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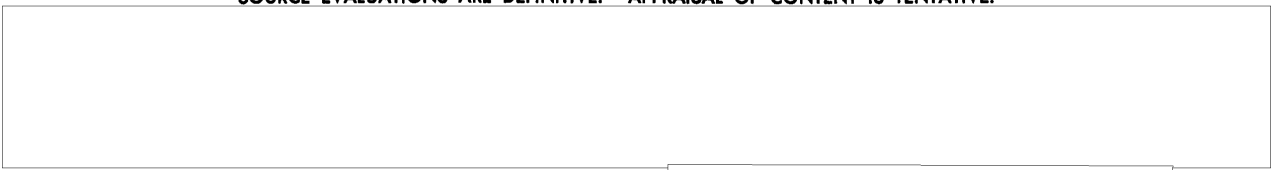
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Economic, Sociological, and Political Information on the Latvian SSR	DATE DISTR.	28 April 1958 25X1
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The following attachments to this report

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Attachment No. 1: Miscellaneous economic, sociological, and political information on Latvia, principally the Liepaja area. The report includes some political observations; prices of commodities; attitudes and living and working conditions, especially of fishermen; and information on military service.

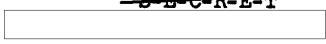
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Attachment No. 2: Somewhat more detailed economic, sociological, and political information than Attachment 1.

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

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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Liepaja and vicinity:

The number of the residents of Liepaja cannot be estimated but in any case two thirds of them are Russians, having military uniforms or these of (Government) officials. Liepaja is considered to be a city-fortress. Who does not reside in the Liepaja Raion needs a permit from militia in order to visit the city. There are no newly erected buildings, except a TV tower and an administration building in the center of the city. ^{These} Churches, which have not been destroyed, are holding public worships, f.i. in the Anna's Church. These services are not openly disturbed but fishermen as well as the Komsomol members are not allowed to participate at these.

The Naval Harbor - Tosmare - is restricted for the civilians; its adjacent forest is full with ammunition. In the roadstead (reids - in Ltv.) the warship "Tchkalov" (Ckalovs - in Ltv.), which has two chimneys, is usually anchored - presumably a cruiser, and another vessel of the class of a/m "Tchkalov". Warships "Parishkaya Komuna" (Parizes Komuna - in Ltv.) and "Kirov" have been observed, too. There are many speedboats though the Russians are telling that their base is Koenigsberg (Kaliningrad now). The northern gate of the harbor as well as the southern one are closed for the roadstead. The entrance is through the middle gate. From 2100 to 0400 all the roadsteads are closed. Aproximately ten submarines have been observed in the harbor. A new dry dock has been built in the Naval Harbor (there are two such dry docks). Two to three vessels, each apr. 150 meters long, can be put in these docks (one of them is 200 meter long). The Harbor of Liepaja is not foreseen for merchant ships (except in rare cases) but only for naval vessels. There are small naval units in the old Merchant Harbor (tirdzniecibas osta - in Ltv) - cutters, costal defense boats.

There are apr. 40 fishing vessels and 10 motorboats in Liepaja. There is a fish factory in Liepaja for the catch.

There are only two telephons automats in Liepaja for public use; no telephone

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directories exist.

The military airfield of Liepaja is located between Grobina and the Lake of Liepaja; it has plenty of modern reactive airplanes. [redacted] it looks like the airplanes are being catapulted at their start - it goes with an explosion.

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Documents are controlled on the highway Liepaja - Klaipeda as well as on Liepaja - Ventspils highway. The whole seashore of Liepaja and further until Klaipeda is fortified. The HQs of border guards is located in Klaipeda. The dunes at the seashore are ploughed up in order to get ascertained about the footprints of eventual escapees. Barbed wire has been stretched along the seashore and are connected with a system of rockets which are exploding immediately when somebody touches the wire and are casting light on a wide area. Beside the ploughed-up space a telephone line has been laid for the border guards. During the nights the whole seashore (from Liepaja) up to Klaipeda is illuminated by the searchlights. Border guard patrols are strolling; they are walking toward each other.

The State Fishing Management (Valsts zvejas parvalde - in Ltv.) is located in the so-called "Blue Wonder" (Zilais brinums - in Ltv.) in Liepaja.

At the seventh kilometer from Liepaja toward Ventspils there is a coastal (gun) battery for shelling the sea.

Factories and fleet of fishing boats of Liepaja:

One fish cannery (zvejas konzervu fabrika - in Ltv.) is operating in Liepaja though only during the season. It has three shifts, employing altogether apr. 1000 workers. It is located at the lighthouse of Liepaja Harbor. The caught fish are being frozen but part of them are getting spoiled already on the boats since these have no refrigerators. Such refrigerators are on the base vessels (bazes kugi - in Ltv.). Director of the Motorized fleet of fishing boats of Liepaja is Tchvetverikov (Cetverikov - in Ltv. spelling); SHULGOV (Šulgov) is the technical captain of the whole fishing fleet; DZHAPARADZE (Džaparadze) is the chief of the Atlantic fishing fleet (formerly he was the chief of the Merchant Harbor of Liepaja). Fish, which is caught in the waters of Liepaja, is sent for the largest part to Soviet Union, a part of them is canned on the spot. Fishing boats are the property of the motorized fishing stations which are leasing them for the fishing artels. Each fishing vessel in the waters of Liepaja has to catch 220 tons yearly according to the plan but it does not always succeed. Guard boats are patrolling at the sea - they are guard vessels of a small type; speedboats, too. These guard vessels are of apr. 200 tons, armed with depth charges, torpedos, heavy machine-guns and guns of small caliber. Most often they are patrolling during stormy weather. The fishing vessels are getting controlled by directing the arms toward the vessel which should be controlled and by checking the documents of the crew and the direction of the compass.

After every escape of a fishing boat to the free world the remaining persons, relatives and others got interrogated. At some instances they were punished if they had had direct contact with the escapees, had assisted them. After each such escape of a boat the controls at sea are getting stronger.

The Russians who arrive from Soviet Union (in Liepaja) are being put immediately on the new fishing boats though they are without any qualifications in their profession. The old and well qualified Latvians do not get the new vessels. Step by step the Russians are pushing Latvians in Liepaja (and elsewhere, too) out of the best jobs since they arrive in Latvia with their families, relatives and the latter's families.

The Russians have preferences all over. In Riga and Liepaja the Latvians are not registered for residence anymore but the Russians are (accepted).

The old sugar factory in Liepaja is still operating, also the "Sarkanais Metalurģis" and other smaller plants - the production goes to Soviet Union.

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The seashore of Liepaja, Ventspils, Pavilosta and other questions:

Civilians are not allowed to be at the seashore, except for a small segment. One old fisherman, who went one early morning to the seashore of the area of Pavilosta in order to gather the sea dung (jūras mēsli - in Ltv.), was interrogated and beaten by the border guards because he was suspected as intending to flee [redacted]

The fishery kolkhoz of Pavilosta is "Dzintarjūra". It consists of apr. 15 fishing vessels and has 150 fisherman. These vessels are ~~the~~ trawlers, built in East Germany, of 80 HP. A fishing vessel has 6-10 crew members. The average income of fishermen is 800 rubles monthly. The catch consists mostly of cods.

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Several new buildings for military purpose are under construction in Pavilosta. Pavilosta is in the restricted area (aizliegtā zona - in Ltv.). Majority (of its residents) are Mongolians which are in military service. There are no particular military installations. It is permitted in this area, like elsewhere, to go to the sea for fishing only for an eight hours sail from the shore. When [redacted] fishermen are encountered - no discussions with them take place.

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If a fisherman takes for his own use even only one kilogram of cod - he is punished up to 700 rubles. If fish is cooked or fried during the fishing trip aboard the boat, a ^{official} statement about it has to be made. Usually there are three Russians aboard each fishing boat. The fishermen have no vacations, no rest, except during stormy weather.. Vacation is given for the skipper and helmsman - around two weeks. Fishermen are not allowed to go to the church because in such case they are not permitted to go to sea. Those who go to church are interrogated and beaten [redacted]

[redacted] in the church of Pavilosta
The pastor there is PURENIŅŠ. Nevertheless the church is always crowded by elderly people. The church of Vecgale (not far from Liepaja) is closed.

