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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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SUBJECT Ports of Odessa and Zhdanov

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50X1-HUM

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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ODESSA

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1. [REDACTED]  
2. [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED] little activity in the port of Odessa. Coal was loaded at New Harbor, where there were three goose-necked cranes, each with a capacity of 10 to 15 tons. These cranes were equipped with buckets of about seven tons capacity. The coal which comes from the Don basin is piled up on the pier and hence it makes for easier loading, since loading does not depend on the movement of railroad cars.

4. There were few Soviet ships in port; among them there were two sailing ships. These were moored alongside the New Harbor, [REDACTED] the Soviet merchant fleet has thirteen such craft which operate in the Black Sea.

50X1-HUM

5. In the city, the streets are clean but there are few people on them, except in the vicinity of the Opera or on the boulevard which overlooks the port. The people, generally, are modestly dressed but their faces show preoccupation. [REDACTED] few automobiles.

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6. [redacted] prices of clothing, which are reported 50X1-HUM as follows:

- Men's rubber soled shoes 450 rubles
- Leather shoes, badly made, 50 to 180 rubles
- Ladies' embroidered silk blouses of fair quality 525 rubles
- Men's very poor quality cotton shirts 120 rubles
- Poor quality gabardine top coats for men 875 rubles
- Men's overcoats with artificial beaver collar 1,250 rubles
- Among the home appliances, [redacted] a family size refrigerator sold for 5,000 rubles.

50X1-HUM

7. [redacted] a convoy of rafts which were coming from the south and going to Odessa. This convoy was escorted by small units of the Navy. [redacted]

50X1-HUM

ZHDANOV - Port of Zintseva

8. Ships which call at Zhdanov must be piloted across the Azov Sea. A pilot is provided for the transit through the Kerch Strait and remains on board until the ship reaches the channel which leads to the port of Zhdanov. There a port pilot is waiting, who takes the ship in port.

9. Before approaching Kerch, ships, to avoid delay, must telegraph six hours in advance to the Harbor Master at Kerch, advising him of the port of destination as well as the hour ship will arrive at position 45° 02.7' North, 36° 28.6' East. At this position there is a buoy equipped with a siren and a light. It is cylindrical in form and is painted with black and white stripes but its superstructure is painted red. [redacted] in case of bad weather the port authority at Kerch gives the approaching ship instructions to proceed to a buoy situated at the entrance of the dredged channel, bearing 357° from the first buoy. [redacted]

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

10.

11.

12. The port at Zhdanov is very busy with ships unloading minerals needed in the blast furnaces of Zhdanov. [redacted]

[redacted] 23 ships were counted. Of these, seven were ships of about 7,000 to 8,000 tons while the others were only 2,000 tons. All of them were flying the Soviet flag and one of the larger ones had been recently constructed. The smaller ones were practically all motor ships constructed after the war

50X1-HUM

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-3-

50X1-HUM

13. The ships which came to load coal were fewer in number [redacted] all the ships were Soviet ships. 50X1-HUM
14. Port installations were in good working order. There were three cranes on the coal dock, two of them with a lifting capacity of 15 tons. The coal is brought to the dock either in 60-ton railroad cars or in smaller ten-ton capacity cars that are placed on trolleys that run on the regular railroad tracks. These smaller cars are picked up by the crane and their contents are emptied directly into the ship holds. 50X1-HUM
15. The dock where the minerals are unloaded was equipped with seven cranes, four of which must be as large as those on the coal dock. [redacted]
16. At a second slip of the docking basin there was a crane which loaded small ships that were in local service; some were loading metal pigs while others loaded scrap iron, all destined for the blast furnaces of Zhdanov. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
17. Other cranes were used to load and unload coal on the railroad cars.
18. At the pier where the minerals were unloaded as well as at the wharf of the first basin (see Attachment 2) [redacted] some new cranes, as yet un-assembled. 50X1-HUM
19. In a third docking basin (see Attachment 2) [redacted] a floating dry dock with a capacity of roughly 3,000 tons. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
20. The grain elevators were not in operation because they were badly damaged during the war. [redacted] a metal scaffold and numerous people in the vicinity [redacted] the grain elevator was being repaired. 50X1-HUM
21. The port was not used very often by naval craft [redacted]
22. Outside the port there were three dredges which [redacted] were deepening the entrance channel to the port of Taganrog as well as the entrance channels to the other ports that are part of the port at Zhdanov. 50X1-HUM
23. East of the city and in the city itself [redacted] blast furnaces which were working all the time. Near these there were factories. [redacted] the factories were engaged in producing war materiel. 50X1-HUM
24. The city of Zhdanov as well as its inhabitants present a picture of misery and unhappiness. The people are poorly dressed and appear undernourished. The women, even more than the men, are pitiful because of their complete lack of femininity or the graciousness which is characteristic of their sex. They are overworked, shoddily dressed, silent and their features are very harsh. There exists in Zhdanov an atmosphere of forced labor. When questioned about their standard of living, they always quoted the high salaries that they received; a worker loading coal receives 2,000 rubles a month, while a chief laborer gets 2,500 rubles. An employee of Inflat [redacted] received 3,500 to 4,000 rubles a month. With the current rate of four rubles to the dollar, Soviet workers would appear the best paid in the world. The fallacy can be noted when the cost of commodities is examined. Poorly made rubber soled shoes cost 380 to 420 rubles, as has already been noted in this report. Even the children's toys are wretched and everywhere there is an inferiority of manufacture combined with exorbitant prices. 50X1-HUM

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-4-

25.

[Redacted]

26.

