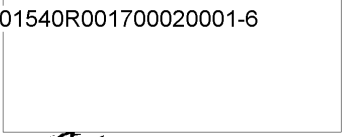


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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Moscow Oblast & Latvian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Soviet Reg. ... the Malenkov Government.	DATE DISTR.	29 June 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCE NO.	RD
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		REFERENCES	

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

1. [redacted] prominent members of the intelligentsia in Moscow who tend to be pro-West have adopted a waiting attitude since the death of Stalin. They have expressed the opinion that, because of the situation that has now arisen in the Soviet regime, it will be possible to establish closer contact with friends abroad in the near future.
2. The latest events in connection with the doctors' plot and the amnesty decree are being construed as a liberalization of the political policy. Some individuals occupying prominent positions, who hitherto had to conceal their real attitude toward events in the Soviet Union, are now voicing their criticism more openly, at least within their own close circles.
3. [redacted] the opinion is also held that restrictions on travel abroad may be expected to become less severe.

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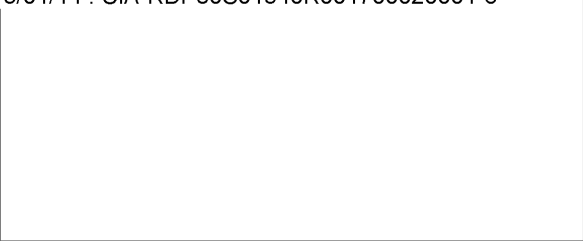
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COUNTRY USER (Latvian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT Kolkhoz Life and Working Conditions

DATE DISTR. 26 June 1953

NO. OF PAGES 1

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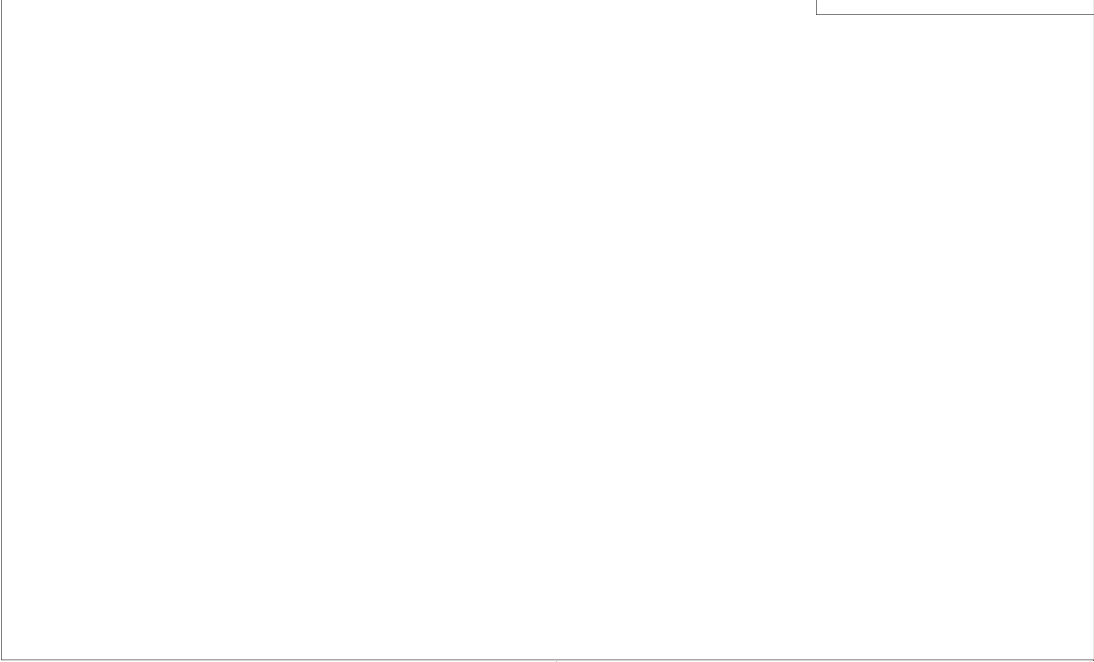
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The attached two reports on Kolkhoz life and working conditions



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LATVIA / U.S.S.R.EconomicNotes on Kolkhozes in Latvia.(Up to 1951)