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A kolkhoz member in the kolkhoz named after Ždanov in Pavilosta received 34 kopeks for an output day (izstrades diena - in Ltv.) and 300 grams of grain of very inferior quality in 1957. There are few Russians on the kolkhozes. All are fleeing the kolkhozes. Kolkhoz members are staying alive by the lot of one half hectare which is in their private use. In 1957 fishermen had to deliver (to the State) in Pavilosta from this private lot 30 kg meat, 50 eggs as the annual rate; further a hide of one pig and 300 liters milk from cow. One is permitted to have one cow, one young cattle. Until 1953 the tax for one cow had been here 400 - 500 rubles (annually ? [redacted]). Beginning with 1957 this tax is enforced again, discounting the (previous) four years).

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Some prices in this area:

Horse meat (obtainable at all stores and considered as the basic food) costs 8 rubles a kg; 1 kg cattle meat costs 12-14 rubles.
1 kg lamb costs 14-16 rubles; 1 kg fresh pork is 20-25 rubles but the same, smoked, costs 35-38 rubles.
Sugar costs 9 rubles per kg (one person gets half kg at one time).

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[redacted] One egg - one ruble.
Ready made suit costs 2000 - 2500 rubles and is very difficult to obtain.
Sandales (men's) - 30 rubles; 1500 persons are standing in the queue but it does not reach for all of them. The a/m applies to Liepaja, Pavilosta, though a similar picture is all over Latvia.

A worker at the fish plant earns 12 rubles per day in average.
In Pavilosta and its further vicinity the mood of the Latvians is gloomy. In secret they are ~~hoping~~ putting their hopes on Germany - its reunion through war.
The Kolkhoz people are short of bred.

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The audibility of the VOA broadcasts is weak. After the death of Stalin the people nevertheless are feeling more free. The Latvians say: one devil fell (nosprāga - in Ltv.) - ten in its place !

About the Russians, who are arming so much and fortifying the shores of the Baltic Sea, the Latvians are saying: a Russian is afraid of his own shit.

All over Latvia the Communists are telling for years that all persons, who escaped [redacted] are handed ~~back~~ back to Soviet Union. [redacted] they allegedly are getting extradited..This frightens the people, especially the fishermen, to consider an escape.

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Akmensrags (5650 N 2102 E [redacted]):

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It is 10 km from Pavilosta (southwest of it [redacted] Today there are 5000 Russians settled here. Several coastal (gun) batteries; their definite number unknown [redacted] The woods are full with fortifications. Rocket bases are possible here. It is a closed area for the civilians.

At Kolka (northern tip of Kurzeme [redacted] as well as in the Gulf of Riga are working those fishermen who are put in the category of the unreliaables. They are especially watched over.

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Ventspils is a merchant harbor. Naval vessels are entering it, too, though the town side (left bank [redacted] Former Yard of Customs (Maitas dārzs - in Ltv.) is crowded by Russian military.

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General view:

The Latvians have not much hopes that the times will change. However, they still hope.

From the deportations are coming back (to Latvia) a great part of physical wrecks - starved people who are not able to stay on their feet. Younger people have also been observed among the returnees. The legionaires (of the Latvian Legion [redacted] too, are coming back though in small numbers.

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Mixed marriages are relatively many. Teenagers 15-18 years old are already saturated with the Communist propaganda.

The few ones who are enticed and come home from the free world, are sent to the screening camps (filtracijas nometnes - in Ltv.) in Soviet Union.

Arms from the German occupation time are still kept (hidden).

Robberies, even at daytime, are often occurring. At night the victims are robbed with the help of a lasso which is thrown on the choosen subject from a fence or a tree. Such crimes take place in Liepaja, Ventspils and other towns.

The old attributes of Stalin have not yet been removed. The people rumors that many Russians are dissatisfied with the elimination of the old men of might: Stalin, Molotov and others.

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The passports of all kolkhoz members are kept by the kolkhoz management and it is not possible for them to move outside (the kolkhoz) without permissions. For the appearance outside the kolkhoz without documents there is the threat of punishment and arrest.

Kolkhoz members, who are working in the woods as lumbermen, are receiving 6-7 rubles per day; have to ~~work~~ use their clothing and bread.

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There have been no substantial changes in the Soviet system after the death of Stalin; dupes are those who think that the Communists have become better and that all has been improved. Chrushtchov's speeches are only propaganda - in reality nothing has changed, ~~not~~ except the methods of oppression which have changed. If formerly there were mass arrests, now there are individual arrests and individual people disappear as before. ^{is formerly} ~~is~~ formerly the Tchekists, armed with Tommy guns (masinpistole - in Ltv.) and on trucks, came and arrested, telling that one is deported for 25 or 30 years to Siberia, ^{guarded by Redarmists with rifles} ~~now~~ the young people are asked forcibly to sign that they are going to cultivate the virgin lands in the Far East for the lifetime or a shorter period. It is difficult to evade (from this) since then one is considered as a State enemy. Thus the order is the same, different are only the methods.

The conditions in Liepaja are pitiful. The lack of housing is great but, nevertheless, the conditions in/ the cities are better than in the countryside where the life is truly unbearable.

There are many Russians in Liepaja - civilians and military - together with their families. It is difficult to estimate their number but they are in majority in Liepaja.

There are only apr. ten private cars since all other cars are State property. Old streetcars are used for the traffic in Liepaja and busses are used for the traffic in the vicinity of Liepaja.

Those who have been returned from the deportations, are almost unable to secure a job. The (former) residents of Liepaja are not permitted to return to Liepaja; if somebody had succeeded in doing it, he has soon to leave it because of purely political or even financial reasons.

Many of the re-deported persons are going back to Siberia, from where they got released, since it is impossible for them to stay in the homeland.

Persons employed in fishery:

The general opinion is that the fishermen are better off because of the greater profit in this profession. The truth is that the Bolshevik State takes all (the earnings) back and one has ~~left~~ not much money to buy something for himself. According to the regulations, the State is allowed to take away only 55 % (of

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the earnings) and the remainder, i.e. 45 %, should go to the fishermen. Actually it isn't so - all has to be delivered to the State, i.e. to the fishing kolkhoz "Bolsheviks" and then the fishermen get bonuses (premija - in Ltv.) for each catch. If the (planned) rate is not fulfilled then one gets punished despite the fact that ~~it~~ the weather had been bad and that there were no fishes. The fishermen have no time of rest. As soon as they are back from the sail and have delivered their catch, the brigadier (brigadieris - in Ltv.) comes and orders to go to the sea again since the delivery rate has to be fulfilled. The average income of fishermen is 600 - 800 monthly but if it is going very well then one may get 1500 - 2500 rubles a month - all depends of the catch and the weather conditions.

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Moscow revoked the lottery tickets of the State loan and actually also all the money people had invested in these obligations, hoping for the prize; nobody hopes ever to regain the loss. It was stolen by announcing that the lottery of the prizes would not take place and that the obligations will be paid after 25 years, i.e. never.

The truth is that the fishermen have to work 24 hours without interruption. Chairman of the fishing kolkhoz "Bolshevik" (Bolševiks - in Ltv.spelling) is a Communist, FRICKAUS a Latvian

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Altogether there are apr. 45 - 50 fishing trawlers in Liepaja; assuming that there are six men aboard one trawler, it makes apr. 300 fishermen - slaves who are working night and day without any rest.

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Several families share the same room and many fishermen have only a bed (gultas vieta - in Ltv.)

