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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Gulf of Finland)

DATE:

SUBJECT Topographical Survey of Hogland (Suursaari) Island

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SUPPLEMENT

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- Hogland(Suursaari) Island is located in the Gulf of Finland at 60° 4'N, 27° E. Originally Finnish territory, it was ceded to the USSR at the conclusion of World War II.
- Northern Sector of the Island: The shore is flat and rocky; there are large rocks both above and below the surface of the water one hundred yards offshore. Landing from small craft is difficult, and larger craft have to be anchored at least six hundred yards offshore. The stony beach is replaced by a gravel ridge about twenty-five yards inland. The forest line starts about sixty yards inland. At about three hundred and fifty yards from the shore, rocky terrain commences; this is much fissured and bears both heather and dwarf pines.
- Near the buildings at a point called Pohjoisrivi (North-line) there is an expanse of grass, while at Pohjoissivu (North-side) there stands a sparse pine wood, the land surrounding which is a flat moor. At Hirskallio (Log Rock) and Pohjoisrivi there are dense stands of young spruce.
- Western Sector of the Island: The whole of the west shore is very similar in nature to that of the north.
- Mistakallio: The shore slopes quite steeply here, and there are still four fathoms of water at a distance of eighty yards from the beach. Motor boats can come within a few feet of land and larger craft as close as sixty to forty yards. The shore-line is rocky, with crevices here and there and some large detached rocks jutting from the water, affording good cover for storming parties. Wooded land begins at points from sixty to a hundred yards from the beach, while the rocky terrain becomes steep about a hundred yards from the water. The pine forest is comparatively sparse and thins out into patches of shrubs and heather.
- Simpkanrako and the Vähä Somerikko Bay: The shore here is flat and rocky, but the so-called Simpkan fissure provides a narrow channel which allows craft to approach the beach. The whole of Vähä Somerikko Bay is shallow and filled with rocks. Dense shrubland begins sixty yards from the shore-line, while farther inland a fairly dense fir forest sets in. A road leads from about the innermost point of the bay toward the village of Simpkanrako, passing through a comparatively dense pine forest. Just below Majakallio there is a clearing about one hectare in extent.

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7. Purjekallio: A rock face leads down to the water here, which is deep and free from jutting rocks. Larger vessels can come close inshore. The rock face rises gradually and is rugged and full of small clefts, affording good cover. Small pines and juniper bushes grow among the crevices. The edge of the forest is hard to define, for, while trees grow quite near the beach, there are spaces of clear rock six to seven hundred yards inland.
8. The Bay of Suuri Somerikko (Greater Somerikko): The shoreline is similar in nature to that described in paragraph two, except that the bay is deeper and there are no rocks to endanger the approach of boats. The bottom becomes sandy a short distance offshore. About sixty yards inland at a point opposite the innermost point of the bay there rises a steep rock-faced knoll. The hill is about fifteen yards high and its pine-covered summit commands the entire bay.
9. The Notko Rocks: The shore opposite these rocks is steep and fissured; the beach is shallow and stony. Alders and conifers of varying density grow close to the beach.
10. The Ratasomerikko Rocks: The water off the rocky shore here is deep enough to allow motorboats to approach close inshore. Larger craft must anchor thirty to sixty yards offshore. The beach opposite the rocks curves to form a small bay, the bottom of which is stony while the beach itself is of gravel and pebbles. A clump of alders begins about sixty yards from the beach, but the shoreline itself provides little cover.
11. Selkaapajaniemi-Lettolahti-Justalovi-Tuhilovi: The water around this part of the coast is deep and the beaches slope quite steeply. Selkaapaja Point juts out to form the Bay of Letto, which is used as a harbor. The point is barren and cut by trench-like crevices. The land is wooded almost down to the shore; the terrain behind rises gradually toward the center of the island. Motor boats can approach the beach, while larger craft can enter the bay quite close to land. Some shallows are situated directly off Selkaapaja Point.
12. Maahelli-Paharako-Melkinhelli: The coast at this point is steep and rocky. Several small coves, especially the one at Maahelli, provide approaches for motor boats and row boats.
13. Lounatrivi: The coast at this point is flat and the beaches shelf gradually, making a close approach difficult even for small boats. The only deep water is at Valkiskallio (White Rock), but the land there is very steep and uneven.
14. Lehtisatama (Lehti Harbor): The shore here is similar to that around Pohjoissivu, paragraph two above.
15. Jokiensuu (River's Mouth)-Kipparniemi (Kippar Point): The water offshore is deep but the shore terrain is very steep and difficult to negotiate. There are stony shallows at Jokiensuu, making entry possible only by small boat. The land along the shore is rocky and covered here and there with a few patches of woods.
16. Kipparlahti-Lapinlahti: The Bay of Kipparlahti is deep and large vessels may come close inshore. The Bay of Lapinlahti, on the other hand, is shallow and stony. A close approach may be made by large vessels at a place between these bays: Point Purjeniemi. The point is of rock but it is split by many sandy gorges and studded with dwarf pines.
17. Kiiskinkyla: The beach in the vicinity of this village (60° 3' N, 27° 0' 30" E) slopes steeply, allowing larger vessels to approach close inshore. Fishermen are able to sail their motor boats along the bight here to obtain shelter from the gales. Landings are difficult, however, for, although the water is deep right up to the rock face, the latter is almost vertical and can be climbed only with extreme difficulty.
18. Varisniemi Point: The water is deep off the point, and large vessels may approach close to the rock face. Inside the bay of Varislahti, however, the water is shallow and full of rocks.

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- 19. Liivalahti Bay: The bay is deep and has a sandy bottom, except at the two sides, which are rather rocky. Motor boats may sail up the center of the inlet and come close inshore; larger vessels may also come a good way into the bay. The forest comes down to within forty yards of the shore; the terrain is low-lying, level, and swampy in places.
- 20. Saunalahti Bay: The coast between Lammaskallio Rock and Lipeäniemi Point is low and stony. Close approach by motor boat is difficult. The forest begins between thirty-five and sixty yards from the water's edge.
- 21. Kappellahti Bay: The water from the side of Lipeäniemi Point to Kappellahti Bay is deep. The shore forms a gradual slope of almost smooth rock. About sixty yards up the bay the terrain develops humps and hollows and begins to rise sharply. Shallows run along the center of the inlet, but vessels may pass it on either side, quite close inshore.
- 22. Suurkyla (6° 5' 30" N, 26° 58' 45" E): This village is served by a harbor and a breakwater; the depth of the water at the entrance is a little over two-and-one-half fathoms. The bay has a sandy bottom, and landings are easy. Along the shore grow a few dwarf pines, after which there are sand dunes and patches of fairly dense forest. The water off Kappelahti Point at the entrance to the inlet is deep. The land, although rising steeply from the water in the shape of a rocky cliff, is comparatively easy to scale, since it is deeply fissured. There is also deep water close inshore off Hirskallio, where the coast line is also rugged.

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