1. Forced collectivisation in Latvia was started in 1948 and completed in 1950 when the last "voluntary" signatures for joining kolkhozes had been collected.
 2. It was reputed that in Lithuania partisans had often cut off a farmer's hand with which he had signed an application to join a kolkhoz, but nothing was heard about such things in Latvia.
 3. The wages of kolkhoz farmers varied - on the whole, the earnings of a kolkhoz farmer in Latvia were better than in Lithuania. On one particular kolkhoz, the farmers received, after they completed the norm of 250 working days, 1 kg. rye, 1 kg. wheat and 1 Rs. in money per working day. On a certain Lithuanian kolkhoz, the pay was only $\frac{1}{2}$ kg. rye and 1 Rs. per working day. If a kolkhoz farmer did not fulfil his number of working days, he received next to nothing.
 4. The kolkhoz administrations were very bad. It was often observed that potatoes had been left to rot in the ground and grain had not been harvested.
 5. Every kolkhoz farmer received some land to work as his own garden and was also permitted to keep a cow, goat and some poultry, but was required to deliver a certain norm of meat, eggs, butter per annum. The farmers had to pay rent for the houses they lived in.
 6. Timber was being felled in forests in Latvia. Here again, farmers had to fulfil a certain norm in cubic m. There was no evidence of reforestation in places where timber had been felled.
 7. In Latvia, except on a few Russian kolkhozes, Russian was hardly ever heard in the rural areas, but in RIGA Russian was the dominating language.
- A Kolkhoz approximately 10 kms. South-West of KANDAVA - 1945-1951.
8. The kolkhoz belonged to MATKULE and AIZUPE, approximately 10 kms. south-west of KANDAVA. It is not known if the kolkhoz included both these villages, but it was a very big kolkhoz. The administration of the kolkhoz was located in the former farm RATNIEKI, whose owner had been deported in 1949, which belonged to the AMULE village. The village ISPOLKOM was located in the parish house of MATKULE. This area did not belong to a restricted zone and movement in it was free. There was a regular bus service to TALSI and KANDAVA and the bus left once daily. There were no restrictions when travelling by bus, and during 1945 to autumn 1951 document checks in that area were never experienced. The buses were old. East of the farm GARSILI was a new farm not shown on a

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/map

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- 2 -

map, which in 1951 was still private property. All other farms belonged to the kolkhoz.

9. The kolkhoz had approximately 150 employees. The total number of people living on the kolkhoz was estimated at 400. The name of the kolkhoz chairman is not known. [redacted]

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[redacted] Life on the kolkhoz was not bad.

10. The wages of a kolkhoz employee transporting milk to the dairy were sufficient to live on and even to buy a few items of clothing, such as a jacket of homespun material. The material cost 50 Rs. and to have it made up cost 100 Rs. Trousers bought in a shop cost 175 Rs.

11. The dairy paid 0.80 Rs. per l [redacted] for the milk. The retail price on the free market was 2 Rs. per l [redacted]

50X1-HUM

12. During the summer, helpers for the farms were [redacted] from amongst town dwellers, who usually worked with people known to them, but school children were [redacted] in [redacted] brigades and employed for a certain period on kolkhozes where everyone was a stranger.

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13. A kolkhoz farmer is permitted to move from one kolkhoz to another, provided that the kolkhoz on which he works frees him from his employment. As a rule, kolkhoz farmers lived in their former farm houses and no movement towards forming large kolkhoz [redacted] was observed. Nothing was heard about dismantling of farm houses and construction of kolkhoz [redacted]

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14. Life on kolkhozes was improving. The number of cattle increased. Agricultural machinery was obtained from the M.T.S. in KANDAVA. This M.T.S. was administered by a Russian. Otherwise there were no Russians on the kolkhoz, except for a Latvian/Russian, a KOMSOMOL, whose duty was to guard the kolkhoz. He wore a grey uniform cap of the MVD type, and was armed with a pistol and a carbine. The mother of this guard worked as a pig-keeper in AIZUPE [redacted]. The militiaman in MATKULE was a Russian, but he did not interfere with anybody.

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15. In the office building of the kolkhoz there was a "Red Corner", but nobody went there. MATKULE still had no electric current. Because of this, the radio sets on the kolkhoz were run on batteries and only local programmes could be received.

16. Forest work took place on a large scale in the forest east of MATKULE and the kolkhoz farmers had a norm to fulfil of felling trees and also planting new ones.

17. Children of the kolkhoz went to school in MATKULE but only in the evenings, twice a week, where they were taught Russian and Latvian. They could not go to school every day because they had to work. The kolkhoz had only four KOMSOMOLS, whose leader was the above-mentioned guard. The farmers went to church in SABILE, and for christenings or funerals the pastor came to the kolkhoz, but many young people did not marry in church because they were afraid of the repercussions that might ensue.

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- 2 -

4. ~~Stakhanovites~~ in Latvia, just as in the U.S.S.R., are constantly praised in the press and on the radio, and also receive higher pay and bonuses for their "inventions".

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there is little new in the methods of the Stakhanovite worker in his factory, as compared with methods used in Latvia before the war, while in the opinion of technicians in other works, the Stakhanovite methods are quite primitive or simply copied from "foreign capitalists" as, for example, when they suddenly "invented" the assembly line. The actual means by which Stakhanovites achieve higher output is by working longer hours.