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Of course, such life cannot go on for a longer time since one has to live the whole time in very anti-sanitary conditions. The brigade-leader of the kolkhoz was BUSS

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The catch was shared according to the regulations in the following manner: the skipper got two parts of it, the motorist - 1,5 parts, the helmsman and the master of the trawls - both 1,5 parts. The yearly income of fisherman together with all the bonuses is considered to be 12,000 to 25,000 rubles; the average income of a worker on a well paid job is 12,000 rubles a year. The prices are the best witnesses as to the living possible (with a/m income):

Prices:

butter, 1 kg	27	"
margarine, 1 kg	12	"
meat, beef, 1 kg	6-7	"
" pork, 1 kg	22	"

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smoked pork, 1 kg 25-30 rubles
 potatoes, 1 kg 2-4 "

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Depending on the season:

milk, 1 liter 2-4 rubles
 flour, 1 kg 2-3 "
 eggs, a piece 0,80-1,40 "

The usual income of a laborer is 600-700 rubles monthly.

Men's suit, ready made, of a better quality, costs 1200-2500 rubles. Very plain material for men's suit costs 400 rubles a meter; 360 - 400 rubles a meter, if better quality, but it is impossible to get it as well as ready made suits of better material.

Women's stockings - 30 rubles a pair; men's 5-12 rubles.

Men's shirt, common quality, silk - 100 rubles; plain cotton 70 - 80 rubles.

Men's shoes 260 - 400 rubles, according to quality but in general it is difficult to get the footwear.

Women's shoes 300 - 500 rubles.

So much about the towns. - In the rural areas the conditions are much worse and are getting worse every year. The working people have become old; the workers are invalides and children. Now it has been arranged even so that the graduates of secondary schools, who want to study ~~(XXXXXXXXXX)~~ at some institution of higher education are not admitted before they have been working for two years after their graduation at some kolkhoz. Schools are attended from the age of seven and the elementary school together with the secondary school ~~has~~ has altogether eleven grades. On the other hand the Russians have to attend only ten grades, i.e. they are graduating one year earlier.

In the countryside no building gets repair nor new ones are erected - all breaks down and the harvest gets rotten on the field. It is the usual picture since the Bolsheviks are ruling on the Latvian soil. The ditches separating the fields have been plowed under; the horses are slaughtered for meat and the fields are cultivated by tractors which are insufficient in their number.

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The meadows are unkept and the grass is small. The cattle are starved - they to are struggling for their survival.

Nor men neither animals can dream about a normal life. Nobody is interested in anything since no one owns anything. The exploitation of men is great and all are overworked. Many houses are without roof and half-collapsed - in fact they are not inhabitable but the people are forced to live even in such rooms since there are no other ways. Newly erected buildings are provided only for the Party activities; nobody cares for the wellbeing of other people (non-Party members) There is a lack of all for the people to exist. Everybody is able only to get with great pains something for his survival.

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From the persons deported (to Russia) mostly women and children are coming back but all who are returned are sick, old - unable to work.

Once there existed in Riga the Latvian Guards (military unit) It ~~was~~ got formed out (taken apart) and part of it was sent to the uncultivated lands of Soviet Union. There were only Latvians in this guards. Otherwise the Latvians are not put together during their military service and they are usually sent to working - engineering units to very heavy work; the same applies to the Estonians and Lithuanians.

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Liepaja and vicinity:

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The Harbor of Liepaja is very guarded by the coastal artilery. The harbor can be entered only with a pass (caurlaide - in Ltv.); all boats before departing for the sea are very carefully inspected, even their water tanks (containers) and if these show that the screws have been ~~screwed~~ screwed or oiled then a checkup is made and the tanks have to be opened. There is another method - an iron, resembling an umbrella which can be opened when inside, is being pushed into the tank and if its branches are encountering resistance by something the tank has to be opened. There are apr. 2,5 million inhabitants in Latvia now - very many Red Armists, Russian office workers with their relatives.

The forests behind Skrudā (2200 E 5640 N) toward Pampāļi (2213 W 5633 N; [redacted]) are to great extent devastated; they got destroyed already during the war, several kilometers wide, where now bushes are growing. Forest fires, raging in the woods, don't get extinguished. There is still much of wartime ammunition in the woods. The berry-pickers often encounter the corpses of the soldiers.

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Political observations:

The old-time Communists do not support the ejection of MOLOTOV & Co. from the leadership. MOLOTOV is considered to be the closest co-worker of LENIN. The happenings are viewed sceptically.

All the post-war years the people waited for the liberation [redacted]

[redacted] But every year the hopes became weaker. Now many have lost them and are taking the life as it is; others consider it more sensible to coexist with the regime. Some are looking for a membership of the CP in their disappointment in order to get better ahead in the competition with the Russians.

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During the first post-war years there were partisans in the woods, resistance groups in the schools. Now nothing has been heard about such things.

The partisans got a promise of an amnesty, if surrendering voluntarily, in 1949. The first ones, who surrendered, were spared for some time, in order to entice the remaining ones. Afterwards ^{some} offense was found for everyone (illegal possession of arms and the like) which resulted in a 25 years sentence.

Russian flow to Latvia:

The Russians still are trying to get to Latvia which is considered the ~~the~~ most modern, European country in Soviet Union. Russians, who are settled in Latvia, try to get their relatives there. It is possible for them without difficulties to get registered (get the permit to reside [redacted] in Riga and Liepaja despite the fact that those Latvians, who have moved to these cities, cannot get registered there. There are many intermarriages between the Russians and the Latvians. There are cases where the Russians are trying to get adjusted (to the Latvian way of life [redacted]) - are learning Latvian and are bringing up their children in Latvian.

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Relationships to the Russians:

Now and then the Russians have shown an arrogant attitude toward the Latvians ("ti Latish!"). There have been fights. During the Stalin's regime a severe punishment had to be expected for ^{insulting} ~~insulting~~ the Russians or for any careless word in general. Now the risk is not as great; the people talks more freely.

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People listens to the broadcasts of the VOA though the audibility is poor. What has been heard (via these broadcasts) is not permitted to ^{be} pass^{ed} on further.

Latvians in Russia:

The students of the trade schools (so-called labor reserve schools; darba rezervju skola - in Ltv.) have to signe a pledge that they are going to work for two years at a working place assigned by the State after they have learned their profession, though their training lasts sometimes for only six month or two years at the most. During the first post-war years ~~students were~~ chosen ~~xxx~~ by force with the assistance of the police since the conditions were very difficult. Many students deserted; Part of the graduates is sent to work behind the Urals ~~to~~ the new industrial centers to be erected. Part of them also remains in the new residence since it is easier for the Latvians to get forward in the Russian environment. 25X1

Fate of the deportees:

Two categories have to be distinguished: 1/ those, who have been punished and put in forced labor camps, and 2/ those, who have been simply deported from Latvia to some certain place and settled there, without being formally sentenced.

The first group consists of:

part of the deportees of 1941.; legionaires of the 19th (Latvian) Division, and others accused for ~~Soviet~~ hostile activities against the Soviet regime.

It is told that the second group contains many of the (Latvian) farmers deported in 1949. seen in Kazakhstan a Lithuanian village where the Lithuanian peasants have been settled. 25X1

The punished ones as well as the exiled (re-settled) now allegedly may come back to Latvia freely. 25X1

In the camps of the punished ones there are still persons who are waiting for an amnesty in vain or whose applications have been rejected.

Among the farmers exiled in Russia there are some who have become "wealthy" (in Russian standarts). one such deported farmer who, before returning to Latvia, sold his little house for 10.000 rubles and took with him food ~~of~~ one ton (this amount is said to be permitted to be removed); now, this farmer has been admitted to the kolkhoz (in Latvia) and has got back his ^{dwelling} house but not the other buildings. There are known other cases, too, where the deported peasants are receiving back their dwelling house when returning home. But allegedly there are also cases when the released person takes a look, ~~and~~ recognizes that it will be no life here, and goes back to his former place of exile.

The released persons, who had been sentenced, sometimes during their process got to know the accusations against them and the names of the people who made these. Now, when returning (to Latvia), they are proceeding against their betrayers; several such conflicts are known. 25X1

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[redacted] Latvian youngsters together with other nationalities. Their transfer from Latvia had occurred in a forcible manner though it was tried to provide the victims with an aureole of a patriot and here. So, f.i. a youngster had been summoned to the Committee of the Komsomol where he was told: The Party has observed your poise and has selected you for the honorable task of the pioneer of Communism - here you have your order and ticket.

