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29 October 1946

SECRET

Country: U.S.S.R./Lithuania
Subject: Prisoner of War Camp No. 57 in Memel

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1. There are more than 6,000 prisoners of war in the Prisoner Camp No. 57 in Memel. As they are at some distance from their places of employment, they are temporarily accommodated in so-called "sub-camps" located near their place of work. They are, nevertheless, considered as belonging to the Camp No. 57.
2. The camp contains only Germans and Austrians. The latter were promised as early as autumn of 1945 that they would be released, but nothing has, so far, been done to carry out these promises.
3. In 1946 the two nationalities were separated, and each was allowed to publish its own camp news-sheet. National antagonism is, thus, being fostered by the Russians and subsequently exploited for their own ends. In order to extract better work from the POWs, the food ration was increased last March. It has previously been quite insufficient and resulted in deaths from exhaustion. More than twenty-five percent of the prisoners detained in this camp died from weakness and exhaustion in 1945.
4. The personnel guarding these prisoners is composed of quite young classes, who have not fought in the war and who are supervised by an old cadre of the NKVD.
5. Prisoners of war work officially eight hours per day, but the Soviets demand a "further voluntary" contribution of two hours' labor daily. Soviet propaganda organs then advertise this as the workers' demonstration of democratic co-operation against fascism. Prisoners have been promised additional pay for this extra labor; but, so far, this promise has not been fulfilled.
6. The Soviets, to show good-will, occasionally send home a prisoner who, during indoctrination, has manifested a "suitable democratic attitude".

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8. It should be noted that the "new democrats" thus dispatched are provided with "original" and water-tight "authentic" documents in perfect order.

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