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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT []

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Soviet Military Preparations

1. There are no apparent signs in Lithuania that the Soviets are preparing to launch an attack themselves. Neither the MGB nor Soviet officers even say so, at least, not openly. Naturally, they say they won the last war and are now stronger than ever, and they boast that they will yet be in Paris and London, and that capitalism is rotten, and sooner or later the Communists will rule the world.
2. Military training is carried on all the time, simultaneously with and in no less degree than training in Marxism-Leninism. Students have courses of military training, on completion of which they graduate from the university with a status to some extent equal to that of an NCO.
3. In the towns, people are called out for military exercises once or twice a week during a three months period each year. In the provinces, the people are called out for training exercises lasting from two to four weeks on end.
4. All medical personnel (doctors and nurses) have military rank. A nursing sister (Sestra miloserdiya) has the rank of lieutenant. Doctors, nurses, and medical orderlies all have military certificates (Voyenny bilet).
5. Military matters are administered by the Military Commissariats. In Kaunas the administrative districts, of which there are four or five, each has its own Military Commissariat. The Military Commissariat to which the area around Kaunas is subordinate is located in Kaunas in Salomeya Neris Street.
6. At the present time there are considerable numbers of Soviet Army men in Lithuania, but they are spread all over the country in small units and it is difficult to say where or how they are quartered, in billets, dug-outs, or tents. In Kaunas (54-53N, 23-54E) itself, more officers than other ranks are to be seen, but on the whole there are plenty of military personnel everywhere, although one does not see any large units.

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A few Soviet infantrymen are stationed in the former barracks of the Lithuanian Hussar Regiment in Kaunas; but otherwise the barracks are half-empty. In the former Military Police barracks, near the Hussar barracks, there are frontier guard troops (those who wear green caps). Some troops, believed to be tank units, are in the former barracks in Sengiai. There are some units stationed near the airfield at Kaunas. The former residence of the Lithuanian president (in the old town) is now occupied by soldiers, but it does not appear to be used as headquarters. It is more likely that the headquarters are in the former premises of the Lithuanian General Staff and War Ministry, in Gediminas Street, because these are strongly guarded, and there is much movement of officers, cars, etc.

Troop Movements

- 8 No particular movement of troops to the west was observed in Kaunas. From time to time, ten or so trucks with small guns attached, and carrying soldiers, have been seen passing through Kaunas and down over the river to the west. Their destination is unknown. The guns resemble the German AA guns. No larger guns were observed. If there are any larger troop movements to the west, it is believed that they are carried out in small units at a time and by making use of secondary roads.
- 9 There are no signs to be seen of any building of fortifications or any other special military preparations in and around Kaunas. Constructions of this kind are believed to be in the Kaliningrad (54-13N, 20-30E) area, and in the nearby districts which constitute the prohibited zone, such as Sakiai (54-58N, 23-01E), Pagegiai (55-08N, 21-53E), etc.

Military Stores

- 10 Some Soviet military stores or depots are located behind the large sawmill which is near the river on the south bank of the Nemunas, opposite the so-called Kaunas Winter Port. The river bank rises here to a good height, and the stores are located at the beginning of the slope, at the back of the sawmill. The area is fenced with barbed wire, and strongly guarded. There are also many notices everywhere: "No smoking".*

Comments: It is believed that these are underground stores, which have been dug out of the high river banks. Digging was started there by the Germans, and it is said that German POWs were later employed on these excavations by the Soviets.

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