

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Lithuanian SSR)	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Living Conditions in the Panevezys Area	DATE DISTR.	16 October 1953
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25X1 Population Changes

25X1 1. In spring 1949 many families living around Ribiken were collected in the
 25X1 Anykscai high school and deported to Siberia. They were given one hour to get
 25X1 ready and were encouraged to take whatever they wished, particularly saws and
 25X1 axes. Gasoline, unsalted meat, and raw hides were not allowed to be taken.
 25X1 many Lithuanians were deported on the same day from other
 25X1 places. Word came later that most of them had gone to the area of Krasnoyarsk
 25X1 (possibly Krasnoyarsk Kray). Many died from the cold, and most were put to
 25X1 work on kolkhozy. Soon after the deportations, istrebiteli went around to the
 25X1 remaining farmers and invited them to join kolkhozy.

The only place Russians living on farms was between Bauska and Yelgava, possibly at Iecava. Several kolkhozy were occupied by Soviet Mongols (sic). There were many Soviets in the towns. one case of a deportees' having returned from Siberia - a boy who had been drafted into the Soviet Army while in Siberia.

Road Transportation

25X1 2. one road was surfaced with stone, the road from
 25X1 Panevezys to Kaunas. It was surfaced with stone chips and was very dusty.
 25X1 All other roads around Panevezys were sand or gravel and were in poor
 25X1 condition when it rained. Heavy vehicles got stuck, and the Soviet tractors were
 25X1 not able to travel on the roads because of their narrow wheels; the bearings
 25X1 burned out under the strain. The German Lanz-Bulldog tractors had wider wheels
 25X1 and could use the roads, but all the tractors had lugs instead of tires, so
 25X1 that they ruined the roads. Roads around Siauliai were ruined by the Soviet
 25X1 armored forces stationed there. Road signs were in Russian and Lithuanian, with
 25X1 the Russian first in large letters and the Lithuanian below in smaller letters.

one case when the Russian form of a town name was used - Mitava, for Yelgava. The same sign system was used on railroad stations. Signs pointing the way to a factory were usually in Russian only; street signs in Panevezys were in Lithuanian only. The traffic signs in Lithuania were the same as those used in Germany.

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- 25X1 3. [redacted] The air force units at Panevezys got their fuel by tank car on a spur line running to the airfield, and the MTS had a five-ton tank truck which brought fuel from some other town. Factory vehicles received their gasoline supplies on a weekly basis. The only way to get diesel fuel for a private tractor was to purchase it illegally from the MTS or airmen, the latter being a more likely source. Lubricating oil was also purchased on the black market and was of very poor quality with much sediment.
4. Tractors carried no license plates. A man who owned a Lanz-Bulldog tractor sold it in 1950 for 7,000 rubles and bought another as scrap for 2,000 rubles. For 2,000 rubles' worth of repairs he put it into operating condition. A tractor cylinder cost about 2,000 rubles and a piston, 1,000 rubles. Charcoal was used to start the tractor, since gasoline was not available. Mooring tractors were seen on the roads and also Soviet tractors with 35 hp. The Lanz-Bulldog had 25 hp. Other vehicles seen on the roads were army jeeps; two-axle Dodge trucks; German-made army vehicles such as the Opel, DKW, and BMW cars; Moskvich and Pobeda cars; and a few motorbikes. The Moskvich cost 8,000 rubles, and a 125 ccm motorbike cost 1,000-1,200 rubles. Bicycles were rarely seen and cost slightly less than the 125 ccm motorbike.

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Urban Economic and Living Conditions

- 25X1 5. In Panevezys there were a brewery, sugar factory, slaughterhouse and canned meat plant, and several sawmills. The average earnings of an unskilled worker were 300 rubles a month. North of the Panevezys railroad station was a settlement in which most of the workers owned their own shacks. Some of them owned small plots of ground and did some farming. A tax of 60 rubles a year had to be paid for each fruit tree a person owned. The rooms of these houses were small and poorly furnished. The walls were whitewashed and unpapered. There were two rooms and a kitchen in the houses. For heating there was a big tin stove covered with clay, and the chimney went out through a hole in the roof. Wood was used for fuel. There were no waterpipes in the house, but there was a well in the yard. The electric current was 220V and cost 30 to 40 kopeks per kwh in 1950, but in 1951 the price was 12 kopeks per kwh. Usage was limited and excess usage resulted in the current being cut off for a while. A 40-watt bulb cost 5 rubles; electric irons and cookers were sold in the shops, but no vacuum cleaners were seen. Electric wiring was poorly done and once a horse stepped into a pool of water and was electrocuted by current which had escaped from an uninsulated wire. The State paid the owner 500 rubles for loss of the horse. [redacted] a loud-speaker through which the local relay station could be heard; such a radio cost 75 rubles, plus a monthly fee of ten rubles. An ordinary radio cost 300 to 350 rubles. Most people visited the public baths, since houses contained no bathing facilities. There were two public baths in Panevezys; a shower cost 3 rubles and a bath cost more.
6. In 1951, the following prices were charged in Panevezys:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price (in rubles)</u>
Rubber boots (worn out in a month)	pair	100
Work shoes	pair	150
Canvas (brezeny) shoes, poor rubber sole	pair	50
Good shoes, crepe sole, Czech made	pair	400
Man's suit, good quality		2,000
Butter (on market or in a shop)	kg	28
Sugar, in shop (during shortages of sugar, prices on the black market rose to 25 rubles per kg)	kg	10
Bread, in shop (poor quality, full of water)	kg	2

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price (in rubles)</u>
Bread, (on market (made by farmers)	kg	5
Veal, on market	kg	6-8
Eggs, in summer on the market	each	50 kopeks
Eggs, in winter on the market	each	up to 1.20
Beer in a restaurant	glass	3
Alcohol (schnaps), in restaurant, State monopoly	liter	40
Alcohol (samogon) on the black market, prepared from sugar beets	liter	12
Musical records	each	6
Camera, Agfa, box camera, used, on market (source purchased exactly the same make Agfa box-camera in Germany for 14 DM)	each	100
Moskvich car	each	8,000
Motorbike, 125 ccm, Soviet make	each	1,000-1,200

Rural Living and Economic Conditions

7. Farmers had to give up their cows and horses when they joined a kolkhoz and had about a half hectare of land for their own use. Each family was given one cow, but had to deliver 300 liters of milk to the State annually. A kolkhoznik had to deliver 30 eggs per chicken, 250 kg of potatoes, and 150 kg of rye grain from his private production. Meat had to be delivered for each pig owned. Farmers had enough to eat at first, but in 1950 the food situation became worse because of bad weather and the fact that much farm produce was sent to the USSR proper. Bread and sugar became scarce in the cities. The kolkhozy didn't have enough horses to do the work, and the army confiscated some of the horses anyway. In 1950-1951 horses were being sold because of the fodder shortage, and a good 3-year-old cost 600 rubles. Some horses sold for as little as 100 rubles in this period. The attempt to replace horses by machines was not entirely successful because the combines threshed while the grain was wet and the grain rotted in storage. The tractors were not in good condition, and spare parts were not available; a tire was available on the black market for 1,000 rubles, though most tractors had lug wheels. The Soviet tractors used more fuel than the German Lanz-Bulldog and their ball-bearings burned out rapidly. Prewar Swedish Munktel threshing machines, prewar Doering tractors, and a prewar British Blackstone stationary motor were other machinery used on kolkhozy.

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