INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION F

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY REPORT USSR (Lithuanian SSR) SUBJECT 26 July 1955 DATE DISTR. City of Siauliai Wages and Prices in Siauliai 3 NO. OF PAGES DATE OF INFO. REQUIREMENT NO. RD **REFERENCES** PLACE ACQUIRED DATE ACQUIRED This is UNEVALUATED Information₋ SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

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- 1. The population of Siauliai (N 55-55, E 23-17) is about half Lithuanian and half Russian. The majority of the Russian inhabitants are in military service or employed as civilian officials. Since the latter usually hold higher and better-paid positions than their Lithuanian colleagues, a great deal of ill feeling results. A settlement of people of an unidentified Mongolian race is located not far from Siauliai, and many Jews carry on business in the city. In 1953, there were about 400 Germans, mainly East Prussians, in Siauliai.
- 2. Siauliai suffered very little war damage. The population has grown recently, and many four-story buildings are being constructed for both private and business use in the city itself and in the suburbs. The city has a power plant and a water works, both in operation. A large new hospital of three stories is situated near the market. Russian and Lithuanian doctors, many of whom speak German, are employed at the hospital, which has a good reputation in the area. There are two Catholic churches in Siauliai, a large one in the center of the city and a smaller one near the station. Both are widely visited. All other Catholic churches are closed. There is also a Greek Orthodox church, which is, however, not so popular. The churches pay a high tax for the privilege of remaining open.
- 3. Thieves and hoodlums make the side streets of Siauliai unsafe. In the winter of 1953-1954, several persons attacked by such ruffians were admitted to the hospital. The lawbreakers are believed to be mainly ammestied criminals.
- 4. Roads outside Siauliai are undergoing extensive improvements. The airfield near the city has been enlarged and is very busy.
- 5. The first Wednesday of each month is the traditional market day. Smaller scale markets take place every Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. On other weekdays, Jewish merchants carry on business in the market place. There are several wool factories in Siauliai, besides two leather goods factories and a candy factory.

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6. The films shown at the cinema in Siauliai are chiefly Soviet. German films, which are more popular, are usually sold out. Radio transmissions from the West are received with difficulty, since a radio jamming device has been installed on the postoffice building.

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8. Representative prices paid in Siauliai in 1954 are as follows: 1

| Item | <u>Unit</u> | Price in rubles |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Bread | 1 kilo | 1.30 |
| Sugar | 1 k ilo | 8 |
| Butter (in stores) | 1 kilo | 27 |
| Butter (on the market) | l kilo | 20 |
| Flour | l kilo | 5 to 6 |
| Bacon | l kilo | 27 |
| Bacon (fresh) | l kilo | 25 |
| Pork | l kilo | 20 |
| Beef | l kilo | 18 |
| Veal | l kilo | 10 |
| Mutton | 1 kilo | 15 |
| Chicken | 1 | 20 to 30 |
| Goose | 1 | 50 to 70 |
| Potatoes (fall) | 50 kilo | 25 |
| Eggs | 12 | 8 to 12 |
| Milk | 1 liter | 2 . |
| Wool (finished) | l kilo | 202 |
| Movie ticket | 1 | 2 to 5 |

Comment: The butter prices as given are probably reversed, as market butter is usually more expensive than that sold in the State stores.

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