

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Karelo-Finnish SSR)	REPORT	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Port of Kem	DATE DISTR.	6 December 1954 25X1
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	NO. OF PAGES	3
PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT	[REDACTED]
		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. Late in the evening of 17 June 1954, [REDACTED] ship was about 12 or 15 nautical miles off shore northwest of KOLA INLET. At that point, four naval vessels were observed following [REDACTED] ship on a southwesterly course towards Kola Inlet. The vessels were stationed in pairs, with about one nautical mile between the ships abreast of each other and the two following ships in line about two nautical miles to the rear. The vessels were all of the same type. The ships were about one and one-half times the length of [REDACTED] ship, which is 248 feet long. The forecabin of these ships extended almost to midships, and the afterdeck was very low. There was a boat deck with two boats on each side across the afterdeck. [REDACTED]

Each ship had two slanting streamlined stacks; the forward stack was somewhat higher than the after one. A small signal mast was located abaft the after stack. [REDACTED] these vessels had many guns, but he could give no further details. One of the vessels had a number, but informant did not make a note of it. The vessels engaged in no maneuvers or practice so long as informant observed them; they passed aft of informant's ship at a great distance. The weather was hazy.
2. At 0700 hours on 16 June, when [REDACTED] ship was at the entrance to the White Sea, he observed a large tanker at anchor immediately to the east, in the direction of Pvalitsa (N 66-13, E 39-32). The vessel lay within the archipelago. [REDACTED] the tanker to be about 10,000 tons. The ship was fully loaded, and there was no evidence that it was discharging cargo. The tanker was an old steamship, and its masts were painted white.
3. [REDACTED] ship got its bearing from Cape Letniy Orlov (N 64-55, E 36-27), and took a direct course for the buoys northwest of Solovetskiy Island (N 65-08, E 35-38). No buildings were seen on that island, which was covered with trees. From the buoys the ship went towards Yuzhnyy Rombak Island (N 65-08, E 35-02) and anchored directly south of Ryavo Luda Island. The small islands in the area were uninhabited. From the anchorage [REDACTED]

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could see some small tree-covered islands further south. Nowhere on them could he observe any buildings. The ship lay at anchor from 2000 hours until 2330 hours, when the pilot came out in a tugboat. He took [redacted] ship between the two Rombak islands which had navigation lights, and proceeded towards Kem (N 64-57, E 34-36) through the passage which was marked with small plain spar-buoys. The ship anchored in the channel between Yakostrov Island and the dock at 2400 hours. [redacted] no buildings on Yakostrov Island, which was covered completely by small trees.

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4. [redacted] ship was at anchor in the sound for three days, because a German vessel was engaged in taking aboard lumber at the dock. [redacted] ship was then directed to the northernmost dock but had to go back into the channel when a Soviet lighter arrived to take on cargo at the dock. After an additional wait of one and one-half days, informant's ship moved to the southern section of the dock where the German vessel had been.

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5. Between the north and south ends of the dock there was a fence which extended to the edge of the dock. Both sections of the dock were of the same type of wood construction with a fender of vertical piles and horizontal round timbers. The northern end of the dock was several feet higher than the southern end. [redacted] the northern end of the dock was six feet above the water at high tide. At the southern end of the dock [redacted] measured 21 feet of water at low tide. [redacted] the depth at the northern end of the dock was the same.

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6. The dock had no cranes. The only buildings on the dock were two portable sheds. The old building, which formerly housed the sawmill for railroad ties, was ready to collapse; there was no machinery in it. There were three towers, one on the dock, one on the ground where the lumber was kept, and one situated in a group of buildings outside the sawmill area. [redacted]

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7. There were at least two railroad tracks on the northern section of the dock. [redacted] the tracks were flush with the level of the dock.

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8. The curved pier where ocean-going vessels docked before World War II was still in use. [redacted] One day a small passenger boat docked there. [redacted] the ship to be about 100 tons.

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9. The sawmill at Kem obtains its timber from the floating logs in the part of the harbor immediately west of the south end of the dock [redacted]

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10. [redacted] the Seamen's Club in Kem, but other members of the crew who were there stated that some Soviet men had treated them to vodka. [redacted] It was possible to go to the club any time during the evening, but a foreign seaman had to be back aboard ship by 2400 hours. There was a small restaurant, a dance floor, and a cinema in the club.

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1. [redacted] Comment: [redacted] the type of naval vessels encountered. Mention of a No. 2 hatch suggests that they were auxiliary ships.

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