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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Port of Ventspils	DATE DISTR.	11 June 1954
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. [redacted] ship called at the port of Ventspils [redacted]. The entrance to Ventspils was very clear. There were two direction lights at the entrance. The ship's course on entering the port was 143.5 degrees, corrected bearing. [redacted] the minefield indicated on the chart near the coast actually existed. [redacted] many ships which took no notice of this field. Several times in thick snowy weather [redacted] ship anchored without being sure of its position, and it was found out afterwards that the ship had been in the forbidden area.

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2. There was a wreck about one fathom below the surface on the north side of the course as one entered the harbor, approximately one-half nautical mile outside the breakwaters. There was a bar at the same place which was marked on all charts.

3. [redacted]

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4. There were some mooring places and wharfs along the river. A long wharf was built on the eastern shore of the river approximately one-half nautical mile above Ventspils. [redacted] it had no name, but was designated as berths No. 6 to 9. The length was not measured, [redacted] it could take three large ships at the same time. Six very good three-ton and five-ton cranes were located on the wharf; two of the cranes were electric and four of them were diesel-powered. [redacted]

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5. There was a coal fueling station on the southern part of the wharf. The coaling wharf had space for only one large ship. The station was equipped with a modern crane. A short distance farther upriver there was an old tank-ship of between

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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8,000 to 10,000 tons; it was moored and apparently served as a fueling station for ships using oil.

- 6. When Riga was closed by ice, Ventspils was visited by an unusually large number of commercial ships. [redacted] 20 vessels in the harbor at the same time. Several ships were moored outboard each other, but the ships in each group had to be of the same nationality; for example, there were two [redacted] ships in one group, and three Soviet vessels were in another group. 25X1
- 7. [redacted] did not observe any naval vessels while at sea during [redacted] visits to Ventspils. Approximately 30 naval vessels were moored at wharves in the Ventspils harbor area during the winter season. Nine of these vessels were submarines. 25X1
- 8. [redacted] encountered the fishing fleet based in Ventspils several times. The fleet, which consisted of approximately 40 motor vessels, fished up to 30 nautical miles off shore. One or two of these vessels were equipped with two guns each, one on each side of the deck. The armed vessels had the same outward appearance as the others, but the guns could only be seen from close-up. 25X1



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