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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Railroad Communications in Lithuanian SSR and Bolorussia

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The Russian wide gauge railway has been introduced in Lithuania. All of the lines are single-tracked. [redacted]

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[redacted] observed that lines ran from Kaunas to Vilna*, and to Baranovichi and Brest Litovsk. In Brest Litovsk a change was made to standard European gauge, which continued to Warsaw-Posen and Frankfurt/Oder. **

2. As of November 1948, bridges over the Nemunas River at Kaunas had not been reconstructed; old German pontoon bridges were still being utilized. The railway bridge, however, was repaired and was to be opened to traffic in the summer of 1949. ***

* [redacted] Comment: The Vilna-Kaunas line is already double-tracked. However, it is possible that only one track has been converted to broad gauge.

** [redacted] Comment: [redacted] in addition to Soviet gauge, there was one standard European gauge line used by the Soviets for captured German railway equipment.

*** [redacted] Comment: The Lithuanian press announced in March 1949 that the bridge at Panemine, a suburb of Kaunas, had been reopened for traffic. The Vilna-Kaunas highway was completed in 1947; it is 10-12 meters wide at all points.

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