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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. [] two large Soviet warships, probably cruisers, were sighted off Hiiumaa (N 58-55, E 22-13). The ships, which were about 150 meters long, had two stacks and two twin turrets, one on the rather long fore-deck, and the other on the fantail. They were about one-half nautical mile apart and were proceeding at a speed of approximately 20 knots on a northeasterly course parallel to informant's ship. The two Soviet ships turned off in an easterly direction when Hiiumaa was abeam.

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2. [] two identical Soviet cruisers with two stacks and four triple turrets mounted in pairs, forward and aft, were sighted between Osmussaar (N 59-18, E 23-22) and Paldiski. The first cruiser, which was steering a west-southwesterly course, disappeared from sight at 1115 hours. The second cruiser, which belched thick smoke from her after stack, proceeded on an east-southeasterly course at a speed of about nine or ten knots, but reversed course at 1130 hours. At 1140 hours, the cruiser altered course to north-northwest and, at 1150 hours, turned southeast, at the same time increasing its speed to 16 knots. At noon, when informant's ship was in position N 59-43, E 23-52, the cruiser altered its course to southwest, turning away at high speed.

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3. [] when Porkkala bore 43° true and Naissaar (N 59-35, E 24-30) 120° true, a target and a destroyer were sighted at 175° true. The destroyer had two stacks and two tripod masts, including a smaller one just forward of the after stack, and had a displacement of 2,000 tons. At 1230 hours the destroyer, which was on a westerly course, reversed course, passed north of the target, and again altered its course to southeast. At 1315 the destroyer disappeared while the target remained in sight.

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4. [] a tugboat with three loaded lighters was seen steering approximately 80° true, about seven nautical miles southwest of Porkkala. At 1250 hours, two Soviet M-type minesweepers, [] were sighted near berth No. 9 near Porkkala. They came from the direction of Porkkala, disappeared on a southerly course, and were followed at a distance of about two nautical miles by a German-type landing craft which had a small crane on her forward end.

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5. Between 0700 hours and 0800 hours, 18 October 1953, a group of three destroyers was sighted between Osmussaar and Hiiumaa. [redacted] They steered a westerly course at a speed of about 25 knots in line ahead formation, which was altered to a starboard quarter formation when they were [redacted]. They were between 250 and 300 meters apart and developed little smoke, proceeding almost without noise. Both these ships had a rather long forecastle, an almost vertical stem, a forward stack which was a little higher than the bridge, an after stack which was only a little lower and thinner than the forward stack, and a three-stage, very long bridge. A gun turret was mounted on the step of the bridge, a single-gun turret on the forecastle, a single-gun turret and a double-barreled antiaircraft gun on the short island-like structure amidships, and another gun turret on the fantail. Several antiaircraft gun positions were located between the stacks and a torpedo launcher was placed abeam the second stack.

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