

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Baltic Sea and Gulf of Finland)

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Naval Activity in Leningrad and Ventspils

DATE DISTR. 13 January 1958

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2. Possible Amphibious Landing Procedure Observed in the Gulf of Riga

NO. PAGES 2

REQUIREMENT NO.

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REFERENCES

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

AttachmentDescription

A

Sighting in Leningrad of six W-class submarines, [redacted] and one SKORYY-class destroyer [redacted] Also observed was a 350-ton barge [redacted]

B

Describes alleged violation of Navigation Act by Soviet single-stacked flush-decked patrol [redacted] Sighting of a new Soviet 8000 DWT cargo vessel in Leningrad which was loading 'what was possibly lead ore. Notes heavy barge traffic through Morskoy Kanal.

C

Sighting in Ventspils of KRONSTADT-class subchasers, [redacted] possible T-301 minelayers, [redacted] two submarines, [redacted]; two P-6-class speed boats, and three auxiliary vessels, [redacted]

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

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D Sighting in Ventspils of two possible
Q-class submarines [redacted]
[redacted] eight KRONSTADT-class subchasers,
[redacted] and one POLUKHIN-
class minesweeper [redacted]

E Sighting in Ventspils of two submarines,
[redacted] and several
KRONSTADT-class subchasers, [redacted]
[redacted] Also observed was a
shore based radar installation.

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F Detailed description of an apparent
amphibious landing exercise in the Gulf
of Riga off Markgrafen (Mersragaciems,
N 57-21, E 23-07), in which five landing
craft, six fishing luggers, and one
RIGA-class escort vessel participated.

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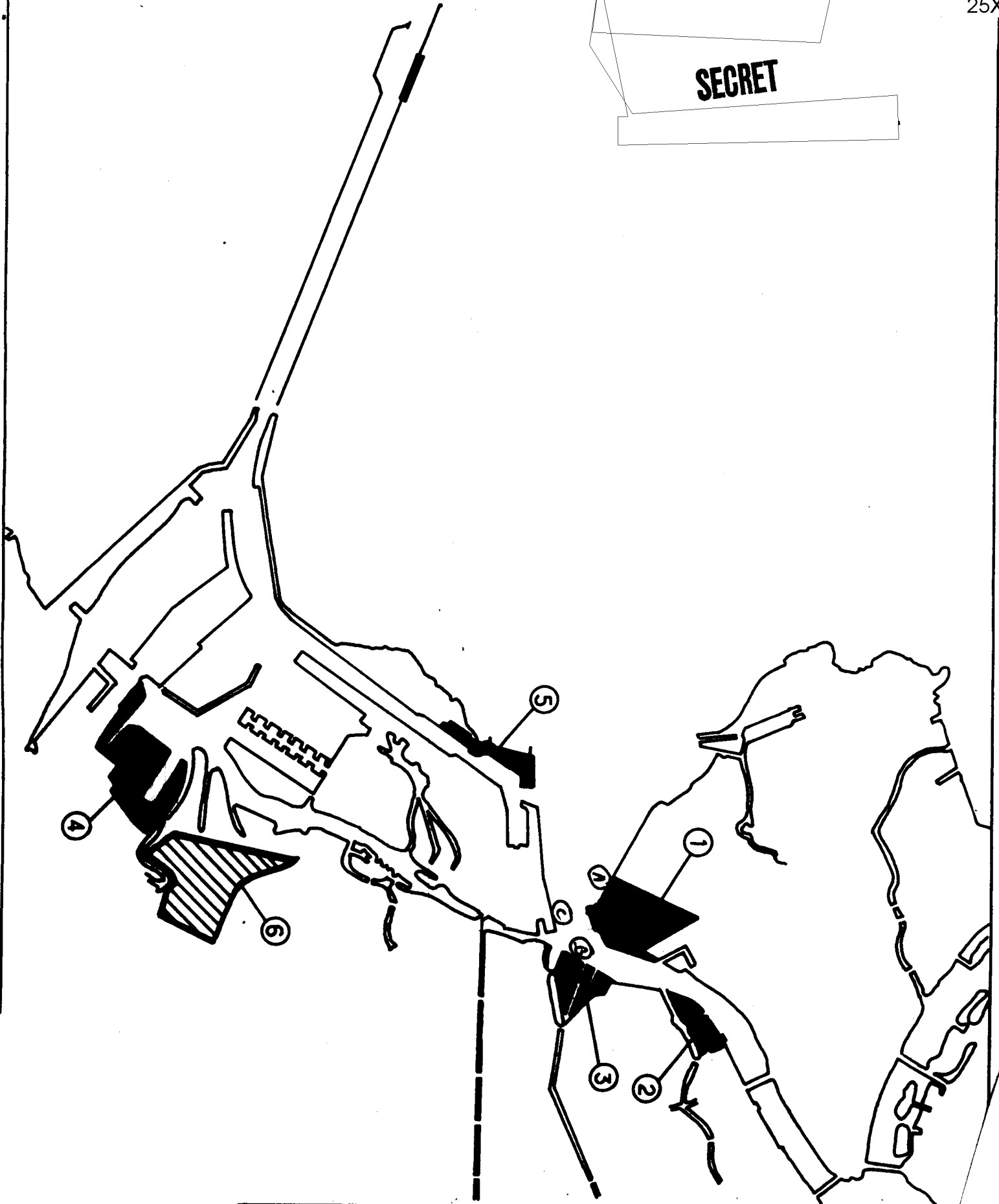
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Attachment A

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Area. LENINGRAD

Date.

