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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

STOCKHOLM REPORTS ANTI-SOVIET ACTIVITY IN WESTERN USSR

Reports of partisan and guerrilla activities and disaffection in the USSR; and particularly in the Baltic areas, continue to appear regularly in anti-Soviet newspapers in Sweden. Information and rumors are usually credited either to refugees or members of opposition movements who have just come from the USSR. At the same time, these papers report that complete Russianization of the areas is being carried out at present.

The Soviet press provides no direct evidence of partisan activities, but does give support to outside claims of disaffection and Russianization of the Baltic areas.

For instance, none of the approximately 100 court cases described in the Soviet press [redacted] during the past year gave any evidence of trials and sentencing of traitors or defectors. There have been instances of party and government officials being relieved of their posts on charges of bourgeois nationalism, particularly in Western USSR. One exception to the lack of actual information on disaffection was a reference in Sovetskaya Estoniya, 25 April 1950, to the foiling of a plan to retain bourgeois nationalist personnel at Tartu State University with the aim of ultimately restoring capitalism. This plan was carried out at the university in 1940 - 1941 and continued after the German occupation was brought to an end in 1944. It is assumed that the Estonian purges in spring 1950 resulted in the elimination of most of the anti-Soviet elements there [redacted]

[redacted] Bourgeois nationalists have also been active in Lithuania; Sovetskaya Litva, 23 April 1950, reported, for example, that the Party organization of the Ministry of Education, Lithuanian SSR, had relaxed its vigilance and allowed many foreign, adventurous elements to penetrate official positions in the ministry. A full-scale purge took place in early 1950 in the Karelo-Finnish SSR to eliminate anti-Soviet and corrupt elements (Leninskoye Znamya, 15 February - 5 March 1950).

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Excerpts below from several anti-Soviet Stockholm newspapers are much more specific as to the type of bourgeois-nationalist activities going on in the area, namely, partisan activities and the formation of a liberation movement. It is impossible to check the accuracy of these reports through overt sources, because of the above-mentioned lack of specific information in the Soviet press. Rumors and reports of this type are apt to be exaggerated in the many retellings before they are finally published. There was no mention in the Soviet press, for instance, of any recent destruction or rebuilding of the Riga-Pskov railroad line. Reports of anti-Soviet feeling in the Baltic area are also given below.

ANTI-SOVIET LITHUANIANS FORM LIBERATION COMMITTEE -- Morgon Tidningen, 22 Jun 50

Vatican sources report that all the non-Communist parties in Lithuania have merged and formed a liberation committee. One-fifth of the population, 520,000 people, were reported to have been deported to Siberia during the 6 years of Soviet occupation.

This information is said to come from two Lithuanian refugees who came to Rome, bringing with them many documents and other material showing how severe the religious and political situation is for the Baltic peoples. Fortifications are being built along the Lithuanian border, and a 10-kilometer "death zone" has been established. The two refugees are the only survivors of a group of 18, the other 16 of which were shot trying to cross the border.

PARTISANS ACTIVE IN BALTIC AREA -- Morgon Tidningen, 30 Jul 50

According to a report from Riga to an Estonian weekly periodical in Stockholm, Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian partisans, the so-called "Brothers of the Forest," recently carried out an attack on the Riga-Pskov railroad line.

It is reported further that the Baltic partisans recently made a surprise attack on an MVD "concentration point."

From what Morgon Tidningen has learned, the Soviet Army, even after 6 years, has not succeeded in clearing the Baltic forests of nationalist partisans. Between 1944 and 1946, partisan activity was particularly strong, but has become increasingly weaker of late. Now and then, however, reports are heard of partisan activity, attacks on secret police camps, etc.

Partisan activity has been handicapped considerably in that the private farms have been replaced by kolkhozes. Previously, private farmers sympathetic to the partisans were able to provide them with food. That happens rather seldom now, as the farmers, now kolkhoz workers, are considerably worse off now so far as food for themselves and their families is concerned. However, in spring 1949, the partisan ranks were reinforced considerably. Many young men succeeded in evading deportation and chose to join the partisan groups in the forests.

Latvju Vards, 2 Mar 50

Der Tagesspiegel, a German newspaper, reports that two Latvian partisans arrived in West Berlin in the last few days. Considering the accuracy in the spelling of place names and the description of the men themselves, it appears that this is not just one of the usual sensational reports published in the German press.

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The partisans in Latvia are equipped with arms of the former German Kurzemes (Kurland) Army. Special MVD units for combating the partisans are located in Riga, Daugavpils, and several small cities of Latvia. The partisans recently attacked a fairly large MVD camp in Lilaste. All "Chekists" (secret police members) were killed and their quarters burned down. The attacking partisans were under the command of a colonel of the former Latvian Army.

