

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT**

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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1. The Soviets boast that teaching in the USSR is of a very high standard. It is true that teaching, if not science itself, from the Soviet angle is well done. The Communists pay great attention to the question of teaching, from the kindergartens up to the universities. Even children from an orphanage can receive education in one field or another and graduate from the universities; in fact, orphanage children in the majority of cases have priority. Each fall, the children of the orphanage are the first candidates to be admitted to the School of Music and Art. This principle means that at present everyone can get an education, except the children of unreliable parents, who cannot go to the universities unless the parents can somehow evade this category.

Schools

2. There are three creches in Kaunas. The supervision and care is good, but parents do not like sending their little children to the creches. On the other hand, the kindergartens are well patronized. Any family where there is at least one working person can send children to the kindergartens. The payment, which is not dependent on wages, is about 270 rubles a month per child, to be paid in advance. Seven rubles a day of this sum is put aside for food. The families of ordinary officials cannot afford seven rubles a day for each child's food. Indoctrination in the praise of Stalin begins in the kindergartens. For example, the children who receive presents for holidays know that these presents do not come from Santa Claus but from Stalin.
3. High school education is received in a ten-year school or in the tekhnikum, which also has courses in music and art. There is one tekhnikum in both Kaunas and Vilnius. The course at the tekhnikum takes eleven years. Scholarships are given only for the tekhnikum; these schools are the leaders of the pioneers and take charge of pioneer education in the schools.

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4. Compulsory education is for a period of seven years in the rural areas and ten years in Kaunas and Vilnyus. From the seven-year school a child can pass on into technical schools, craft schools, or attend one of the various subject courses. It is also possible for him to pass on to a different type of higher music school, which is for adult education. In all these schools, scholarships are paid, except to unsuccessful pupils; and in the craft schools and in the various courses full board is given. It is from these schools that the majority of Communist youth come. There are a large number of technical and craft schools, and a particularly large number of different subject courses.
5. Parents have to care for their children only until they reach the seven-year school, after which they can, and do, send them to any school where a scholarship is paid and full board given. There is, therefore, no reason why the children should not be educated, and this accounts for the increase in the number of schools.
6. There are altogether 13 institutes of higher education in Lithuania. The number of students has doubled since the time of Lithuanian independence. Scholarships are available, but the students are not allowed to miss lectures, and the faculties are very specialized, particularly in the technical field. For example, engineers are trained for the use of agricultural machinery, to become experts in town drainage, for the peat industry, and so forth.
7. The large number of schools and their variety and the fact that scholarships are paid and board given makes education accessible to everyone. The level of teaching is good. Teachers, in comparison with other professions, are paid well, and therefore it is possible for the authorities to be selective. For example, in Kaunas it is difficult to get two subjects to teach, because so many people are trying to get into the teaching profession. There is no better paid profession for the Lithuanian intelligentsia. At the same time, the qualifications required for teaching are high. The programs of subjects to be taught are worked out in detail, and the number of lessons are well planned. A teacher must prepare every lesson and plan each session so that every minute is used in accordance with the theory of teaching. Inspection of teachers is continual. All teachers must give exhibition lessons, which are attended by other staff members. In consequence, the level of teaching cannot drop.

#### Curriculum

8. The curriculum of the ten-year schools is moderately broad. It is broader and more technical than it was under the previous twelve-year system. From the courses one can see that information is being crammed into the pupils. For example, accountants training for the kolkhozy have to learn so much during the three months' course that they are unable to digest it all. After graduating from this course, they go to a kolkhoz for practical work and then return to raise their qualifications. Accountants then study for a further six months, and in this way some good bookkeepers are turned out. During these courses, no attention is paid to any difficulties that may arise, to the tempo of teaching, or to the constant pressure on the student.
9. Notwithstanding the methods applied, progress in the middle school is mediocre. The pupils are given too much material and are not able to digest the subjects of the curriculum. Parents are too occupied with their own worries and work to be able to pay attention to the children, and teachers have no right to use strong disciplinary measures. The Communists apply an unusually soft regime in the schools. The pupils are hardly punished at all. If a pupil is not good, the fault is with the teacher, because the principle applied in all schools is that there are no bad pupils, only bad teachers. A teacher's work under the Soviets is extremely difficult and a great strain.

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Political Education

10. The teachers must make every lesson a political lesson, and there is no possibility of deviation from this requirement, whatever the subject taught. A teacher of mathematics, when working with students, must find an occasion to intersperse something of Soviet character. No favorable mention of the free world can be made; the teacher can only point out its bad aspects. At least one lesson a week must be devoted entirely to political education. The subject of the lesson is prepared in detail in advance by the higher Party organization, which sends it to the local town organization. There is also a monthly plan of lectures for teachers, with each teacher lecturing in succession to a common class. Every occasion is used to get the pupils together to explain general political events. Often on church holidays, special anti-religious lectures are given. For example, on Christmas Eve a lecture was read on "Is Christ an historical person?". Such lectures are usually prepared and distributed by the Party itself and given by a Party man. Pupils are often taken to the theater to see political films. Later they are asked to put in writing what they have seen and their interpretation of it. In such a way it is easy to analyze a pupil.
11. The younger generation does not know the meaning of nationality. The expression "a Lithuanian" is crossed out of theory and of life. The connection of present-day life with the past of Lithuania is avoided; former prominent Lithuanians are not mentioned. It seems that the next generation will be "denationalized".
12. When the young people grow up and begin to understand the situation, a peculiar philosophy arises in them. The elder pupils begin to grasp, by watching their parents, the negative attitude that is displayed towards political life, and the younger pupils learn from the older ones. This is the situation in the middle schools. For example, a boy [redacted] received a proposal to join the Pioneers when he was ten years old. He told his mother, who asked him why he had not joined, "Oh well, none of us wants to join it". Pupils of this age cannot understand why they do not want to join, but they feel they should boycott the Pioneers. In the majority of cases, parents avoid forbidding their children to join the Pioneers, because a child can always unconsciously betray his parents in school. The number of Pioneers in the high schools remains small because the children understand the feelings of their parents.