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Liepaja:

"Sarkanais Metalurģis" (factory in Liepaja) is working in shifts, remelting mainly the scrap-iron. However, transports of iron ore has been observed. Coal is coming from Poland.

The sugar factories are operating only during the season.

Foreign ships have not been observed in the Harbor of Liepaja; allegedly they are sent to Riga and Ventspils since Liepaja is used as a military base. However, it has been heard that [redacted] merchant vessels, too, would enter it.

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There are few newly erected buildings in Liepaja. The largest new building is the edifice of the Pedagogical Institute at the Square of Roses (Rožu Laukums - in Ltv) but it is told that its foundations are sinking and urgent repair work is needed to avoid the collapse of this building. Similar troubles occur almost with every new building. Even the standardized small family houses of fishermen, which are sold on payments by installments, are of very poor quality.

There are in Liepaja also laborers who have been sent from Russia for a rest.

The number of the inhabitants (of Liepaja) is not known but apr. 60 % are told to be Russians, many soldiers among them.

Goods:

[redacted] milk is almost always available in the city; sugar and flour is often lacking - they are sold half kilogram to each buyer (prices mentioned already before) All the ware is of poor quality, f.i. the handle of the furniture comes off after the first opening of door or drawer; the doors get bent when the wood is dried out ~~out~~ etc. There are only very expensive furniture in the stores since the artels make more profit in manufacturing them to fulfill their plan. If sometimes there appear cheaper ones then already before a list of the buyers has been made or people are lined up (at such stores); majority remains with empty hands. Also for the permit of automobile acquisition one has to wait for several years; the motorcycles (cost apr. 3500 rubles), too, are bought as soon as they appear by the Russians. There are no public filling stations (bencina tanks - in Ltv.) - how the private car owners are getting fuel and what does it cost, [redacted]

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Military service:

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The duration of the military service is three years (for infantry) - from the 18th to the 21st year of life. The registration is as follows: the draftee receives apr. a half year before his enlistment a notice to get registered. If one does not take it in account immediately, another notice is served and simultaneously such ~~reminders~~ remainder comes also from the place of work. At the registration the passport is taken away, replacing it by a certificate that one is registered for the military service. Afterwards one is not allowed to change his place of residence. Admittance (for the military service) takes place before a special commission, consisting of military, chekists and physicians. One gets deferred only on the ground of health (it is known that a nationality in Caucasus is considered to be unreliable and therefore is not drafted; the same applied to the Estonians first year after the war). If the commission is unable to decide one's health, the draftee is sent to a hospital. Physicians are Latvians and Russians. While the so-called "Division of Guards" (gvardu divizija - in Ltv.) was in Latvia, there were more chances for the draftees to remain in Latvia. This division ceased to exist Latvians are sent to very far-away places, behind the Urals.

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Orders are given in Russian; who does not know Russian has to learn it immediately. There is no direct pressure ~~due to the ignorance (of Russian)~~ but it is ~~making~~ making the service much more difficult.

There were several Russians who never had had a contact with the civilization, f.i. they had never seen a photo camera. The regulations of Stalin's regime are still prevalent in the army. The 1955 order of ZHUKOV has been intensified by four hours' training in columns (of Prussian model.) and has not been revoked. No differences (arguments) between the Russians and other nationalities have been observed. The highest officers are Russians but in the lower ranks, mainly the lieutenants, might be other nationals, too. As officers are trained persons of highest education.

25X1

The salary of infantrymen is 30 rubles a month, of a tankist - 90 rubles. The salary depends on the arm of the armed forces one is serving with.

The privates and the lower ranks get the same food, are having their meals ^{all} together as well as are sleeping in the same rooms. The officers are billeted separately and get different food.

Military service is difficult; there are desertations; suicides and ~~mental~~ nervous disturbances are commonplace. Who returns from his leave two hours late is punished as a deserter.

The regulations of the day are scheduled as follows:

0600 - raising, then 0,5 hours gymnastics and 0,5 hours personal hygiene; (k hr ea)
 0700-0900 lectures or training;
 0900 breakfast, then 0,5 hours political lecture;
 1400 ~~supper~~ dinner, then training;
 1600-1730 recess, then 2 hours training or lectures, then 1 hour cleansing of weapons, then 1 hour free time;
 2130 supper, then 1 hour for preparation;
 2230 marching in units (with songs);
 2300 bedtime.

Beside the usual half an hour a day, political lectures take place four more hours weekly.

Food is insufficient and there ~~are~~ ^{is} always a feeling of hunger.

On workdays one receives 600 grams on Sundays - 800 grams.

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The military service was made more difficult ~~more~~ due to the cold climate. It was usually 40 degrees (centigrades) below zero.

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in the morning and 1,5 pieces at night with unpalatable tea. ~~On~~ The monthly rate of tobacco is 600 grams of "machorka" (special brand of tobacco which has a sweet taste; made of inferior tobacco [redacted] which is smoked by wrapping it in pieces of newspapers. Who has relatives, who can afford it, receives parcels to improve his food; money, too, is sent. A soldier receives a monthly payment of 30 rubles; the subscription of the Krasnaya Zvezda, which costs 17 rubles for three month, is deducted from this pay - the subscription is compulsory. During the previous years each had to sign for at least 200 rubles of the State Loan obligations which is not compulsory anymore lately.

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The clothing: a shirt above the trousers, boots or leg-bands, a hat, without the small peg (pulkitis - Ltv.) and in the wintertime a heavy overcoat (sinelis - Ltv.). The relatives are not receiving any relief in money during the draft but they are enjoying ~~some~~ advantages in the matters of taxes and dues. The salary of the officers is good; their food and clothing much different in its quality (from that of the soldiers [redacted]

25X1

One gets leave after two years of service; one month at the most. In order to get it faster or beside the regular orders, it has been obtained by ^{some special actions} ~~by~~ ^{i.i.} when executing the guard duty one shoots and kills a civilian in the vicinity and claims that it approached the post and did not follow the warning given. No investigation takes place in such case and the guilty soldier (the killer) gets two weeks at liberty.

The barracks might been left only on Saturdays and Sundays, for not more than four hours. In case of overdue a severe sentence is imposed - usually 14 days in arrest with reduced meals which are insufficient also normally, and by limiting the rest time etc.

The Latvians are dispersed among various Red Army units outside the homeland; however, a certain number is serving in Latvia, too. In former years smaller units were put up ~~from~~ ^{by} nationalities which is not permitted anymore. It happened that a Latvian unit, a platoon, was marching through the streets of Sevastopol in a showy manner and singing the Latvian songs - it had pleased the local residents, creating attention. Nextday this unit disappeared from the city - it was broken up in separate individuals who were transferred to other regiments.

The main task at the engineering (sapieru - Ltv.) regiment was to build the roads, buildings etc. The organization and leadership of these works was weak - all tried to dwell on the given assignment, work as long as possible, avoiding efforts. For example - one is assigned to make a whole of one meter in the wall where later a pipe of five centimeters is inserted; he stays on this work for a week. The windows and doors are often reconstructed several times without any necessity because some of the superiors did not like them at this side but his successor orders to put them some half meter to the left. Though there exist blueprints, these are ignored or changed.

