

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Black Sea)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Port of Tuapse	DATE DISTR.	6 December 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. In early January 1954, a destroyer was sighted proceeding on a north-north-westerly course at 15 to 20 knots about 30 nautical miles from the coast near Tuapse. The destroyer had a slightly raking sloop, two low smokestacks rather widely separated, one mast and a spar aft of the after smokestack, a long foredeck, and two guns, one each on the foredeck and the fantail.
2. As [redacted] ship approached Tuapse on 2 January, the port medical officer and the pilot came alongside in a motor boat and ordered the ship to anchor in the roadstead for the medical inspection. The examination, which was thorough, took about one hour. The ship subsequently passed through the southern mole without the aid of a tugboat. [redacted] the entrance in the southern mole was 220 meters wide. A sentry in a long brown overcoat and armed with a rifle stood near the light on the head of the mole, and the name of the ship was given to him by the pilot. There was a thin ice sheet in the harbor which, however, was broken and did not hinder the ship in its passage. The ship was berthed alongside the oil pier. The inspection party of 12, including four customs officers, came aboard together with the ship's broker. The latter seemed to be well educated and was helpful in every respect. He spoke fluent English and stated that he could speak German. He accepted cigarettes and brandy, and did not avoid conversation. During the ship's stay in harbor, the broker came aboard twice a day for one or two hours, ostensibly as interpreter. He carefully filled out again any lists which were incomplete and repeatedly pointed out that the lists had to be forwarded to higher quarters.
3. Six to eight men wearing civilian clothes were on the pier day and night to attend to the oil loading operations. Mutual understanding was possible only by sign language. They came aboard from time to time for a few minutes and accepted a drink when unobserved. The oil pier was guarded by a single sentry, who was relieved every four hours. He checked the passports of shore-goers. The pier was well lighted, although the lights were fitted rather carelessly. No fortifications or barrack installations were seen in the town or harbor.

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district, and it appeared that no regular troops were stationed in Tuapse. Only a few soldiers, most of them unarmed, were seen in town.

4. [redacted] the town of Tuapse had a population of 12,000, which, judging from the number and size of the houses, undoubtedly lived under very cramped conditions. Most of the houses were of logs; some had a coat of plaster. There was one wooden sidewalk on the only paved street, which led past the church. Near the church were four or five plain saloons, which between 1400 and 1900 were always full of people. Drinks and food served in the saloons included vodka in glasses or in bottles, bottled beer, and light dishes (pirozhnoye), generally filled with fish. A large glass of vodka cost 1.75 rubles, and pirozhnoye 50 kopeks. Newspapers lay about conveniently, but were rarely read because loudspeakers broadcasting music and lectures without interruption were heard in the bars and the streets. Only elderly persons were seen on the streets during the day. Women between 50 and 60 years of age were employed at all the newsstands. About 2,000 men and women carrying saws and axes returned from the mountains. The working population, both men and women, generally wore quilted jackets. Well dressed persons were not observed. Although people on the streets wore no gloves, one of the shops displayed working gloves of yellow leather at 12 rubles, and ladies' gloves at prices between 15 and 18 rubles. The few shops looked like second-hand stores with all kinds of goods in the display windows. A pair of used boots in good condition cost 50 rubles. Many persons, mainly women wearing shapeless clothes with kerchiefs, were seen in front of, or in the cooperative shops. It was noted that many of the elderly persons were Tartar types; some of them had goatees and earrings. There was practically no street traffic. Informant heard that a total of only four or five outmoded sedans and two old motor busses were available in the town. On the other hand, 20 to 30 well kept, fairly modern trucks were seen hauling logs and occasionally firewood to the harbor.

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5. [redacted] line had been installed between Maykop and Tuapse. Petroleum and heavy oil were stored in tanks in Tuapse. Gasoline was rarely shipped, although a refinery plant was allegedly located in Maykop. [redacted] long trains of between 30 and 60 tank cars were always seen near the tank storage plant in Tuapse, [redacted] they had brought oil to Tuapse from other fields, located east of Novorossiysk, and north-northwest of Tuapse. However, most of the oil from this field was shipped to Novorossiysk, since this port could be reached more easily than Tuapse because of better terrain conditions. The name of this oilfield was Grosminsk (sic) or something similar.

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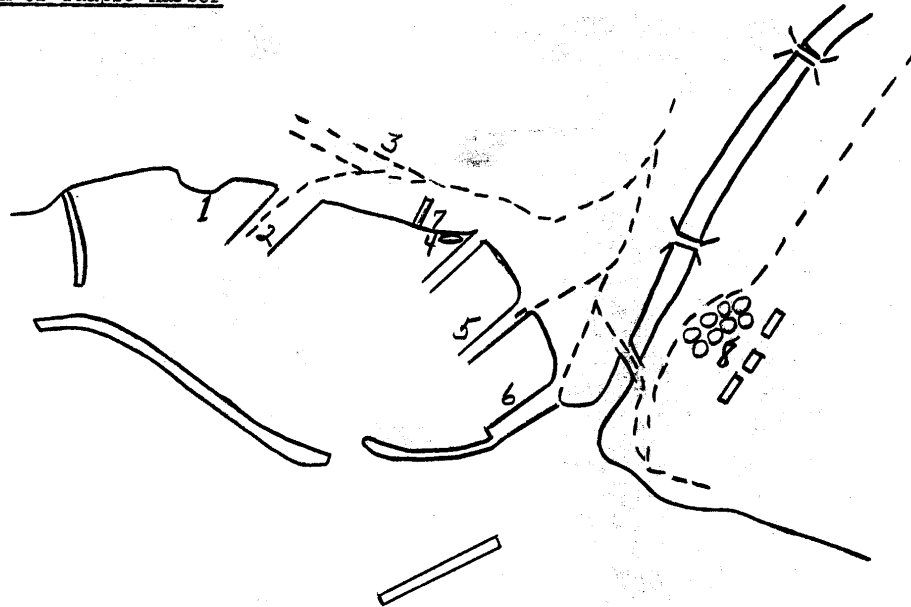
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Sketch of Tuapse Harbor

Legend:

1. Berths of two small tugboats, each of 200 to 300 HP, two pile drivers, one dredge with several scows, and three or four small fishing cutters.
2. Quay installation for mixed cargo.
3. Tuapse railroad station.
4. Berth of a large fishing cutter flying no flag. This vessel was very similar to the former German naval fishing cutter (Kriegsfischkutter - (KFK)).
5. Oil pier about 400 meters long. Six large pipe lines with six main connections for each berth ran along the pier. In addition, two small pipe lines, 15 centimeters in diameter, ran along the total length of the pier. The installation was of an obsolete design, but in perfect order. A pumping station was said to be on the opposite side of the river. The fuel tanks were located in an elevated position. The water at the root of the mole was a little less than 20 feet deep. The sounded depth at the head of the mole was 9.9 meters.
6. Mixed cargo quay, at which [redacted] a Soviet ship unloaded mixed cargo. Two railroad tracks and two or three sheds were on that quay. No cranes were seen, but conveyer belts for packaged goods were available.
7. A small slip on which a cutter was hauled up. A pile of round timber and some piles of lumber were observed near the slip.
8. Several oil tanks were at the foot of a hill. [redacted] 1,000,000 tons of fuel were permanently stocked there. Some long, barracks-like, three-story wooden houses which were at the rear of the tank installation seemed to serve as quarters for the workmen.

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