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Communist Youth

13. Form masters often have the task of trying to get as many candidates as possible to enter the Communist Youth Movement. Nevertheless, there are not many members in the middle schools. Efforts are made to attract the ablest pupils to the Communist Youth, and pupils who join make a career for themselves. They are pushed forward to become seniors of the class, leaders of circles, etc. There are few Communist Youth in the technical schools and the universities and even less in the various courses which are preparing personnel for the kolkhoz. Groups of 25 to 30 kolkhoz accountants would have no more than one to three members of the Communist Youth. The reason for this is that the Soviet spirit has not established itself in the kolkhoz. The craft schools, however, are a breeding ground for the Communist Youth, probably because there are many Russian children in these schools, and Russian children appear to join the Communist Youth Movement in greater numbers than before the war.

Teachers and the Party

14. Among the teachers, the only Party men are those who have been sent specially to watch the Party line. Directors of schools, in the

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majority of cases, are not Party men. The Party has not sufficient people to staff the schools, and therefore the teachers are called upon to educate the children in the Party spirit against their own beliefs. They must fulfill this duty in the same way as a good Communist. In other words, a teacher must know how to hold the balance in such a way that no one can fathom what he really thinks and feels; otherwise he will perish. Therefore, there is no question but that the teachers are boycotting the Voice of America. A teacher cannot be passive, because a passive attitude is considered unfriendly to the regime and would not be tolerated. The mention of the Voice of America by the teachers would be disastrous not only to themselves, but also to the general situation. As long as there are still old teachers from the intelligentsia, the Lithuanian spirit will continue in the schools. Everyone knows that the Communists would use all kinds of measures and stop at nothing to liquidate anybody not working for regime. In fact, they would purge the whole teaching profession and wipe out the category to which the teachers belong. They would have no scruples in replacing everyone by new people reliable to the regime.

15. The following episode is an example of Communist reaction to any event in the schools. One member of the teachers' group made a report during a meeting of the trade unions. He spoke in the Russian language, because there were Russian representatives present. He stated at one point, "I could not do it". When the minutes of this meeting reached the Party, a scandal arose because of this expression. The Central Board of the Teaching Combinat in Vilnyus was alarmed, and a representative was sent to help this teacher to rectify the situation. Another meeting was called, during which the teacher was forced to declare that his knowledge of Russian had been insufficient, he had expressed himself incorrectly, and he had meant to say, "I was not in a position to do it". The representative from Vilnyus had stated that this teacher was a Soviet-minded person and therefore could not have said he was unable to do it. It was stressed that there was nothing that a Soviet teacher should not be able to do. This example shows how sensitive the Communists are to the question of education.
16. The teachers do not show their feelings at all. A stranger watching a teacher at work would gain the impression that everything was being done in the Soviet spirit, and so it is. The teachers do everything that is imposed on them. For example, teachers who are religious believers have to give classes on such subjects as "Religion is the Enemy of the People", but they do so as actors playing their parts. All teachers do everything with the conviction that it cannot be otherwise and act in such a way that their true feelings are hidden from Communist eyes, and even their own friends cannot discern their feelings. Only in class, among his pupils, does the teacher hide his feelings less deeply, and the pupils can notice a discord between his words and his gestures. The pupils are the first to learn to understand the teacher. During lessons on political subjects, when the teacher is using Communist phrases and expressions, some of the pupils look at the teacher and smile sincerely, indicating that they understand that the teacher speaks in this way because he must. Often pupils will ask questions deliberately to try to direct the teacher's attention away from a subject that is unpleasant to him. Pupils try to avoid political lessons. In fact, Party representatives began to visit the schools and attend the lessons because the political lessons became only pro forma.

## 12. Position of Scientists

It is difficult to say what success the Soviets have achieved in science. Scientists themselves and their scientific works are paid well, which means that they are valued highly. For example, Justas Palekis, President of Soviet Lithuania, is paid 9,000 to 12,000 rubles a month, while the income of the president of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, Professor

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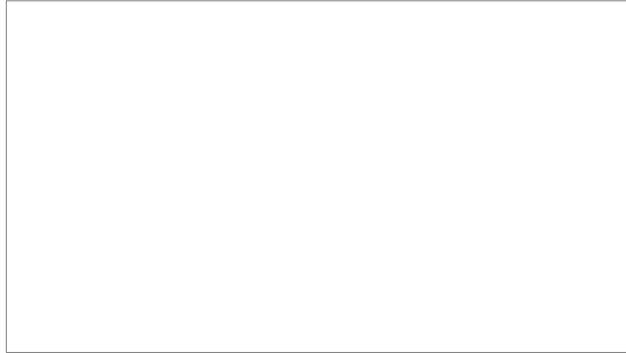
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Y. Y. Matulis, has reached 48,000 rubles. The salary of every rector of a scientific institute is double or three times that of a State minister.

1.  Comment: Tuition fees, which must be paid in the middle schools, and a limited number of scholarships, which are awarded on a scholastic and political basis, tend to limit the number of pupils.

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