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General situation: things have not changed essentially after the fall of Stalin. With very few exceptions all the oppressed peoples and even Russians themselves were glad that Stalin was dead. There were cases, for instance in Riga, that Russians wept of grief that Stalin was dead, and went to his statue to mourn. Most of them were Party members, but there were also plain Russians who did so. Latvians were glad but did not dare openly to show their joy. Some of the Russian and even Latvian communist officials said that it was bad that there is a change in the government which might bring changes they did not like. There were open talks that Stalin had been murdered, that he had been dead already for a long time and only now the new government men announced it. On the whole the people did not show their real feeling, except for Party members who took their stand for or against the new government though not openly. There were many who fear the change and would like to have everything as it was before. However, the change came with the official Party announcement which was read everywhere without commentaries - in the Red Army, Party meetings, councils, communist youth, kolchozes and sovshoses, and factories. Everybody listened in silence, but it was plain that many did not like the change. Officially, Chruschtschev's policy was accepted, but there is a passive resistance. Chr. has promised many things, no taxes for kolchose workers, more food and clothes, better living conditions, but in reality the things are about the same, except some minor improvements for market goods and textiles. The living conditions in towns are better than on the country side. On the country side it is almost a desperate situation. The workers are mostly old people and children. Young people try to get to towns and leave the kolchozes and sovshoses. Every year the harvest is left more and more on the field without anybody taking care of it. People are disappointed and do not care about anything. They work so much as it is necessary for their own living. The same can be said also about the towns. The Latvian communist officials are completely subordinate to Russians who invade the country every year more and more. Latvians are compelled to leave their country and go to the 'new lands' in Soviet empire as workers, specialists and colonisers. Lately they are not deported but requested to sign a paper that they leave with their own free will and for life-time. This is as bad as the deportations were, even worse. It is possible to avoid but it is difficult. Russians are almost in every Latvian town but less on the country side. The Russians are both the army men and the civilians. The latter try to take over all key positions in every way of life.

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Hungarian revolt was known almost on the same day when it started. This news was spread by those who listened to the broadcasts from abroad.

there was a revolt in Hungary. General opinion was that there will be a general war without any doubt, even Russians thought so and were very much upset and frightened. Latvians even silently hoped that the hour of freedom was near and if the revolt had not ended so quickly it had been possible that something would have happened even in the Baltic states. General disappointment after the Hungarian failure and that nobody ever helped them has been very bitter indeed. The Communists renewed their oppression with greater effort than before and spoke in their meetings of the mighty power of Russia and punishment which awaits those who dare to oppose them. In spite of that people listen to foreign broadcasts, especially BBC, less now to VOA or FREur., because they think it is not worse while to risk their heads. It is possible to listen to every broadcast but it is not allowed to tell others, though in practice it is usually done. However, everybody is disappointed with the present regime and expect changes which they think will come from inside if the Russian big bosses will start to fight each other. Economical situation and prices are about the same. For instance, a loaf of bread cost 2-3 Rbl, butter kg - 27 Rbl, Margarin kg - 12 Rbl, Beef - 6-7 Rbl., pork - 14 - 25 Rbl kg, bacon kg - 25-30 Rbl., rice kg - 7 Rbl., corn - 2-3 Rbl flour kg - 2-4 Rbl, Milk 1 liter - 2-4 Rbl, in Summer cheaper in Winter dear, egg - 0.80 Rbl - 1.40 Rbl., potatoes kg - 2-4 Rbl., grapes kg - 24 Rbl in Latvia, in Russia /Sevastopol/ - 7 Rbl kg. However, the prices paid to the farmers-kolchose workers when they bring the stuff to the town and the official Commercial shops buy them are completely different. Thus, for a kg pork the shops pay to the farmer only 50% of the price they

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Fishing boat radio-telephone broadcast:

Time
9.00 /Russian time/ Liepaja is Reklama.
12.30
16.30
19.00
10.00
13.00
17.00

Pavilesta is Larjoks

Ventepils is Korpusi

Wave length 210 to 220 Middle waves. The fishing boats speak to the bases in Latvian.

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Wages per month for a worker are not large. A clerk earns 300 to 400 Rbl, a factory worker, according to the type of work - 600-700-800-1000 Rbls. A fisherman is paid according to his catch plus a certain premium - but even his average income is between 600 to 800 Rbls per month, but if he is successful, he might earn 1000-1500-2000-2500 Rbls per month. Thus it might happen that with all premiums and good catch a fisherman might earn per year c. 25000 Rbls, but it is only on the paper. In practice his income, when all the discounts are made and loans to the state paid are much less. A worker with a good job in a factory might earn as much as 12000 Rbl per year, but again he never gets the whole sum - there are always loans to the state, communist organisations and other unexpected and regular discounts. An army officer in the Red army has, according to the rank, 1000 Rbl to 3000 Rbl per month. A soldier's wages on the other hand, are 30 Rbl per month, of which sum he has got to pay to the state a loan for 200 Rbls per year and for prescribing the official newspaper - 17 Rbls. For each 'star' the officer gets 100 Rbl more. Prices of clothes: a man's suit - /good one/ 1200-2000-2500 Rbl, a very simple quality, manufactured by Kuldīga textile factory, - 400 Rbl/pepper-salt/, cloth / 1 m/ 360-400 Rbl a good quality, but it is almost impossible to get 30 Rbl a pair, man's socks - 5-12 Rbl per pair, man's shirt of silk - 100 Rbl, man's shirt of cotton - 70-80 Rbl, man's shoes - 260-350-400 Rbl, according to quality, but difficult to get, woman's shoes - 300-500 Rbl and even more. Railway tickets, buses, street-cars: Riga-Liepāja, single ticket cost 35 Rbl. To go to Liepāja from any place a special permit is required which usually is stamped in the passport. This is requested by the ticket seller before the ticket is sold. A street-car in Liepāja cost 0.30 Rbl /? 0.20 Rbl/, a buss to Grobiņa from Liepāja cost single 1 Rbl.

Fishing in Liepāja: it is a general opinion that the fishermen have the best life, because they earn more than others do, however, the truth is that almost everything goes back to the state of what they have earned and the fisherman himself has left little money to get something better. A fisherman has to work 24 hours and more without any rest at all and as soon as he has come back to the base with the catch he is immediately after the delivery requested to leave for the sea again. Thus the life becomes unbearable and people start drinking too much. According to the regulations the state should take 55% of the catch and the fishermen could keep 45%, but in reality it is different everything is given to the kolchosa and the fisherman get a premium according to the catch. There is always a certain norm fixed which, if not achieved, the fishermen are punished, irrespectively of the fact that weather has been too bad for catching anything or if there were no fish. The whole catch of the fish is handed over to the state, i.e. to the Fishing kolchosa "Boļševiks" which is the only fishing kolchosa in Liepāja and is regarded as a kolchosa millionaire. The Director of the kolchosa is Fricka, a Latvian

There are about 45 to 50 fishing trawlers in Liepāja which all are in the kolchosa. On each trawler there are at least six men - captain, mate, engineer/motor man/, the master of the trawl, and one or two hands. According to the statutes of the kolchosa the captain had two get 2 parts of the catch, mate - 1.8, engineer - 1.5, trawl master - 1.5, and the rest 1.5 each, i.e. of the whole 45% share which goes officially to the fishermen and plus premiums/bonus/. The brigadeer of the kolchosa was a man called Bušs,

The captain had to pay yearly for the state loan 1300 Rbl of his income, the engineer - 1100 Rbl, the trawl master 700 to 800 Rbls, and of course all these 'loans to the state' had to be done 'voluntarily' i.e., if some one declined to pay he was threatened to be thrown out of the work and even arrested 'as an enemy of the state'. A group of the party men go to each crew of the fishing trawlers with the brigadeer Bušs and ask every one to name the sum they are willing to loan to the state.

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[redacted] the state lottery-obligations was cancelled and postponed for 25 years, in other words, people were deprived of chance both to win something and to get back their money against the bonds they had purchased as in practice 25 years mean that the money will never be returned by the state. This has caused much disappointment in the whole Soviet population. On the whole in Liepaja fishing kolchose there are about 300 fishermen and about 400 other hands dealing with the fish. Fishermen on return from the sea devote themselves to drinking as there is not anything else to do. Living conditions are too unbearable. Many families live together in one flat and many fishermen have only a bed in a family but not their own rooms

[redacted] Rents are low, but no new houses are practically built, there are only promises, but nothing has been done. Party houses and official buildings are repaired and even

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[redacted] all inhabitants are Russians. They arrive constantly and are given the best posts and the best flats.

