

MAR 1952

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED
 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT
 CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY USSR, GDR; Poland
 SUBJECT Military - War preparations, defense, naval, air, secret weapons
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper
 WHERE PUBLISHED Copenhagen
 DATE PUBLISHED 27 Dec 1952
 LANGUAGE Danish

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952
 DATE DIST. 24 Jul 1953
 NO. OF PAGES 4
 SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Berlingske Tidende.

SOVIET MILITARY EXPANSION IN THE BALTIC

Following is the full text of an article which appeared in the 27 December 1952 issue of the Copenhagen daily newspaper Berlingske Tidende over the signature of V. K. Sørensen.

The struggles for control of the Mediterranean and the Baltic have played important roles in the history of Europe. Gradually, as Northern Europe increased in importance, the importance of the Baltic increased correspondingly. World War I apparently forced the Baltic somewhat into the background, but only apparently. Up to and during most of World War II, Germany was master of the Baltic. World War II, which turned so many other things upside down, also changed this condition. As a naval power, Germany completely disappeared from the Baltic; with some justification, it might even be said that Germany disappeared from the coasts of the Baltic, because the partition of Germany into zones moved Soviet influence so far westward that practically the entire German Baltic coast is now dominated by the USSR.

The Baltic is fast becoming the USSR's most important naval area. The coastal areas have important air bases, and the coastline proper seems to be in the process of being fortified on a gigantic scale, far surpassing Hitler's famous Atlantic Wall. All of northeast Prussia is now hermetically sealed. Military forces of considerable strength, a network of airfields with underground hangars, and a number of launching platforms for rocket missiles are located in this area. East Prussia, itself a powerful fortress, is closely linked with the rest of the fortified Baltic coast by a new double-track railroad from Kaliningrad to Szczecin, a railroad built for the sole purpose of transporting troops and war materiel. The German population has been removed from large areas and has been replaced with Soviet troops, naval personnel, and secret police.

During the past few years, great air bases and bases for V-weapons have been built by forced labor in the former Baltic republics. These countries form one of the most important military centers in the USSR. The port of Klaypeda has been provided with colossal pens for submarines of the same type as those built

CLASSIFICATION		<u>RESTRICTED</u>		DISTRIBUTION																
TE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB																		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI																		

RESTRICTED

STAT

by the Germans in Brest, and the pens are protected against surprise enemy submarine attacks by large underwater nets. Klaypeda is now the Soviets main submarine base in the Baltic. Lepaya is one of the largest Soviet naval bases in the middle Baltic area; military installations have been expanded greatly since the war, and important units of the Soviet Baltic Fleet are normally stationed there. Like all other Soviet military installations, this naval base is heavily guarded, and merchant vessels are not permitted to enter the harbor without special permission.

Tallin and Pysarnu have been made into important troop centers. The ports of Ventspils and Pal'diskiy are being developed as secondary fleet bases, and Riga also serves as a secondary base for Soviet submarines. The Baltic islands of Kihumaa, Rukhnu, Nayssar, and Mukhu serve as bases for rocket-missile launching. The Soviet troop strength in the area is estimated at eight divisions, including many Mongolian units.

The Estonian port of Pal'diskiy is today a purely Russian city, and over half the 30,000 workers employed in the shale-oil districts in northern Estonia are Russians, the native population having been deported. The coastal stretches east and west of Tallin, especially, have become populated exclusively by Russians. Only Russian peasants are found today around all the airfields in Estonia. If this policy is long continued, the Baltic countries will lose their special character and their indigenous populations.

Since fall 1948, the Soviets have reinforced their garrisons along the Finnish border. Soon after the conclusion of the armistice with Finland, Soviet minesweepers began a hurried removal of the minefield between Tallin and Porkkala. Porkkala, at the entrance to the Gulf of Finland, was made into a strong fortress. At the same time, the main base of the Soviet Fleet was moved from Kronshtadt to Tallin. Typical of these developments is the Porkkala area in Finland. This large area of land, situated less than 40 kilometers from Helsinki, the Finns were forced to "lease" to the USSR in 1944 for a period of 50 years. Today the whole area is enclosed by a tight iron curtain and is under Soviet sovereignty. No Finn has access to, or any right in, this part of Finland. The airfield at Murmansk has been enlarged, and new airfields have been built in Karelia. Roads have been improved for the sake of military traffic, and a superhighway, from Murmansk via Bozharsk to Petrozavodsk, capital of the Karelo-Finnish SSR, is under construction.

It is a fact that one of the strongest chains of airfields in the world lies along the 1,500-kilometer-long stretch of the Baltic coast from Leningrad to Luebeck, airfields that serve as bases for the Soviet air forces. Along the whole Baltic coast, from Wismar through the former Baltic republics and on to Porkkala, the USSR has radar stations which are directed from the city of Neuruppin. Further, two Soviet radar stations are located at Arkona on the island of Ruegen, from which the fairway from Lolland to Trelleborg may be scanned. The radar stations are all in close communication with all Soviet air, navy, and rocket bases along the Baltic coast. These means enable the USSR to keep a close watch on everything that takes place in the Baltic and to take steps against unwanted guests. Another chain of bases, pointing toward Svalbard, extends from Leningrad to Murmansk.

By means of these chains of bases, the Soviet Air Force encircles Scandinavia and reaches through Germany toward the Ruhr, the basis of Western European industry and defense.

The Baltic is rapidly becoming a Soviet lake. Day by day the USSR is consolidating its hold upon, and fortifying, the 3,000-kilometer-long southern coast of the Baltic. The Soviets have extended to 12 miles the internationally accepted

- 2 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

STAT

3-mile territorial limit. The Soviet government, which claims the right to exclude from the Baltic warships of nations which do not border on this sea, concurrently claims the right to block the Öresund and the Danish Belts in case of war.