The pilotage from Zhdanov was obligatory and the course followed was the inverse of that used on arriving. [Redacted] a coast guard patrol boat [Redacted] was armed as follows:

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

- a. A small 75-mm cannon at the prow
- b. Three 20-mm machine guns, immediately after the stern side of the funnel
- c. Two 40-mm machine guns and a runway for depth bombs in the stern.

The boat was equipped with a direction finder, and its hull was about 30 meters long and all riveted. For a sketch of the coast guard patrol boat and its armament, see Attachment 1.

27.

[Redacted]

50X1-HUM

28.

[Redacted] a shipyard in the Bay of Kamysh Burun. There were two small ships [Redacted]

Attachments: Two

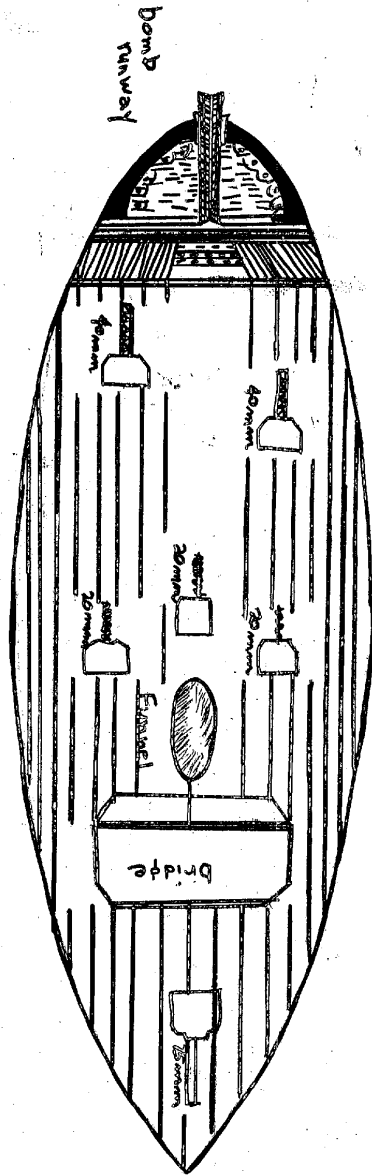
- 1. Coast Guard Patrol Boat with Armament.
- 2. Port of Zhdanov, Installations at Zintseva Port.

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Attachment 1

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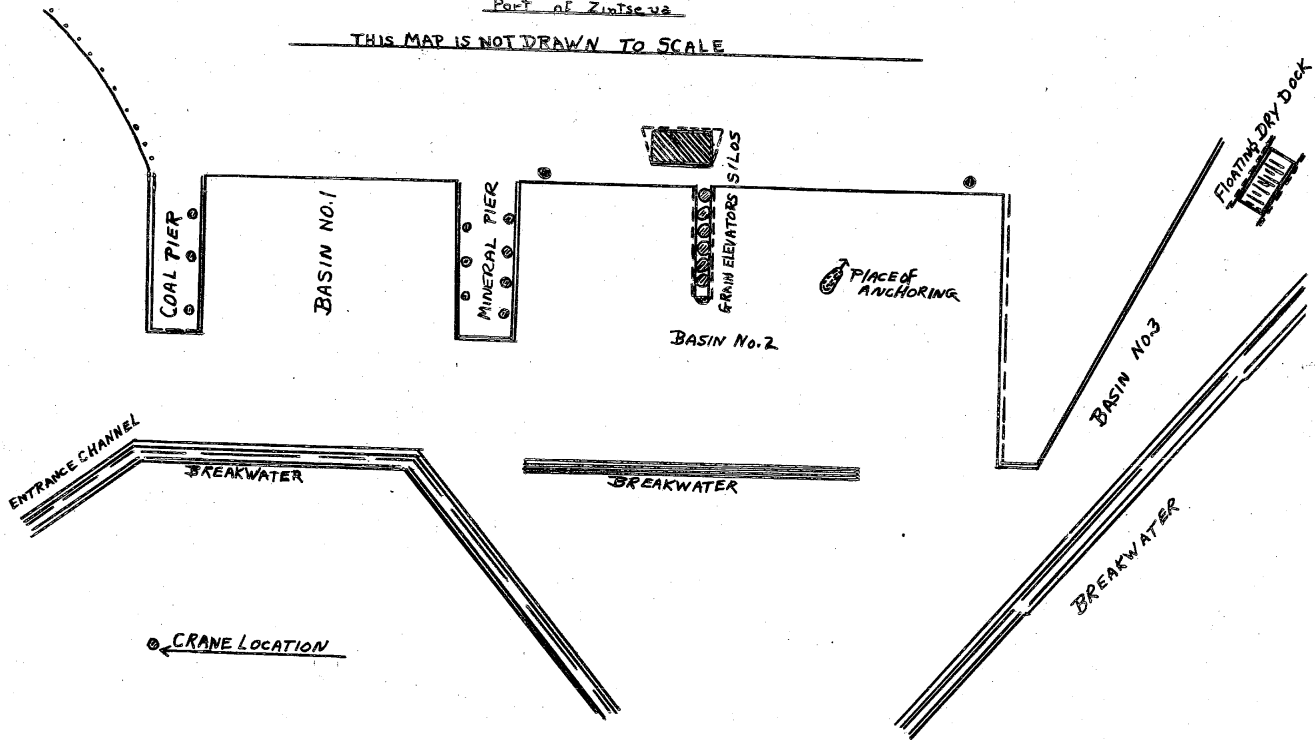


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Part of Zimseva

THIS MAP IS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



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Attachment 2

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