ILLEGIB

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[redacted]

Industry in Liepaja is about the same as all these years it has been, there is a Tinned fish factory, it is actually the old one, but much expanded. However, it works only during the fishing season, and later is closed. There are three shifts and altogether there are working about 1000 people, men and women. The raw fish is put on the ice and the fish is divided into three classes - one, two and three. The 3rd class is almost rotten and cannot be used and already on the fishing boats is in such a state as should be thrown away as there are no refrigerators on the ordinary trawlers. However, there are two big so-called base ships which have cold rooms and which come out to the sea to the fishing boats and fetch the catch, but it is not enough. The director, who takes care of the whole Liepaja fishing fleet is a Soviet Russian by name - Tschetverikov, the technical commander of the fleet is Russian - Schulgov, a captain/navy; In Liepaja there is posted also the Chief of the Atlantic shipping /formerly he was the chief of the Liepaja commercial fleet, called Djaparadze. All fish, at least over 80% which is caught in the Liepaja is sent to Russia, both salted and raw or as tinned fish. The boats belong to the MT-stations, which officially hire them to the fishing Aptels. According to the plan each fishing trawler should catch 220 tons of fish per year, but this cannot always be done. However, there are some ships which have luck and they catch even more. The patrol boats on the sea and at the

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entrance into the harbour both fishing and War harbour. There are two big ships, and about 20 swift boats. All the boats are armed with light and heavy guns and with machine-guns and mines against the submarines, and torpedoes. Generally they come out when the weather conditions are bad. Such a patrol boat comes straight to the fishing trawler with all guns ready to shoot, then three of the crew of the patrol boat, armed with light machine-guns come on board the fishing trawler and check first thing the compass and then the maps and documents, whether the fishermen are in the appointed square or not. Each time a boat leaves [redacted] there is a strong control after words and surveillance is increased. This was so after the last two flights from Liepāja and now the MGB men check every boat before it leaves. To check the water tanks /as it was the last boat where the men had hidden themselves, the Russians have invented a special instrument which looks like an umbrella without cover. They put this thing through a hole into the tank and then spread it like an umbrella would do. In the case it touches something and cannot be opened, the Russians order to open the tank. They even are so suspicious now that if they see that the nuts of the screws are greased, they take the whole boat for control. Those who have lived with the escapees usually arrest and accuse as participants, even send them away or put into prison, relatives and acquaintances undergo a scrupulous investigation and are punished. The newcomers Russians are put on completely new fishing trawlers although they have not the slightest idea about fishing. Latvians, though have been fishing for years do not get new boats. The Russians arrive with all families and try to press out Latvians and therefore there is a constant feud. The Russians have precedence every where, thus for instance, Latvians are not registered as newcomers neither in Riga nor Liepāja, the Russians, on the other hand are registered in spite of the housing shortage. In Liepāja there is still the old Sugar factory, the Metal factory 'Sarkanais Metallurģs' and a couple of other smaller iron works. Also the coast line is guarded and there are heavy gun positions close at the entrance of the harbour and every evening the coast line is closed for all kind of traffic and harrowd. There are also flood-lights from Liepāja to Klaipėda, making the sea as light as in day-time. The coast guards have a certain assigned space which they have to watch and they go in pairs on this space, one pair from one end the other from the other end and meet in the middle.

Schools. Children attend the school when 7 year-old. The elementary school has seven classes and the secondary school four classes, so that it takes eleven years to go through school. The Russians go only 10 years. After the children have gone through the secondary school and if they like to study at the university or a higher institution, they have to go and work on a kolchosa for two years, and only then they are allowed to continue at the university or other higher school.

The train Riga-Sevastopol cost, single, 300 Rbls. [redacted]

Deprtees return home when they are completely exhausted and unable to work. Many of them return back to Siberia again, [redacted]

25X1

Once there was a Latvian guard in Riga, but it was disformed and both officers and soldiers were sent to Far East or other parts of the Soviet Union but separately. This was the only Latvian unit which still continued to exist after the war, but did not last long. There is no Latvian army. A soldier has no passport, but if he goes home, he gets a special permit. Besides there is the so-called "Soldiers' or Service Booklet". [redacted] the war-harbour in Liepāja there were two ships standing - Maxim Gorkij and Ordzinikidz. The officers' and soldiers' wages were mentioned already before. To this 25X1 must be added, however, that the officers were free to eat at home, especially those who were as regulars in the army and lived with their families. Some of the officers ate in the mess and got the same portion as the soldier and 600 gr machorka and 3 boxes of matches, both for soldiers and officers alike. However, the portions to the regular officers were handed over 'in hand' while the soldiers had to sit at the table the food was put on the table and they themselves had to divide it, for instance bread. Thus it happened that some did not get anything at all and some too much. A lieutenant got an additional 100 Rbls for each 'star'. Soldier's clothes consist of: One greenish blouse issued for 6 months, of the same colour trousers /galifeiki/, canvas girdle, a pair of shoes of canvas with rubber soles for 8 months, leg-bands for a year, 2 pairs for summer and 2 pairs for winter, a uniform coat of camels wool warm for 3 years, a short jacket called 'buschlatt' /puffaika/ for 3 years, a cap/winter/with special ear coverers, for 2 years, the 'boat' summer hat for a season, usually was completely torn and ragged at the end of summer. 25X1

In a battalion there were 300-400 men, from all 25X1 nationalities, but all had to speak Russian.

There are very few civilians left in the Crimea and Sevastopol after the war. Almost all inhabitants are soldiers and officers and army people with their families. In Sevastopol the torpedoes are examined, all kind of torpedoes. The harbour is rebuilt and fortified, new roads are built. It happened once that in one unit there were together only Latvians. Once they went through the streets of Sevastopol and sang Latvian songs. People crowded around them and there was quite an excitement as they sang in Latvian and a foreign language sung openly on the street in Soviet is not a customary thing. After this accident the unit was deformed and from that time there are never then two or three Latvians in a unit, generally one. If a man is called up in the army and it happens that he is not taken in December but say eight days in the January next year that year is not anymore counted as served thus the official serving time in infantry is 3 years and 8 months. One year is stolen by the state, and the soldier is cheated. In tank divisions - 3 years /the same thing about calling in, and therefore the time is longer/, the sailors or as they are called the sea infantry - 4 years and longer, the flyers - 4 to 5 years. During the

- 6 SECRET Att 2 to [redacted]

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days 5.30 a.m. on Sundays 6.30 a.m./Breakfast consisted on all days of: 300 gr. black bread, porridge 240 gr /one ladle/ and saouce /oil of sun-seeds/ or earth-nut oil, 20 gr sugar, a cup of tea. Lunch - /12 to 1 o'clock/, bread-black, 300 gr, soup- one plate, /c- one liter/, porridge /corn, buck-wheat, which was rather good, or prosa - bad, or of potatoes, or grain/, and souce.

25X1

The registration and calling up in the Red army is carried out in the following way: the young man liable to serve gets an order a half a year before the mobilisation day to register himself. If the young man disobeys the first order there is sent another and to this is attached also an order from the Cadre section of his employment place. When the registration takes place the young man has to hand in his passport to the mobilisation commission and gets a paper of registration which from now on is his personal document telling that he has been registered for service. After this procedure the young man in question is not allowed to change his address, i.e. to leave his present room or flat. On the calling-up day he has to come before a special War commission which consists of military men, MGB men, doctors. A young man is freed from the service only on the ground of bad health, not otherwise. It is also known that some peoples in the Caucasus are not called for military service on the grounds that they are unreliable. The same thing was about Estonians during the first time of the Soviet occupation after the war. If, however, the war commission is not able to judge the health of the young man, he is sent to a hospital for examination. The doctors can be both Latvians and Russians. As long as there was in Riga, Latvia the Latvian Division it was possible to serve there and thus remain in Latvia, but this division was disformed [redacted] Now the Latvians are sent to far-off parts of the Soviet Union, for instance, behind the Ural mountains.