Together with the Estonians, the Latvian partisans operated successfully on the Pliskava (Pskov) railroad line before Christmas of last year. There is said to be very strict discipline among the partisans and they are equipped not only with rifles, machine guns, and hand grenades, but also heavier types of guns, antitank guns, and radio transmitters.

Svenska Dagbladet, 11 Jun 50

The conference of the Estonian National Council held in Stockholm on 11 June reported that at present Soviet patrols along the Estonian border prevent any large-scale attempts to flee the country. Estonian partisans are still active in the forests in the East. To cut these partisan bands into smaller units and thus destroy them more easily, the Russians have established an extra patrol border across Estonia running from east to west. Many patrol vessels have been equipped with radar.

LATVIANS SHOW ANTI-SOVIET FEELING -- Latvju Vards, 27 Jul 50

It is known that during recent weeks many people in Latvia, both young and old, who have been following the Korean conflict and hoping for new international developments which would bring freedom to the Baltic countries, have been unable to restrain themselves and have expressed their opinions publicly, both in places of employment and in boys' camps and schools. A number of patriotic Latvians have also tried to support the partisans, who have been experiencing material difficulties since the organization of kolkhozes. As a result of all this, there have been new arrests and deportations, as well as violent encounters with partisans even in the open. In many cases, Russians have been joining the ranks of the partisans.

In addition to evidence in the Soviet press of Great Russian chauvinism, in general, and the at least partial staffing with Russians of party and government organizations in the non-Russian republics of the USSR, the territorial-administrative setups in both Latvia and Lithuania have recently undergone radical changes (Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta SSSR, 10 Feb 50, and Sovetskaya Litva, 5 Jul 50). The uyezds and volost's, which were formerly typical of the Western USSR, were reorganized into oblasts and rayons to conform with the territorial-administrative organization of the rest of the country. Estonia is now the only remaining republic of the USSR to retain uyezds and volost's, and it is likely that these also will soon be converted. Russian is taught in all primary schools in the area, and there is evidence of the increasing importance of Russian language and culture in place of national (Sovetskaya Estoniya, 10 May 50; Sovetskaya Latviya, 14 May 50).

The following are but a few of the reports of Russianization of the Baltic area which have appeared recently in anti-Soviet Stockholm newspapers.

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RUSSIANS TAKE OVER BALTIC LEADERSHIP -- Svenska Dagbladet, No 154, 11 Jun 50

It was reported at the conference of the Estonian National Council, held in Stockholm on 11 June, that a fairly accurate list of the new ministers in Estonia has been compiled since the latest purges there. Practically all the names on it are Russian. The same is also true of the leadership of the Estonian Communist Party, which now has only three Estonian members, the rest being Russian.

It is estimated that at present only 700,000-800,000 Estonians remain of the original population of 1,200,000. Of the 400,000-500,000 missing, 60,000 have fled abroad. The rest have been deported by the Russians.

Svenska Dagbladet, 13 Aug 50

In early 1950, Latvia was divided administratively, like Russian, into oblasts, rayons, and kolkhozes. Lithuania suffered the same fate in July, being divided into four oblasts. A few months ago, the Pechora district and the eastern part of the city of Narva were detached from Estonia and incorporated into the RSFSR.

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Moscow has now decided to rename the streets in the Baltic cities, as the Nazis did in 1941 - 1944. The Soviets began with Riga, where on 18 July about 200 streets and squares were "sovietized." Freedom Street in Riga, which the Nazis called Adolf Hitler Street, has now been named Lenin Street by the Russians. Further examples are Suvorov Street (previously Kr. Barona), Karl Marx Street (Gertrud), Fr. Engels Street (Saulen), Sevastopol' Street (Jesuskirchen), Belinskiy Street (Bergen), Michurin Street (Tomson), etc. Even Aspasia Boulevard, which during the "capitalist" period in Latvia was named after the Latvian revolutionary authoress Aspasia, the sister-in-law of the Latvian Peters Stutjka, the Soviet Commissar of Justice who died in Moscow, has been renamed Soviet Boulevard.

Furthermore, the Baltic names of the kolkhozes in the Baltic countries are being changed to Russian ones.

Svenska Dagbladet, 4 Aug 50

Vatican City, 3 August -- The Vatican reports that Catholics in Lithuania, every time they wish to attend church services, are now obliged to procure a ticket costing over 8 kronor [about 1.55 dollars] from the authorities. Church services may be held only during the morning hours, churches may not be closer than 7 kilometers to each other, collections for the restoration of the churches are forbidden, and special permission is required to sing hymns and cantatas.

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