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5. In spite of the extreme efforts made to extend the capacity of industry and agriculture, the majority of undertakings do not succeed in fulfilling their plan. The factories and agricultural concerns which do succeed in fulfilling or even exceeding their plan receive much praise and publicity in press and radio, but Latvians who study the press estimate that they form only some 20-30% of the whole. The short-comings and the non-fulfillment of plan may be explained as follows:

(a) Leading technical advisers are often unsuitable and lacking in experience.

(b) Passive sabotage of workers and administration, especially in agriculture. This is partly for political reasons, but chiefly because the workers are simply not interested in their work.

6. School courses were started two or three years ago by factories and State enterprises for training suitable technical staff

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Conditions in Agriculture.

7. The poorest results have been shown in agriculture, where also the standard of living is extremely low. Articles frequently appear in the local press criticizing the responsible technical members of the collective farm administration for failing to fulfill their plan.

8. Since the farms were formed into ~~Kolkhozes~~, every agricultural worker has jobs assigned to him, such as ploughman, milker, tractor driver, etc, and must fulfill the norm in a certain time, according to plan and graph. The majority of Latvian Kolkhoz workers are women, the proportion is usually about 60 women to 40 men, and women do the same work as the men. The workers are divided into platoons (POSMS) under a platoon commander, and several platoons form a brigade, in charge of which is a Brigadier. The Kolkhoz administration which is composed of book-keepers, agriculturists, the political leader, the secretary and the chairman. The Kolkhoz administration is controlled by the village or regional (KOV) Executive Committee of the Communist Party. The chairman and members of the technical personnel, being responsible only for technical matters, are not necessarily members of the Communist Party. The political side of the Kolkhoz is under the direction of the political leader or "PARTORG", and the leader of the Kolkhoz ~~Kolkhoz~~. All Kolkhoz workers are required to attend all the meetings, propaganda lectures and film shows (at which only propaganda films are shown) which are arranged by the special "Agitators" and "Propagandists".

9. The average wage of a Kolkhoz worker, according to farmers of various Kolkhozes in Latvia, is approximately 50 Rs. per month in cash (which is a very small amount, when it is remembered that a man's shirt

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...../costs.

- 3 -

costs approximately 80 Rs.) A quota of all the Kolkhoz products is subject to compulsory delivery to the State, and of the balance a part is set aside as seed for the following year, another part is put into the so-called untouchable reserve, and the remainder is divided among the workers in accordance with the number of work-days they have completed. Thus the Kolkhoz worker is never sure what he will receive in kind, or how much there will be for his subsistence. After a poor harvest, for example, there may not be enough left over for dividing among the workers, and the untouchable stock has to be used for food. It may even happen that the worker must buy bread out of his cash wages. Furthermore, if a worker has been unable to fulfill the fixed number of work-days because of illness or for some other reason, he owes these days to the State and they are deducted from his earnings. Thus the worker becomes a debtor to the State and must work off that number of days in the future.

10. The surveys in press and radio given by the Communist authorities concerning output in industry and agriculture are always expressed in percentages, because the actual quantities are supposed to be a State secret. Consequently, although it is always stated that the output of pre-war Latvia has long since been surpassed, these percentages do not permit any real comparison to be made.

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LATVIA / U.S.S.R.

Political/Economic.

LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN LATVIA.

(Up to April, 1952)

General.

1. Life under the Soviet regime, as seen by Latvians, means that every Soviet Latvian citizen belongs to the State, and the only real right he possesses is to do the work assigned to him "with enthusiasm". Just doing the job is not enough. He must constantly laud the Communist State and the Soviet Occupation which obliges him to do that particular work, because otherwise he will quickly become a suspect who is considered untrustworthy by the State and who must, sooner or later, be purged. Every citizen must work, and employment is determined by State orders concerning output and regulations for each type of work.

2. Every worker in industry or agriculture, factory or collective farm, is mobilized - in the sense that he is not allowed to leave his place of employment of his own accord, and under a strictly military form of discipline - in the sense that individuals tend to pass problems on to the next higher authority rather than accept the responsibility themselves of making independent decisions. A worker is not allowed to change his job of his own accord, except by consent of his place of employment, or if the cadre section decides that he may be transferred to another type of work or another place of employment provided that this is "in the interests of the State", but not in order to benefit the individual.

3. Every worker must fulfill and over-fulfill the plan. Furthermore, the plan must always be fulfilled by a certain date, which is fixed by the Communist Party of the local Party Committee, or proposed by the works manager, who also instigates the so-called Socialist Emulation Competitions. These competitions are usually arranged as follows: The workshop foreman, or one of the Communist activists calls a meeting and asks the workers, in honour of the October Revolution, or of some other Communist holiday, to produce so much per cent over and above the plan before the fixed date and to compete in this with similar workshops in other factories. Naturally, nobody can refuse to do this without becoming "an enemy of the people", or even "a traitor". The press then announces that all the members of this workshop in this factory have enthusiastically agreed to complete and to exceed their plan ahead of time. In this manner, an ever-increasing burden is placed upon the workers, and they are exploited to the utmost limits.

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