Possibly, these phenomena do not point to an immediate danger of war; in any case, however, their purpose is plainly, among other things, to frighten Swedish warships and aircraft away from the hitherto freely accessible Baltic waters and to make the Baltic a closed sea dominated by the USSR.

It seems indisputable that a considerable war industry has arisen in East Prussia. The Soviets thus have put the German Dora armament plant [sic] into use for the production of V-weapons, employing mainly experts from the former German war industry as engineers and technicians. There are people who were arrested in 1945 after the Soviet invasion. Prisoners from concentration camps in the Soviet Zone are employed, under close guard, as laborers. The East German armament industry in general is working intensively for the USSR. Five thousand workers are said to be employed at Dora, and 9,000 at the Zeiss works in Jena. The Zeiss works produce bombsights and other aeronautical instruments for the USSR. The Buckau-Wolf works in Magdeburg [now Schwermaschinenbau Karl Liebknecht], the Bruckner and Kanis works in Dresden, and the Skania works [sic] in East Berlin produce parts for submarines. Raw materials for this production come from the USSR. The Junkers firm in Dessau and the Schaeffer and Budenberg firm [now Messgeraete und Armaturenwerk Karl Marx] in Magdeburg are producing a large number of Diesel engines for the Soviet Navy. Derunapht, the Soviet-owned oil company, which controls 55 percent of the East German fuel-oil business, has erected a number of tank installations along the Baltic coast, which seemingly serve strategic purposes only, i.e., as depots for units of the Soviet Baltic Fleet.

New waterways are to connect the various Baltic ports with East German industrial centers. The Baltiysk (Pillau) Channel has been deepened, and landing craft are being constructed on a large scale in shipyards on the Baltic. East German shipyards are building, also on a large scale, landing craft capable of carrying six tanks and several hundred men.

In addition, the Soviets are building a number of fortifications along the entire German and Polish coasts of the Baltic, and old German installations are being rebuilt and enlarged. The Soviet installations, however, do not resemble Hitler's reinforced-concrete Atlantic Wall. These fortifications can hardly be seen from the sea. The beach is clear, and installations are placed in strategic spots at the edge of the woods or are otherwise hidden. The German fortifications at the Masurian Lakes have been demolished and material from them utilized in the building of this Soviet Maginot Line, which is to reach from the Dnepr to Klaypeda.

It has been said that German scientists cooperating with Soviet research workers in war research centers north of Moscow have been able to concentrate infrared rays so strongly that, in a few seconds, they can generate a temperature of 4,000 degrees Centigrade at a distance of 10 kilometers. Since fall 1947, the USSR is supposed to have built a network of underground stations from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea which can protect the border with a curtain of infrared rays against an enemy advancing by land or through the air. This means of defense is supposed to have been especially built up in the Riga area and in the oil districts of the Caucasus. These rumors are still received with a great deal of skepticism, but it is a fact that work in this field is being done on both sides of the Iron Curtain. It is also a fact that modest progress has been made, and, finally, it is worth remembering that in fall 1949, the British General Fuller reproached the Allied Command for not having made use of a similar weapon, known as an antitank weapon during World War II. Perhaps, some day, this weapon also will become a sinister reality.

- 3 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

STAT

The island of Ruegen is being especially strongly fortified and made into a submarine base. It has become the Gibraltar of the Baltic. This island now forms the central point in an extremely strong system of fortifications, the other main points of which are situated as follows:

1. The island of Usedom, with the reconstructed arms plant in Peenemuende, center of extensive rocket research.
2. The Rerik [sic] area.
3. Kuehlungsborn.
4. The island of Poel, an important submarine base.

Installations on Ruegen include a naval base, probably in Wieck, where the building of a harbor for the Soviet fleet already had begun in 1950; two radar stations; an airfield; and various artillery positions. The harbor of Greifswald is being rebuilt to accommodate submarines and light naval craft. Launching platforms for V-type rocket missiles have also been built on Ruegen. There is also a large underground submarine base, built into excavations in the chalk formations; and the harbor at Sassnitz has been deepened to an extent that enables it to accommodate the largest units of the [Soviet] Baltic Fleet. Ruegen is, further, a base for the newly built Soviet fleet of landing craft; and, finally, the 1st Army Group of the new East German People's Army [sic] is stationed on Ruegen and on the mainland near the Polish border.

The USSR has a strong fleet at its disposal in the Baltic. Primarily, it consists of about 130 submarines, but it also has destroyers, cruisers, and some older types of battleships. Some of the vessels were originally German, but they have been repaired and rebuilt. Some of the submarines are of the famous U-21 and U-28 German classes, but the greater number are hardly that modern. Nevertheless, the Soviet submarine force in the Baltic is strong both in numbers and in striking power. Jane's Fighting Ships asserts that the USSR plans to have, within 2 years, 300 submarines in the Baltic alone. A new type is to be built with a very great range and with high speed when submerged. The USSR, the land power, seems thus to be following the naval policy of the land power, Germany.

For Denmark and for the other Scandinavian countries, this development in the Baltic area is serious enough. However, the Soviet military preparations seem more to be part of a long-range program than preparations for immediate war. Furthermore, the Soviets are plainly attempting to make the Baltic a Soviet lake, as the Germans before them would have made it a German lake.

Outside Scandinavia, in England and the US, these developments are being watched with interest, developments which may become of importance to areas far beyond Northern Europe.

- E N D -

- 4 -

RESTRICTED