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2. MERCHANT VESSELS.

A comparatively new Russian cargo vessel of approx. 8000 t.d.w. was lying at the west end of the quay at RAZDYELNAYA DAMBA loading a golden brown substance from an enormous pile on the quay.

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B

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3. HARBOUR.

Barges heavily loaded with ore and sand arrived many times every day from MORSKOY CANAL and unloaded at the pier between the canal and BAROCHNY BASSEYN. Farther along the pier were huge piles of sand.

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[redacted] submarine chaser [redacted] of the

KRONSTADT Class entered Ventspils Harbor and anchored north of the pontoon bridge.

[redacted] the vessel was no longer seen there. In the afternoon, submarine chaser [redacted] anchored at the same place.

[redacted] vessels [redacted] presumably submarine chasers of the KRONSTADT Class, as well as minelaying boats [redacted] presumably of the T-301 Class, were berthed in the Harbor of Ventspils.

[redacted] submarines [redacted] were berthed in the harbor. Furthermore, two speed boats, type P-6 and auxiliary vessels [redacted] were identified.

Comment. Of the units mentioned, the two KRONSTADTs [redacted] have already been identified [redacted] in Ventspils [redacted] reported to be submarine chasers, are believed to be vessels of the T-301 Class [redacted]

On the other hand, submarine chasers of the KRONSTADT Class [redacted] have not appeared [redacted]

Auxiliary vessel [redacted] was observed for the first time. [redacted] are vessels of T-301 Class; they have belonged to the harbor occupation of Ventspils for quite some time.

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Attachment F

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1. [redacted] a unit consisting of 1 frigate type RIGA, 5 landing craft and 6 fish luggers was at position 57°25'N, 23°50'E in the Gulf of Riga on course 300°, making 8 knots. The unit ran in the following formation: 1 landing craft at the head, 1 landing craft stepped aft toward starboard, 3 landing craft stepped aft toward portside and, in the wash of the landing craft at the head and, about in line with the aft landing craft at portside, the frigate of the RIGA type. Six fish luggers forming double line ahead followed the RIGA at an interval of about 900 meters. The landing craft ran at close formation, keeping a boat's length distance between each other. The following details were learned on the RIGA: continuous deck line with the forecastle raised very high and conspicuously raked stem; two superimposed guns mounted on the forecastle and another gun on the quarter deck; square bridge with tripod mast and, aft, a low, compact stack, a free space, and then low deck superstructures with short pole mast and thin stack closely drawn to mast. The landing craft were described as follows: square shape with raked bow trap which protruded over the ship's wall; they were approximately 30 meters long, of identical type and not more than 50 percent loaded. The six fish luggers correspond to the standard type which is built at the Stralsund Volkswerft. They were the only ones with a black coat of paint, and their red Soviet merchant flag was clearly identified.

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2. [redacted] the unit made a portside turn on true course about 220° at position 57°33'N, 23°23'E. The turn was executed in an exact, disciplined form. [redacted] the unit was about two seamiles off the coast of Markgrafen. Upon signals given by flags, the unit stopped and the frigate of the RIGA Class took up position about half a seamile forward of the unit and started laying a smoke screen, whereby black smoke simultaneously emerged from its forward stack. At about the same time, the coastal area at Markgrafen made smoke. Except for the fish luggers, the unit as well as the coastal strip vanished under the smoke layers.

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[redacted] Comment. Although the fishing vessels were not observed to have participated directly in the landing practice proper, the fact that the unit consisted of landing craft and fishing vessels is

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very important, since it confirms the assumption that the Soviet Union employs fishing vessels during landings. A considerable number of fishing vessels is available in all four sea areas. Since, according to the OB carried here, the number of landing craft available is only small, it is believed that fishing vessels will carry the brunt of the work during landings. For sketch, see Annex.

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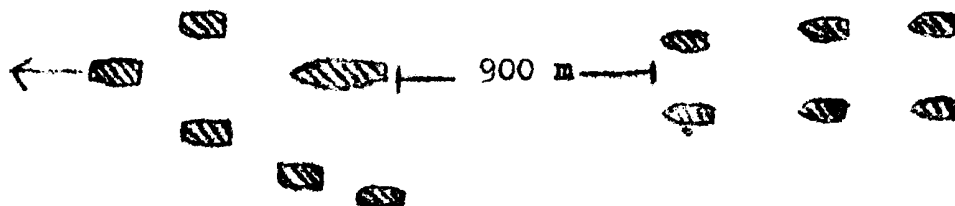
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Attachment F

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