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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USER (Lithuania)

REPORT NO. [Redacted]

SUBJECT Conditions and Attitudes in Lithuania

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE:

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2.

[Redacted] Kaunas was booming with construction. Many factories and homes have been built, and a number of the homes are very desirable. Some even have central heating. Communist Party members have first preference on these homes. Government housing is inexpensive, and renting from a private individual is quite expensive.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Houses apparently had to be renumbered to bring more order into the street numbering system.

3.

The City Cemetery (Miesto Kapai) has been obliterated, and in its place a park has been opened.

[Redacted] the reason for this was that on 1 November each year the students march up to the cemetery, raise the flag of independent Lithuania, and sing the national anthem. (The first of November is a holy day on which prayers are said for the dead.) This practice is carried out each year, and on this occasion the Kaunas militia is usually reinforced by units from Vilnius. All people who had dead buried in the City Cemetery were advised by the government to remove them to other places because the cemetery was to be made into a park. There was resistance to the idea, but for the most part, it took the form of smoldering resentment against the Soviet occupiers rather than active hostility.

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4. There is some resistance activity among high school students in Kaunas. Some of them are organized, and they print a leaflet.

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Parents in Lithuania are responsible for their children's actions. If a child misbehaves, the student cap of the child is noted (the number of the school is on each cap), and the child is reported and the parent notified. For each misdemeanor the parent is fined 100 rubles.

5. People still go to church in Lithuania. Communist Party members even go, but not in their own communities. Weddings, baptisms, communion, and funeral services are still performed in the churches. Christening costs 15 rubles; weddings cost more.

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7. [Redacted]

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8. Civil defense drills are held three or four times per year in Kaunas. When the siren sounds, people are required to clear the street and run to bomb shelters. Anyone caught on the street is grabbed by ambulance attendants, bandaged on the spot, and taken to a hospital. These simulated situations are regarded as real situations during drills. Bunkers were scattered throughout Kaunas,

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9. There is much thievery in Lithuania.

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10. Lithuanian farmers do a great deal of drinking. They steal rye and brew "samagons." They have no need to save money, since they cannot buy land, houses, etc., so they drink up what money they have.

11. Lithuanians do not return from Siberia, but many of them go back. They are not allowed to register in Lithuanian cities, and their homes are usually gone, so they return to Siberia, where they will have a job and a roof over their heads. Another reason for returning is that in Siberia they are not watched constantly, as they would be if they remained in Lithuania.

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[redacted] Because of what was broadcast over VOA concerning Lithuanian emigre activity, the people had faith that Lithuania would eventually be free. The Soviets in Siberia tell the Lithuanians to have faith, that they will be free one day. They add that the Lithuanians have been enslaved only a few years, whereas they [the Soviets] have been enslaved for many years.

- 13. Neither the Lithuanians nor the Soviets are satisfied with the present regime. They all wait for the Americans to force the Soviets to make some changes.

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- 14. People in Lithuania felt very sorry for the U-2 pilot who was downed in the USSR. They said he should have flown over Lithuania; they would have hidden him and taken care of him.

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- 15. The Lithuanians wait for the US to do something to liberate them. They want to be independent, and they want free elections. They say that countries smaller than Lithuania are independent, and they feel they should receive equal justice. They believe the US should force Khrushchev, through negotiations, to relinquish his occupation of the Baltic countries, but they do not wish this to be done through war, as they fear war very much. There are many Lithuanians who would leave their country if they could, and most of them would choose to come to the US.

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