

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USER(Estonian SSR)	REPORT	[Redacted]	25X1
SUBJECT	Shale, Cement, Power, and Textile Industries in Estonia; Possible Uranium Prospecting	DATE DISTR.	19 June 1955	
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Shale

- The shale gasworks at Kohtla-Järve, which supplies gas to both Tallinn and Leningrad, is controlled from Moscow. [Redacted] it is common knowledge that great expansion and modernization have occurred there. Kohtla-Järve and Ahtme are both now towns. The mines at Kohtla-Järve, Kiviõli, Sillamäe, Kukruse, and Goldfields (former British-owned mines) are producing as well as new mines at Ahtme and Ubja. The first-grade shale is refined into oil and gasoline in refineries at Kiviõli, Kohtla-Järve, and Sillamäe. The second-grade shale is sold for heating factories in Estonia and Russia.

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Cement

- The cement and brickworks at Aseri is not working. The cement works at Kunda, on the coast north of Rakvere, is, thus, the only cement works operating in Estonia. Although it now supplies the whole of Estonia, most of its production is sent to Russia. It was transferred from Estonian control to direct control by a ministry in Moscow in 1952.
- Its buildings have not been changed since before World War II. It was formerly a Danish concern [Redacted] Much of the cement produced is shipped by barges from Kunda harbor, to Tallinn and to Leningrad. At least one train-load of 8 to 12 18-ton cars of cement each week is moved from Kunda to Rakvere junction; it is not unloaded there [Redacted]

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All cement consumed in Estonia is issued through a distribution depot in Tallinn. There is a considerable scarcity of cement in Estonia. All Estonian users have to wait their turn on a long list kept by the distributing center in Tallinn.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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Electric Power

- 4. A huge new hydroelectric power station is being built at the Narva waterfall. It is to be ready within the Fifth Five-Year Plan, but nobody knows when this began. According to the newspapers, this station is to supply the whole of Estonia.
- 5. Rakvere is supplied with electric power by a thermal station at Püssi, between Rakvere and Jõhvi, [redacted] supplies Kohtla-Järve.

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Textiles

- 6. The Kreenholm, Kalevi Vabrik, and Palti Manufaktur (formerly Lina Vabrik) textile mills at Narva have been working at full pressure for several years past.

Miscellaneous

- 7. The following installations are also known to be working:
  - a. At Kunda: Railroads and docks.
  - b. At Mardu, near Tallinn: The Forferiit Phosphorite Works, which is to be connected to the production of superphosphate during the Fifth Five-Year Plan.
  - c. At Tallinn:
    - The Krull Machine Works.
    - The Volta Electric Machine Works.
    - The RET Radio Works (making broadcast receivers).
    - The Luther Furniture Factory.
    - Brickworks.
    - Cotton Mill.
    - Cellulose works.
  - d. At Kehra: Cellulose works; 40 km east-southeast of Tallinn.
  - e. At Kärdis: Textile mills; on the north coast of Hiiumaa Island.
  - f. At Sindi: Textile mills; eight km east of Pärnu.
  - g. At Loksa: Brickworks; 60 km east-northeast of Tallinn.
  - h. At Tootsi: Briquette factory; 20 km northeast of Pärnu.
  - i. At Järvakandi: Glass works; 75 km south of Tallinn.

- 8. Early in 1952, an area near Jõhvi was fenced off, while Russians worked within the fences and carried truckloads of earth away to Russia for testing. According to local rumors at the time, the Russians were looking for uranium. Evidently they found none, for the fences were removed and the area is now clear again.

- 9. It is not true, as the Russians allege, that they have turned Estonia from an agricultural into an industrial country. In the shale-producing area only has industry been notably expanded.

- 1. [redacted] Comment: This is probably the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry.

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