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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY . USSR

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SUBJECT Description of the City of Priluki/Local Conditions

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PLACE ACQUIRED Priluki

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1. The city of Priluki had a population of 100 thousand in 1941. It had two main streets, one which ran east and west and the other north and south, both going thro in the center of the city. The streets were wide enough for two cars. There was a large park with trees, flowers and benches in the center of Priluki.
2. There were no street cars in the city. There were small Ford-type busses which were made in Kharkov. Each bus carried about 24 passengers and benches were used for seats. The people also used bicycles and horse drawn wagons for transportation.
3. The principal crops grown in the area were hay, wheat, barley and oats. But, unless the kolkhoz farmers fulfilled their norm quotas for the Soviet government, they were not permitted to sell these crops on the markets or stores. Most of the time the norms were not filled so the farmers had to resort to black market activities. Most of the farmers and city people had gardens, and raised various types of vegetables, such as potatoes, corn, onions and carrots to be sold on the open markets or for home use.
4. There were no Catholic churches in the city. There were a few Orthodox churches and Jewish synagogues.
5. The tallest building in the city, which was four stories high, contained the offices of the city administration.
6. A telephone building, which was a 3-story brick building, was located on the west side of the city at the intersection of the two main streets. The post office was located in the center of the city.
7. In the center of the city there were many apartment buildings. Very few homes were of brick construction and these were occupied by officials of the Soviet government. Most of the homes were built of wood, were one story high and had three rooms. The majority of the homes were heated by wood and coal.

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- 2 -

8. The majority of the houses had their WC's outside. The city had a few wooden WC's scattered about for public use. Whenever the WC was filled it would be covered and another one made. Some of the city buildings had inside WC's which were cleaned out by machines.
9. Garbage generally was given to animals. Many people didn't have much to eat but would purchase a small pig and whatever garbage was left was given to the animal which was raised and slaughtered for meat.
10. Radios were forbidden but high ranking Soviet officials were allowed to have radios in order to hear news from other cities. The people in Priluki were allowed only a loud speaker type apparatus which could be plugged into their home and which broadcast Soviet propaganda, news and music.
11. The center of the city was electrified, including apartments, houses, and street lamps.
12. There were two Ukrainian schools and one Soviet school in Priluki. The Soviet school was set up exclusively for children of USSR nationals so that they would not have to attend the Ukrainian school.
13. A hospital consisting of one 3-story building was located north of the city near the main road which ran to Ichnya.
14. There was a police station, three stories high, which had been built under the Czar, located southwest of the city near a railroad station. This railroad station was south of Priluki.
15. The NKVD police wore grey jackets, dark blue breeches and black boots. They wore grey caps, with red trimming and a red star in the center. On each lapel of the jacket they had their rank insignia. A black Sam Browne belt was worn by the police who carried sidearms. Police used bicycles and horses for transportation. They also had closed horse-drawn wagons which we called "chorniy voron", for carrying prisoners.
16. Everyone in the city had to carry a passport. [redacted]
17. The city had one theatre which presented stage plays with Soviet actors. There were two movie houses which showed Ukrainian and Soviet propaganda films.
18. Most of the people read Izvestia and Pravda, although the city had a local paper, the "Priluki News". It was small and carried only local news and featured business advertising.
19. There was a main road which ran from Priluki southeast to Ladin. This was sand and gravel surfaced and was one and one half cars wide. Another main road ran south from Priluki to Makhnovka. This was brick surfaced and two cars wide. Another road ran north from Priluki to Ichnya and was also brick paved and two cars wide. This brick paving was extremely rough.
20. There is a single track railroad line from Priluki to Ichnya which is a distance of 100 kilometers. The travel time by train is three hours. One train from Ichnya comes into Priluki in the morning and returns at night. A total of 5-6 passenger trains arrive daily at Priluki. A large railroad repair depot was south of the city [redacted]
21. Northeast of Priluki there is a vast area of marshlands. Here, bushes and undergrowth grow as high as 5-6 feet. Many city folks and villagers hunted wild ducks in the marshlands. A person could hide and survive in these marshlands. There is an abundant amount of game such as fish, rabbits, fox, wild deer and plenty of water and mushrooms.

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