

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR.

SUBJECT Crew Conditions in the Soviet Merchant Marine

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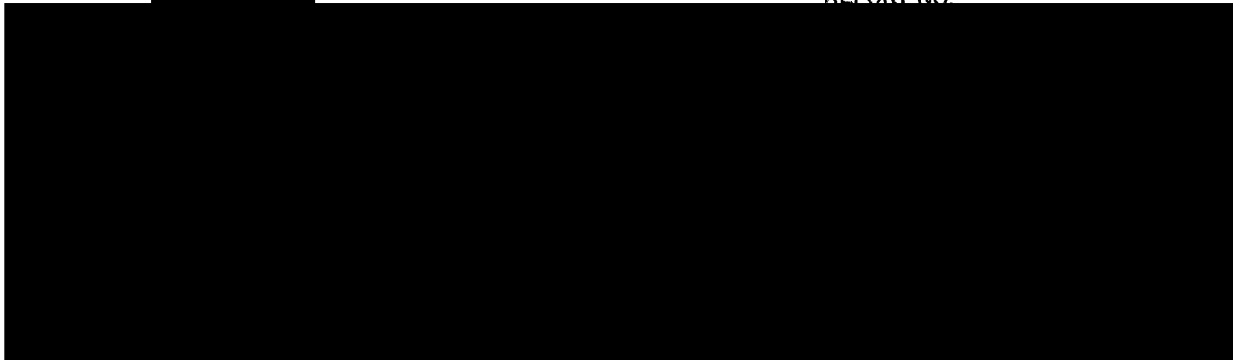
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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. The average Soviet merchant vessel used in oversea traffic has a crew consisting of a captain, three mates, three engineers, one radio operator, eight to twelve trimmers, and three shifts of first and second class seamen. A captain is paid about 900 rubles monthly, the three mates are paid 800, 700, and 600 rubles monthly, while the first engineer is somewhat better paid than either the second or third mates. Trimmers are paid 550 rubles a month, first class seamen 502 rubles, and second class seamen 465 rubles a month. From these salaries the crewmen pay a base tax of six percent, with childless men paying an additional six percent tax. A "voluntary" war loan of ten percent is also deducted from all salaries, and the "good" Soviet citizen is expected to purchase loan coupons valued at about two months' wages during any year. Union dues take an additional one percent from salaries, and Communist Party members pay another deduction. Both seamen and fishermen are thought of as well-paid and having more freedom than other professions.

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- 2. All crew members are given two hours' political training each week.
- 3. Discipline aboard ship is termed "satisfactory". Any offense which results in damage to the vessel is dealt with in courts as sabotage. In foreign ports the members of the crew are allowed ashore only in groups, with one man always appointed leader of a group. This man must see that the group is always together and that all men return to the ship on time. He is responsible to the ship's political officer. In foreign ports the crewmen are forbidden to mail letters or to accept letters from strangers for posting in the USSR.
- 4. On shipboard the crew works four hours and has eight hours free; in new ships there are two men to a cabin, while on older ships there can be up to seven men in a cabin. Breakfast is served between 0730 and 0800, lunch between 1200 and 1300, and dinner between 1600 and 1700. The crew is given tea at about 2000 hours.

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