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CONFIDENTIALCENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT

Port Information, Leningrad

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1. Security: A merchant ship was boarded at harbor entrance by a pilot accompanied by two officers. A small launch escorted the ship. Photography was prohibited and binoculars were taken away while in port. There was no restriction on shore liberty for the crew.
2. Ships Present: Several Danish and Finnish cargo ships were in the port, and "three new Soviet battleships" were sighted at Kronstadt.
3. Defense Installations: Submarine nets were observed at Kronstadt, but otherwise no fortifications were seen. No new construction was observed in the harbor area.
4. Cargo Handling: The waterfront facilities generally were good, but on 23 August 1953 an Icelandic cargo ship was delayed ten days in discharging a 1500-ton cargo of frozen fish by the lack of the necessary railroad cars to receive it.
5. Retail Prices: Although there was much offered for sale in Leningrad stores, the prices were high. The following is a sampling of Leningrad prices:

Wine (quart bottle)	Four or five dollars
Beer (glass)	One or two rubles
	(five rubles in 1948)
Shoes (inferior grade)	400 rubles
6. Miscellaneous: Sightseeing buses were provided for the use of visiting merchant seamen, who were given a guided tour of local points of interest including the Czar's Palace. There were no restrictions in the city, but the seamen were unable to talk to the civilians. They believed that they were under surveillance the entire time they were ashore.

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ONI review(s)
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