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50X1-HUM

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. General Living Conditions 2. Popular Discontent 3. Subversive Activities	DATE DISTR.	31 October 1956
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1. The weak aspects of Soviet society were: The low standard of living; the curtailment of liberty; the failure to apply social legislation; the abuse of authority and the consequent social inequality; the almost unattainable work norms; the constant fear of authority, and the tendency to drunkenness in order to forget everything; the general inclination to steal in order to obtain necessities; the want of civil culture; the compulsion to inform and the fear of informers; the paucity of means of communication; the need for diversions; the low level of morality; the want of family unity; the lack of respect for the rights of women, and their employment in heavy work which deprived them of the opportunity to bring up their children; the absence of the right to choose one's work, and compulsory work displacement, which was upsetting to the worker.
2. Food was not abundant in the Soviet Union, although there were enough staples, such as potatoes, bread, cabbage, and margarine. There were not enough rice, eggs, milk, meat, fish, sugar, oil, coffee, fruits, vegetables, and many other products.
3. Clothing was an extremely scarce item. Clothes worn by prisoners could be sold readily for prices that, in another country, would have been paid for new clothing of better quality. The majority of the civilian population had the general appearance of beggars. A large segment of the population wore old Army clothing. 50X1-HUM
4. [Redacted] Fuel was rationed. The people were not permitted to take wood, even if they lived in the middle of the forest.
5. As a rule, Soviet citizens were discontented with the government, although this feeling was not expressed publicly. The youths were influenced by propaganda, but their elders cooperated with the government only because they were afraid to do otherwise.

S E C R E T

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC				
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; field distribution by "#".)

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6. The Soviet population did not express opinions on the United Nations, Spain, France, England, or the United States, but they exhibited fanatical pride in being the most powerful people in the world. 50X1-HUM
7. [redacted] a clandestine organization called the 'Black Cat' which reportedly had as members survivors of General Vlasov's Division. There was sympathy for this organization in the Ukraine, the Urals [redacted] [redacted] a band belonging to this organization had attacked a truck that was headed for Camp No. 1 in Sverdlovsk (N 56-50, E 60-38). The band killed the MVD guards, set fire to the truck, and invited the prisoners to join their ranks, but the prisoners preferred to return to camp, and the attackers showed them the way back. [redacted] in Odessa three trucks loaded with prisoners on their way to the outskirts of the city were attacked by members of this band, and [redacted] two of the trucks and their occupants disappeared and were never heard from again. 50X1-HUM
8. In the summer of 1953 [redacted] in Sverdlovsk [redacted] a subversive plot had been discovered. The plot leader was reportedly an army colonel and director of a tank factory, who was aided in the plot by several officials and numerous other persons. The colonel was executed. This event resulted in a marked increase of vigilance in the camp, with machine guns being placed at the guard posts. 50X1-HUM

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