

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

COUNTRY	USSR (Murmansk Oblast)	REPORT	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Population

- The inhabitants, especially those living in the outskirts of the town, looked neglected and poor. Their faces were glum and their looks mistrustful. Even over a glass of vodka they remained secretive and reserved; they were also depressed, and tried to find forgetfulness and consolation in vodka. They started drinking early in the day. Along the road from the shipyard to the town there were many booths selling vodka, cigarettes, and snacks. These booths were encountered more frequently as one came nearer to the city. Posters praising Stalin were displayed above those advertising vodka. The Soviets drank their vodka from a tumbler, at the booth; customers included naval and army officers and workers, who lay around the booths in a drunken state. There were also many drunks in the center of town. Policemen took no action when they saw drunks going past on all fours and singing. They interfered only if a fight started.

Streets and Housing

- The streets and houses were neglected. Houses were mainly of wood and had no drainage or running water. The buckets used by the women to carry water were a horrible sight. In 1949 there were also a few neat, stone houses, but by 1952 the appearance of the town had changed greatly. A new quarter, containing numerous, modern, six-story houses, had been built, with a main street called Prospekt Stalina. Many of the streets had been asphalted.

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STATE	x	ARMY	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI		AEC		ORR Ev	x		
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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Clothing

4. Uniform was the most common form of dress; besides military personnel there were railroadmen, postmen, etc, in uniform. Generally, not only workers, but all civilians had a drab appearance. Women wore babushkas; only in the very center of town did one see women wearing hats and gloves. Female workers wore the same clothing as men, i.e., trousers and jackets.

Young People

5. The young people spent most of their time in the street: there were no sports for them. Children were neglected. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] children four to six years old, begging for cigarettes.

Attitude toward Foreigners

6. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] Distrust of foreigners was very great, and the attitude toward Americans was particularly hostile. Poles also were approached with great reserve. One was always conscious of the Soviets' inferiority complex.

Attitude toward the Regime

7. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] People were intimidated and indifferent.

Transportation

8. The buses [redacted] to Murmansk were in bad repair, dirty, and always full, but [redacted] in September 1952 [redacted] some modern buses. There were a number of passenger cars in the town, mostly military vehicles. 25X1  
25X1

Dockworkers

9. Dockworkers worked twelve-hour shifts when loading ships. A Polish ship's officer tried to persuade a dockworker to come aboard his ship for a meal, but the worker refused; when offered bread and sausages he hesitated momentarily and then took them and put them in his pocket.

Prices

10. Some prices were:

Cigarettes, better quality	6-8 rubles for 20
Vodka 1/2 liter	25 rubles per half-liter
	50 rubles in 1949
Watch, ugly, with colored dial	500 rubles
Iron bedstead	400 rubles

Sugar was very expensive. Polish seamen sold sugar in order to obtain Soviet currency.

Restaurant

11. [redacted] the smart and well-known restaurant, Arktika, which served hot and cold dishes and had an orchestra. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] Soviet officers dancing with each other instead of inviting the women present to be their partners. 25X1

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