25X1

commanding language was Russian and those who did not know it had to learn it without farther delay. There were no special punishment for not knowing Russian, but the whole service became much more difficult. [redacted] there had been several Russians who had never had in their lifetime any kind of connections with civilised people and had for instance never seen a camera before. The Regulations in the Red army are the same as they were during the Stalin's time. In 1955 an order was read [redacted] issued by Zhukov that the discipline must be stricter now in the army and from that time a 4 hour marching daily was introduced, according to Prussian fashion. There were no alarming signs of differences [redacted] between the serving Russian and other nationalities. All the higher officers are exclusively Russians but lower ranks, such as a lieutenant, could be also of another nationality. For the ranks of the officers are selected persons with higher education. The infantry men have a salary each 30 Rbl per month but this varies and depends upon the type of arms, for instance, the soldiers in the tank division got 90 Rbl per month. The soldiers and the lower ranks get the same food, eat together, and sleep in the same rooms. The officers get better food, sleep in separate rooms, and live separately. The service is very difficult and there are cases when people desert, commit suicide, or get a break down /mental/. A man a soldier who comes 2 hours late from a leave comes before military court and is punished like a deserter w

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[redacted] 25X1

6 a.m. all get up, then follows 1/2 an hour of exercise, 1/2 an hour to make the bed and wash [redacted] between 7 and 9 o'clock a.m. lectures or military exercises, breakfast 9 o'clock, then 1/2 an hour political lecture, then military exercise, 2 o'clock p.m. lunch, then military exercise, between 4 and 5,30 p.m. the afternoon rest, then 2 hours of military exercise or lectures, then 1 hour to clean the weapons, then 1 hour for personal needs, 9.30 p.m. the dinner is served, then 1 hour free, and then the evening control, 10.30pm a promenade in a closed unit with singing, 11 p.m. all go to bed. The political lectures besides the daily 1/2 an hour lecture are 4 hours in week.

[redacted] 25X1

On workdays [redacted] 600 gr bread, on Sundays 800 gr. The service was difficult because the cold was immense -40°C as a rule.

Political situation: The old communists did not like the fact that Molotov and other big bosses from the Stalin time were thrown out. Molotov was considered as one of the old communists of Lenin time. The change is taken very sceptically. The whole Soviet Union during the years after the last war expected that a help will come from outside and they will be freed from the communism. The people talked of help [redacted]

[redacted] However, with every year that past the hope died. Now people have lost all hope and accept the life as it is and many think it is better to make good terms with the ruling bosses. Some [redacted] now have bitterly turned from their old ideas and seek the way to the communist party in order to get a better part out of the miserable life in the competition with the Russian oppressors. During the first years after the war there were resistance movements in the woods and among the students and pupils in the schools. Now there is nothing left of these movements and nobody has heard anything of their existence. In 1949 the Soviets issued a decree promising that all guerillas who will give up fighting and hand over their arms will be spared. Some of the first who obeyed this decree were for some time spared, just to show to the others that they lived and to get more out of the woods. Some time later, however, all those who had deliberately come out of the woods were punished and accused of hiding arms, etc. and got a sentence to 25 years deportation to Siberia and in concentration camps.

Russians and Latvians do not like each other. Russians still continue to come to Latvia as it is regarded as one of the most European and modern countries in the whole Soviet Russia. Russians, who have settled in Latvia try to get their relatives there. They are registered in both Riga and Liepāja without any ceremony at all, while Latvians are not accepted. There are more and more mixed marriages - Russians and Latvians. There are even cases when the Russians try to adapt themselves, learn Latvian language and teach it to their children. The relations between Latvians and Russians are not good. The Russians envy Latvians and show it by saying 'ti latisch'. Fighting between Russians and Latvians is quite frequent. During the Stalin time it was dangerous to say something bad about the Russians as than one could expect a severe punishment. Now the risk is not so great but still exists, however, people speak now more freely. People listen to the VOA, but not so much as they used to do especially after the failure of the Hungarian revolt nobody wants to hear it. It is also difficult to hear it because of disturbances. One who has listened to it is in danger if he tells what he has heard. The pupils of the Trade and Technical schools are compelled to sign a paper that after they have finished the school they will volunteer to work for two years in a place that the state will appoint. The school time however lasts only, on some occasions 6 months and at longest 2 years. During the first years after the war the the pupils for these schools were gathered by help of militia and NKVD, because nobody wanted to go there as the conditions were unbearable. Many deserted [redacted] Some of the pupils who finish the school are sent behind the Ural mountains to the new industrial centres there. Likewise to the Soviet are sent all those who have taken university and other higher degrees. Some of these ~~SECRET~~ remain in their new places and do not return back as it is easier for them to live there and compete with [redacted]

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[redacted] 25X1

the Russians. The fate of the deportees. All deported can be divided roughly into two main groups or categories: 1/those who were punished and sent to concentration camps for life or for certain space of time. To this group belong the deported of 1941, the Legionaries of the Latvian 19th division and all those who were accused of working against the Soviet communist state. 2/those who were deported to inside of the Soviet empire for settlement and had never been tried in a court or accused of anti-communist activity. To this group belong the farmers who were deported in 1949 mass deportation to Soviet [redacted] saw in Kazakstan a village where there were only Lithuanian deportees - farmers. Both those who were punished and the deported have right, if they have got the amnesty, to return home. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] The concentration camps are still overcrowded and there are a lot of people still waiting for amnesty or those whose petitions have been refused. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] Some of the deported farmers have had luck in Siberia and they have even managed to save some property and in Russian eyes are rich. Thus one of the deported, when he got the amnesty, on returning home to Latvia from Soviet he sold there his little house for 10,000 Rbls and on returning home he was accepted in the kolchose and got back his former living house, but not the other buildings. From Siberia he had taken with him also all kind of products he had saved about 1 tonn /this is the weight permitted to be transported by railway by a private person/. There have been also some other cases when the deported on returning home request back their houses and got them, but these cases are not frequent. On the other hand there are cases when the deported man arrives home and on finding that the circumstances are against him, returns back to Siberia from where he had come. Some of the accused and punished people have got knowledge of the persons who have denounced them during the court procedure and on returning home after the years in the concentration camp they now turn against these persons-traitors. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] in the steppe. The soil [redacted] is very fruitful and the first harvest has been very good. Nobody can tell what will happen later when the land will be exploited. The young men who had been sent out there lived in very primitive conditions. In spite of the fact that they had already lived there for a year they still lived in ~~land~~ tents, both in summer and winter, there were only a few buildings built. Besides the Latvian youth there have been also young men and women from other nations. The Latvians were sent [redacted] by force though the newspapers at that time wrote of volunteering and called them as heroes and patriots - they are too deportees. When they were sent out they each were called to the Committee of the Communist Youth in Latvia where the secretary said: "The Party has watched you for some time and has found that your behaviour has been excellent and therefore has given you an honourable appointment - to be a communist pioneer. Here is your order and here the ticket." This was how they volunteered to Siberia, not what you read in newspapers. [redacted] one [redacted] fled back to Latvia leaving behind him all his papers, therefore he has no possibility to register himself officially in Latvia. The only way out of this is to get into a kolchose. In Liepāja there is the iron factory 'Sarkanais Metāļurģis' which works in three shifts and melts the scrap-iron. However, even iron ore has been seen. The coal comes from Poland. The Liepāja Sugar factory works only during the season. Foreign ships do not come to the Liepāja harbour but go to Riga or Ventspils because Liepāja is a military base. There are some rumours however that beginning with ~~this~~ the next summer it will be opened also to foreign ships. There are very few new buildings in Liepāja, the largest new building was the Pedagogical institute on the Rožu/rose/square, but the foundations of the building are sinking and the building is in need of urgent repair, otherwise it will turn round. The same thing happens almost with every new building. There are standardised fishing houses ~~built~~ on part payment to fishermen, but [redacted] 25X1

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they are of bad quality. In Liepāja there are the Russians who have come here on recreation purposes. The number of inhabitants are not known but it is estimated that 60% of them are Russians, many soldiers. The goods and viustuals Bread and milk one can get always, but sugar and flour are short and these commodities are sold only L/2 kg to a buyer. All the commodities are of bad quality. Thus for instance, the furniture is also badly made, handles fall off the doors twist, etc. The shops keep only very expensive furniture for it is convenient for the Artels to produce the more expensive things in order to fulfill the plan. The cheap furniture, if available, is quickly sold and one must enlist for it. To buy a car a special permit is necessary and one has to wait for several years to get it, also for motor bicycles/price 3500 Rbls/ These are bought by Russians and Latvians do not get a chance. There are no private gasoline stations.

