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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT Conditions 1.. Soviet orrest  
Camp in Urals

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3.

In 1951

Tallinn, Estonia.

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war damage in the city had not yet been repaired but was still widespread,  
and that almost all the people in the city were soldiers.

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4. [redacted] six camps on the European side of the northern [redacted] the number of persons in the camps was very large, and that there were many foreigners in them; in fact, since he seems to have learned little Russian during his three years' stay, it would seem few of the camp inmates could have been Russian speakers. [redacted] in one camp there had been 45 different nationalities. [redacted] there were a great number of Austrians, [redacted] no Americans or Britishers at all. 50X1-HUM
5. The work they were called upon to do was forest work--the felling of trees and the preparation of lumber for shipment (floating) to internal Soviet markets. [redacted] the forests were primeval and vast in extent, and [redacted] the trees were of a size now quite unknown in Finland [redacted] apparently around 5 feet in diameter. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- [redacted] The trees consisted in the main of: the spruce of Finland; another spruce than that of Finland; and a red pine which is again not the pine of Finland. Forest work involved no mechanization save the use of tractors to drag the logs to water. When an area was cut over, everything on it was cut down; this struck him very strange in view of the more conservationist practice of Finland. He said that vast bare spots were left. He also noted that waste was deliberately burned on the spot, and in response to my question he said that this definitely did give rise to very extensive and destructive forest fires every summer. 50X1-HUM
6. The working day was from dawn until dusk. There were four free days in each month. Food was poor, consisting mostly of cabbage. Clothing furnished was standard, and the climate was harsh; yet none of these things seemed to have been calamitously bad. Physical brutality on the part of guards in camps was not usual, but on the other hand it was extremely dangerous to stray even ever so slightly out of line when on the way to work as the guards would shoot without provocation in case one seemed to be planning to escape.
7. In the region where [redacted] work camps were there was very little civilian population indeed and it was strictly prohibited both for the civilian to talk to prisoners and for prisoners to talk to the civilians. The civilian population in interior consisted only in very small part of natives of the area most of them being exiles from other parts of Russia. In this connection [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- [redacted] the greater part of the remaining population of Estonia, amounting to 80 percent of those who were caught there when the Soviets occupied the country, had been exiled beyond the Urals to Siberia, [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] a certain number of the Finnish prisoners did petition to remain in the USSR before they were sent back. At all times, both in work camps and elsewhere, they were all subjected to very vigorous anti-American propaganda which was set forth with apparently real conviction and which had a marked effect upon the prisoners, most of whom believed it implicitly. In this connection [redacted] among the Finns who returned [redacted] there are at least 18 Communists, one of whom a man named Kuutio, was an active Communist before his detention and sentenced to imprisonment. [redacted]

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[redacted]  
[redacted] the Soviets were still holding a number of high caliber Finnish prisoners of war in a northern area in Soviet Karelia. There were reported to be about 150 men, officers and airplane pilots, and about 8 women, who were members of the Lotta Svard organisation.

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