for nosthern '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 "Eatonian Self-edministration", proclaimed total mobilisation 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 Comissar General Karl Litaman.
- 4. Two Estonians recently escaped from the Soviet-captured city of Vilna. They report that the Russian troops assured the frightened populace that they would remain in Lithmenia. Two days later, however, the NAVD (Political Police) forces arrived and the people were asked to fill in the following questionnaire:
 - a) 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 (a) 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