

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

S-E-C-R-E-T

[Redacted]

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY	USSR (Estonian SSR)	REPORT	[Redacted]
SUBJECT	Kolkhozy and Sovkhozy in Estonia	DATE DISTR.	27 May 1955
DATE OF INFO.	[Redacted]	NO. OF PAGES	3
PLACE ACQUIRED	[Redacted]	REFERENCE NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

[Redacted]

1. Private agriculture has ceased in Estonia. Apart from a few institutions such as agricultural schools, old people's homes, and children's colonies, all farms are either kolkhozy or sovkhozy. Most of the land, however, is under kolkhozy.
2. The organization of kolkhozy in Estonia began after the mass deportation of farmers and kulaks in 1949. At first, the kolkhozy were small, each assimilating two or three farms. Now, whole groups of these small kolkhozy have been fused into larger kolkhozy, which, as a rule, unite several villages.
3. Each kolkhoz is managed by a chairman. At first, he was elected by the workers, but now, especially in large kolkhozy, he is appointed jointly by the local executive committee in agreement with the Party. He draws a salary and is not a member of the community.
4. The labor force on a kolkhoz usually consists of two or three brigades. Each brigade is composed of the members of a former village. They are Estonians, Russian immigrants, and Estonians who lived in Russia before 1939. A high proportion are women and older men. Young men tend to seek technical training and to drift away from farm work. Every effort is taken to keep them on the kolkhoz. Releases are hard to obtain. Deserters are brought back by the militia. One way to break away from a kolkhoz is to volunteer as a miner. A worker may be dismissed by being accused of being a kulak or a saboteur. In such a case, the decision on dismissal is taken by the general assembly of the kolkhoz, the same body, which, under guidance of the chairman, decides what the rates of pay shall be and how many hours shall be worked.
5. Kolkhozy are not allowed to own tractors or heavy machines. Such equipment is owned by machine-tractor stations (MTS; known in Estonia as MTJ). The kolkhoz has to pay the MTS in kind for services rendered. The unit of assessment of MTS work is one hectare of light plough. When labor is scarce, kolkhozy tend to draw heavily on the MTS. This means that a large part of the produce goes to the MTS and that the standard of living on the kolkhoz remains low.

S-E-C-R-E-T

[Redacted]

50X1-HUM

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC					
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--

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

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T

-2-

6. The kolkhozy recruit hired labor for potato-picking. These part-time workers are paid in kind, ten percent of their pickings. At harvest-time, university students and middle-school pupils are drafted to the kolkhozy for two weeks. Students are not paid, but are provided with board. A percentage of town workers are also drafted to work on the kolkhozy for ten days each year. Others work in the kolkhozy over weekends. These "volunteers" are not paid by the kolkhozy, but by their employers in town, who are compelled to pay them their normal salaries.
7. A kolkhoz divides its output in the following manner: (1) It delivers its norm to the State; (2) it pays the MTS for services rendered; (3) it pays a subscription to the Land Development Stations; (4) it pays for its seed; and (5) it subscribes to the Fund for Aged and Disabled Kolkhoz Workers. The remainder is divided among the members of the kolkhoz, in proportion to the number of days worked, usually 80 - 120 per head. The product is divided in kind. The worker is free to sell his share on the free market. The net yield amounts to one to ten rubles per day for a kolkhoz worker.
8. When the farmer was forced to join a kolkhoz, his land was considered the property of the State. He had to surrender all farm buildings, agricultural machinery, and livestock. An inventory of these was made and priced, and this was credited as his contribution to the collective property. When he leaves the kolkhoz, he is supposed to receive an equivalent cash refund. No one, however, is known to have received a refund. The farmer retained his dwelling-house and 0.6 hectare of land for his own use, as well as one cow, one calf, and as many pigs, lambs, and poultry as he could feed. He was to pay rent to the State for his piece of private land. A worker on a kolkhoz may rent a horse, providing cart and harness are available, for ten rubles a day in order to bring his private produce to market. He may also cut firewood for himself from alder and juniper only.
9. Certain specialist workers, such as horsekeepers and milking-hands, manage better, because they are credited time and a half for their work and because they receive premiums, in cash or live calves, for live-born calves and milk milked. The workers are also better off at poultry farms, because no one can check how many eggs a hen lays. Kolkhozy near large towns have a better market readily accessible.
10. Standard barns for 120 cows are being built at kolkhozy by the MTSs. The barns will be equipped with an automatic water supply and with mechanical feeding and manure-disposal equipment. The latter are made at the VOIT Factory (formerly "Lellep") in Tartu.
11. Fertilizers are distributed to kolkhozy in accordance with allocations made by the Ministry of Agriculture in Tallinn. Kolkhozy are required to pay for the entire allocation whether they can use the fertilizer or not. The written allocations are issued through the MTSs. Nitrous fertilizers are issued through the eight oblast offices of the Technical Section of the Estonian Ministry of Agriculture. Kolkhozy pay 64.35 rubles per ton for these fertilizers, market price is 185 rubles. Phosphate fertilizers are shipped by rail from Tallinn to the kolkhozy. Kolkhozy often fail to collect consignments of phosphates from the rail yards after they have been unloaded from the freight cars. As a result, a great deal of phosphate can be seen wasting away at many railroad stations. Kolkhozy which grow seed receive considerable amounts of phosphate.
12. Kolkhozy have little independence; everything has to go by plan. Harvesting has to start on a certain date whatever the weather, and the ministry carries out inspection to see that schedules are maintained. Kolkhozy may not make private purchases exceeding a limit, which is normally 100 - 300 rubles per year, depending on the size of the kolkhoz.

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM



13. Cattle breeds on kolkhozy are usually Angler or Friesian, and the usual breed of horse is Ardennes. Kolkhozy use silos for cattle feed, but silos are not popular because they are built from materials that came from Russia. Silos cost as much as 8,000 rubles. A plan originally was drawn up allotting horses for each kolkhoz. The plan was dropped, however, because of a shortage of fodder. The older horses were slaughtered to feed silver-fox farms, and the younger horses for canned meat for the Tartar republic.
14. Sovkhozy are state properties, normally established on prewar state farms or other large estates. Some grow crops, others breed cattle, and others breed pigs. They have subsidiary market-gardens and nurseries. They have to deliver all produce to state shops.
15. Sovkhoz workers are paid regular wages like factory workers. They receive housing and heating free of charge, and may buy food at state wholesale prices. This means that they are much better off economically than kolkhoz workers.
16. There are eight land development stations in Estonia. These are well supplied with mechanical equipment for removing timber roots, cutting drains and trenches, and cleaning rivers. The work of the stations is often ineffectual. When new fields are cleared, the roots and stones removed are dumped on good farm land which is thus rendered useless.
17. There are also two forestry stations in Estonia. These stations are responsible for the inspection and cleaning of the forests.



50X1-HUM



50X1-HUM