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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR
SUBJECT Port Information: Batumi

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE ACQUIRED

DATE (OF INFO.

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7. Weather Weather was cold and foul with snow. Temperature averaged 6-7° C during the day and reached a low of 2° C at night. A very strong NW wind blew throughout period of vessel's call accompanied by a heavy swell which made navigation very difficult in and around harbor.

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11. Pilotage Pilots are compulsory, and vessels are taken into harbor both day and night.

12. Second Anchorage

The strong NW wind and heavy swell made anchoring at this point hazardous

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13. Boarding Inspections Duration of incoming inspection was four hours and outgoing inspection lasted three hours. Fifteen male searchers armed with pistols composed the boarding party. Radio and cameras were secured, and crew was mustered aft while one of the vessel's officers accompanied the searching party.

14. Berthing beside the Neftyanoy Mole (Petroleum Mole) at one of three breasting platforms. Berth was in a very poor location because of the strong NW wind and heavy swells. Berth was reached by weighing anchor and being carried by current alongside the breasting platform.

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15. Tugs one is available for berthing and shifting.

16. Railroad Spur Railroad spur leading onto Neftyanoy Mole was observed to be inoperative.

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17. Handling Facilities An undetermined number of portal-type cranes are installed along the South Wharf of the Neftyanaya Gavan (Petroleum Harbor). these same cranes "rusty" and "badly in need of proper maintenance and repair."

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18. Cargo Operations Petroleum products and timber are the two principal exports of subject port. Timber logs were piled along the South wharf area of the Neftyanaya Gavan. No coal handling operations were observed.

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Petroleum storage tanks are located in the area and the petroleum refinery. All types of liquid petroleum can be handled by subject port. a serious bottleneck results from the fact that only one tanker can be loaded at a given time.

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21. Lighterage No lighters were observed in subject port.

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22. Surveillance Two armed sentries were stationed on the quay at all times [redacted]
23. Merchant Shipping Present A Soviet merchant tanker of 14 thousand tons was being loaded at the best protected breasting platform [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted] Two Soviet passenger vessels were berthed [redacted] Both vessels were approximately 15 thousand tons in size, appeared to be newly built, were painted white, and presented a very neat appearance. These vessels follow a regular schedule of sailings between Batumi and Constanta, Rumania.
24. Naval Vessels Present Six Soviet sub-chasers of 200-250 tons were moored in the area [redacted] No armament or other identifying characteristics were observed. 50X1-HUM
25. Naval Installation: Naval vessels usually berth at installation [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted] No vessels were tied up at this installation because of the heavy NW wind and accompanying swells. 50X1-HUM
26. Radio Direction Finder Station A radio direction finder station is located [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted] 50X1-HUM
27. Liberty Ashore Crew was allowed liberty ashore until 2300 each night. Those going ashore presented special passes to sentries on the quay that had been supplied by the port authorities.
28. Port Improvements No new constructions or new equipment installations were observed in the harbor area.
29. Sanitation No sledge or oil slick was observed on the surface of the water in or around the harbor. 50X1-HUM
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