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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Sighting of a Soviet Light Cruiser

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The Office of Naval Intelligence furnished the following information to CIA for IAC dissemination in accordance with paragraph 3c of NSXID #7. This information was obtained by DIO-3ND and was forwarded as ONI report 226-53.

1. Sighting: On 23 October, 1953, a ship, believed to be a Soviet light cruiser of the Chapayev class, was sighted off Riga in the Baltic Sea, about 150 miles north of Gdynia. (Subject vessel dead in water).
2. Armament: Vessel was armed with four triple turrets containing guns of between 6" and 8" caliber, and also carried numerous antiaircraft weapons of about 3" caliber.
3. Identification: Although no ensign was visible, and no hull number was in evidence, it is believed that Subject vessel was Soviet because of its location and because source was able to pick it out of ONI-F-31R.
4. Radar: Source commented especially on the paucity of radar equipment visible, not at all commensurate with a ship of this size. The only radar visible was a small surface type, similar to that found on merchant ships.
5. Material Condition: Subject ship's gray paint was spotty, with dirty red lead showing through in spots.
6. Ships in Company: Two unidentified destroyers were observed in the distance at the same time of subject sighting.

ONI review(s)
completed.

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