

BALTIC COUNTRIES

7 October 1944

Miss Grace Tully
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Grace:

I believe the President will be later than
in the attached reports. Will you kindly see
that they reach his desk.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William J. Donovan
Director

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7 October 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

I believe you will find of interest two reports which I am enclosing concerning development in the field of the atomic bomb.

William J. Donovan
Director

WJS:mr

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STATEMENT OF OTHER LIABILITIES

Not to be confused with the "Protocol" dated 10/20/70, which is a separate document. (The records cover the period 10/20/70 to 10/20/71.)

The article in the "New York Times" dated 12/10/47, and
re on page 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841,

[illegible][illegible]

The mother-in-law of the deceased, Mrs. J. J. Smith, testified that she and her husband were the only ones in the house at the time of the shooting. She testified that she and her husband were in the living room when the shooting took place. She testified that she saw the deceased being shot and that she saw the bullet wounds on his back. She testified that she saw the bullet wounds on his back and that she saw the bullet wounds on his back.

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The wife of the man at the party, Mrs. [redacted], described how the German [redacted] came to the [redacted] before the arrival of the [redacted] and the German [redacted] to the [redacted] house. [redacted] has been located in [redacted] since the [redacted] has been [redacted].

The filer, under 2, did not indicate that he had seen or had heard of the child in question, and the children were being taken to the court for a forum tomorrow. He did not know the child or the mother, but he did know the child's name from the newspaper.

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[Handwritten signature]

SECRET

Sept. 10, 1944

DEVELOPMENTS IN A TONIA

As a result of the rapid German retreat and deficient evacuation preparations, a large part of the northwestern Estonian people were left in Russian-occupied territory. In back of the front troops come the direct military commandings, in which are KVD men, former militiamen of the locality and communists, who do their "cleaning up" job without delay, when those who had operated with the Germans are shot and the rest sent to march in inside Russia. Not only "the selected" but all without exception are to be taken to the Russian colonies. The terrorizing activities of the Russians have aroused a general fear in the land and thus strengthened

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the Estonian determination to fight against the communist control. In the other direction the German will give of the Germans to furnish ammunition and supplies to the mobilized men as well as to give freedom of action to the Estonians has aroused great bitterness and feelings of hopelessness among the populace.

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: E. J. Putzels, Jr., Lieut., USNR DATE 10/1/44
 FROM: Walter C. Langham
 SUBJECT: Reports on Estonia

Some time ago General Donovan requested all materials 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.

Enclosures-(2)

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Wch.

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1-015

1. On 20 July 1954, the Soviet Union announced that it had signed a peace treaty with the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. The treaty provided for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from these states and the restoration of their independence. The Soviet Union claimed that the treaty was the result of negotiations between the Soviet government and the Baltic states, and that it represented a new chapter in the history of the Baltic region.

2. The Soviet Union's announcement of the treaty was met with widespread skepticism in the West. Many observers believed that the treaty was a mere facade designed to conceal the Soviet Union's continued occupation of the Baltic states. They pointed out that the treaty did not provide for the return of the Baltic states' pre-war borders, and that it did not guarantee the rights of the Baltic states' citizens.

3. In the United States, the Senate rejected the treaty on 23 July 1954. The Senate's rejection was based on the fact that the treaty did not provide for the return of the Baltic states' pre-war borders, and that it did not guarantee the rights of the Baltic states' citizens. The Senate also expressed concern that the treaty would undermine the principle of self-determination, which was a cornerstone of American foreign policy. The Soviet Union's announcement of the treaty was also met with skepticism in the United Kingdom, where the House of Commons rejected the treaty on 24 July 1954.

4. The Soviet Union's announcement of the treaty was also met with skepticism in the Baltic states themselves. Many Baltic citizens believed that the treaty was a mere facade designed to conceal the Soviet Union's continued occupation of their countries. They pointed out that the treaty did not provide for the return of their pre-war borders, and that it did not guarantee their rights. In Lithuania, the "Intelligentsia" (the educated elite) was particularly skeptical of the treaty. They believed that the treaty would undermine the principle of self-determination, which was a cornerstone of Lithuanian foreign policy. In Latvia, the "Intelligentsia" was also skeptical of the treaty. They believed that the treaty would undermine the principle of self-determination, which was a cornerstone of Latvian foreign policy. In Estonia, the "Intelligentsia" was also skeptical of the treaty. They believed that the treaty would undermine the principle of self-determination, which was a cornerstone of Estonian foreign policy.

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[illegible]

4. a) How many people were arrested in the Soviet-occupied city of Vilnius? b) How many people were arrested in the city of Kaunas? c) How many people were arrested in the city of Kovno? d) How many people were arrested in the city of Minsk? e) How many people were arrested in the city of Moscow?

All of the following were taken away (e) were, without any smoking photographs, removed on good faith. Then, the women were sent to Russia, while the men were imprisoned and sent immediately to the front. According to this report, Vilna was almost an empty town in 1941, a week's time.

202-10

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SAR-4186

PUBLIC SENTIMENTS IN ESTONIAExtract from a private letter, dated August 1944

.....The feelings of the Estonian people at present may be summarized in the ancient Roman exclamation: 'morituri 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 Lithuania, Poland, and White Russia of large scale 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 Nazis 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 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 Estonia'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 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 country by Soviet Russia. They are determined to carry on the fight even after the collapse of the German armies or their general withdrawal. An underground National 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 members of the Committee represent all political parties. They are men of the younger generation with truly democratic views who hitherto had organized

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SAS-4286

the anti-German resistance movement in Estonia. 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 issued 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, however, 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 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 minimize the danger to themselves by resorting to political arrests. Hence the arrests of April and May 1st 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 they 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 against 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 would take place, which would vitally affect their plans. The Allies, however, has not been given. The Estonian people with enthusiasm by the Estonian people at the time of the pronouncements of responsible Allied statesmen. Its effectiveness and general application among the Estonian people that if the principles of the Atlantic

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7-4215
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 resistance 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 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.
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 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, 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 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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7-0026

13 August '44

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

1. There are several signs pointing to continued German resistance in the Estonian sector. Thus, Inspector General Soedla - 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 Rango 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 Königsburg and East Prussia. These officials have now been sent to Estonia to organize the defense of that country. Similarly, Heinrich Lohse, Reichskommissar for northern "Ostland", has moved with his staff from Riga to Pärnu, in Estonia. Recently, Dr. Hjalmar 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.

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 Lithuania. Two days later, however, the NKVD (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 (1) 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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