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Pāvilosta is 54 km from Liepāja in direction of Ventspils and once there were c.600 inhabitants. Today there are 1500 and most of them Russians. Liepāja is a naval base. It is difficult to tell how many inhabitants there are at present, but it is estimated that two thirds of them are Russians, and the largest part are in military uniforms. Liepāja is regarded as a fortified town. Those who do not live in the town ~~are~~ its jurisdiction, have to get a special permit to visit it from the militia. There are no new buildings, except the television masts and a government house in the centre. There are church services in the churches which were not destroyed during the war, for instance in the Anna Church. The services are open and not disturbed but fishermen and the communist youth are not allowed to attend them. Tosmare - Naval Port is forbidden to the civilians and the surrounding woods are full with ammunition. In this port there is the war-of-man 'Tschkalov' /with two chimies/, is probably a cruiser, and another ship of 'Tschkalov' type. Even the ships 'The Commune of Paris' and 'Kirov' has been seen. There are many swift boats, though Russians say officially that the swift boat base is in Königsberg. The entrances Northern and Southern are closed for traffic in the port. All the ships go through the Central gate of the harbour. From 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. the harbour is closed for all sort of traffic. About 10 submarines have been seen in the harbour. A new dry dock has been built in the Naval Port, now there are two dry docks. In each of these docks can be placed two or three ships about 150 m long, one of the docks is 200 m. long. The Liepāja harbour is not opened for the commercial ships, only on special occasions, the port is reserved entirely for navy. In the old commercial harbour there are patrol boats, swifts boats and smaller naval units. In Liepāja there are about 40 fishing trawlers and to fishing boats, and a Tinned fish factory. There are only two public telephones in Liepāja and no telephone catalogues. Between Grobiņa and the Liepāja sea/inland-sea/ there is an aerodrome with modern planes, redriven and rockets in large numbers. If one observes carefully how the planes come up into the air than it can be seen that they are shot out possibly like from a catapult with a detonation.

The documents are controlled on Liepāja-Klaipēda and Liepāja-Ventspils roads. All the Liepāja coast line down to Klaipēda is fortified. In Klaipēda are the headquarters of the Frontier Guards. The sea-side is every day harassed so as to enable the guards to see if some have tried to land or escape. All over the place on the coast there **SECRET** are which are connected with rockets, a whole system, and explode, and luminate

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a wide district. There is also a telephone line only for the use of the coast guards. During the night time all the coast line until Klaipēda is illuminated with floodlights and guards patrol the coast going in both directions at the same time and meet. The State Fishing Headquarters are in the so-called Blue wonder in Liepāja. Seven km from Liepāja in the direction to Ventspils there is a heavy-gun coastal battery for shooting at the sea.

Civilians are allowed to visit a little section of the Liepāja coast line and then only on appointed hours. Even in Pāvilosta it is very strict. An old fisherman had once early in the morning gone out on the coast to collect the sea-dung and was immediately taken prisoner by the coast guards, examined severely, beaten and accused of trying to [redacted] In Pāvilosta there is a fishing kolchose 'Dzintarjūra' and there are 15 fishing trawlers and about 150 fishermen with hands. These trawlers were built in East Germany and have an engine power of 80 HP. On one such trawler there are 6 to 10 people, a fisherman earns about /in average/ 800 Rbls per month. Cod is the fish which is most caught. In Pāvilosta there are several new buildings built for military purposes and even the Pāvilosta is in the forbidden zone. Most of the Red armists are Mongolians. No special military equipment has been seen. Like in other places even from this harbour the fishermen are allowed to go out in the sea not farther than eight hours voyage from the coast.

If a man takes for his own needs only one ~~kg~~ cod which he has ~~caught~~ caught, he has to pay fine up to 700 Rbls. If the fish is cooked or staked on the trawler during the fishing time a protocol must be written which describes why it was done. Generally on each trawler there are three Russians. The fishermen have no rest whatever, except when there is storm. Officially there is a holiday for the captain and the mate each two weeks. If a fisherman visits a church service he is thrown out of his work and even beaten and punished. [redacted] himself experienced it. He had last Christmas together with his mother visited the church service where

The church had been full with old people. On the ~~next day~~ after the service he had been beaten by other fishermen. The Vecgal Church, not far from Liepāja is closed. In a kolchose called 'Ždanov' in Pāvilosta in 1957 a worker received 0.34 Rbls and 300 gr of grain for a work day. The grain was full with chaff. There are very few Russians in Kolchooses and everybody tries to get away from them, if only possible. The life of a kolchose worker depends upon what he can get out of his 1/2 hectare land which is regarded as his property. In 1957 the fisherman in Pāvilosta had to give to the state from their private plots 30 kg meat, 50 eggs - a yearly tax for the state. One pig-skin, 300 liter milk of one cow. It is allowed to keep one cow, a calf, a pig. There is however a tax on the cow and until 1953 the owner had to pay to the state 300 to 400 Rbls for keeping it. The tax was again renewed in 1957, except for last four years, /1953-1956/. The prices are as follows: Horse meat /can be purchased in all shops and is regarded as a basic food/ kg - 8Rbl, 1 kg cattle meat - 12-14 Rbl, 1 kg mutton 14-16Rbl, 1 kg fresh pork - 20-25 Rbl, 1 kg smoked pork - 35-38 Rbl, Sugar 1kg 9 Rbl /only 1/2 kg can be purchased/, 1 kg black bread - 1.20 Rbl, A loaf of white bread 2nd class - 2.80 Rbl, the first class is not available, one egg - 1 Rbl. A man's suit, ready made, cost 2000 to 2500 Rbls and it is almost impossible to get such a suit; man's sandals - 30 Rbl a pair. There are such queues, sometimes up to 1500 people, that it is a plain luck if one gets something. This is in Liepāja but it is characteristic also to Pāvilosta and in other parts of Latvia. In the Tinned fish factory a worker gets 12 Rbls per day. The spirit of Latvians around Pāvilosta and nearby districts is very depressing and people now hope that it will be Germany which will free them from the communist slavery. They have no illusions anymore concerning the English and Americans, especially after the failure in Hungary. There is no bread on the kolchooses or very little. People hear the VOA very badly and listen to it less and less. After Stalin's death people feel more free than before, however, the Latvians and even Russians say: "One devil died but there came ten instead". There is also a saying about Russians who fortify the coastline that they even fear from their own dung. All the party members

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tell all the time that people who fled [redacted] were handed out to the Soviets, also that the [redacted] have handed out thousands of the refugees who came [redacted] after the war. As a consequence of this people fear to flee and better suffer and stay behind. There are about 5000 Russians settled in the Akmeņrags, about 10 km from Pāvilsta. There are also several coast batteries and fortifications in the nearby forests. It is also possible that there are rocket bases. The civilians are not permitted there. In the Riga Bay and near the Horn Kolka are the fisherman who were regarded as unreliable and they are carefully watched. Ventspils is a commercial harbour but even naval ships arrive and stay on the side of the town. The former Customs park is full with soldiers.

General opinion is now that nothing will change for a long time, however, there are still hope left. Those who come home from the deportations are completely broken. Even some of the younger have returned and a couple of former legionnaires. There are quite a lot of mixed marriages. Youngster 15- to 18 year old are already educated in the spirit of communism, and do not believe in [redacted]. Those who return are sent to filtration camps in Soviet Russia and if they return after a couple of months they are in such a state that they have no where to go, no work, and nobody accepts 25X1 them. There are some weapons stored from the war time. People are robbed on broad daylight. In nights the robbers throw a lasso on their victim from a tree or a fence. This has happened in Ventspils, Liepāja and also other places. The statues of Stalin are still in some places and some of the communists do not like the new order at all, especially the removal of Molotov, Malenkov, etc. The people in a kolchosa cannot move freely as their passports are with the managers of the kolchosa. If someone is caught without the limits of the kolchosa and without proper documents he is arrested, examined and punished. Those kolchosa workers who earn their living as woodcutters, get 6-7 Rb per day with their own bread and work clothes.