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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Belorussian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Wages, Prices, and Sociological Conditions in Baranovich	DATE DISTR.	25 October 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Severe labor shortages existed in 1954 in rural districts in the vicinity of Baranovich (N 53-08, E 26-02), because nearly all the young men were in the army or had migrated to the city in search of better pay. At the same time, a surplus of labor was said to exist in Baranovich.

2. [Redacted]

3. Food prices were so high in relation to wages earned, that the chief source of nourishment was bread. Some representative prices paid in Baranovich in 1954 are listed below.¹

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Item	Unit	Price in Rubles	Comments
Black bread	1 kg	2.35	
Salted herring	1 kg	25.	
Sugar	1 kg	13.	
Margarine	1 kg	10.5	
Potatoes	1 kg	7.	
Schnapps	1 lt	50.	40 percent alcohol.
Wine	1 lt	18 to 25.	
Movie theater ticket	1	4 to 5.	

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC				
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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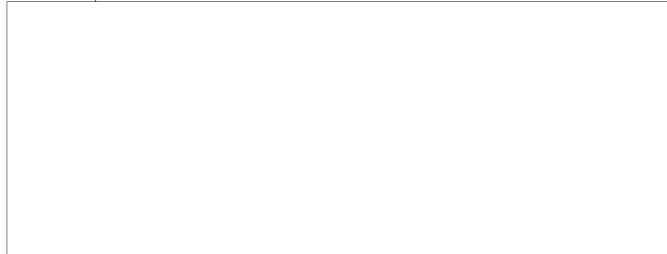
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4. An increase in robbery and hooliganism was noticeable in Baranovichi after the amnesty following Stalin's death. The police were ineffective against the violence which often occurred on the streets and were likewise unable to control the organized bands of children who made large stores and churches their prime operating grounds for picking pockets and stealing. Numerous disabled veterans and other victims of the war, who received a meager pension or none at all, supported themselves by begging in the streets.
5. After Stalin's death, judicial procedure became less arbitrary. Whereas formerly, two witnesses had been sufficient to establish guilt, cases were investigated in spite of testimony. In order to obtain a decision in a divorce case, the consent of the wife was required and the husband was held responsible after divorce for her support and the support of their children.

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1. Comment: Some prices listed are much higher than previously reported. Another informant listed the following prices per kilogram paid for various commodities in late 1954: Black bread, 1.15 rubles; sugar, 8.9 rubles; and potatoes, 1.75 to two rubles.

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