

MOSCOW, JAN. 14 (REUTERS)--KARL LINNAS, A FORMER ESTONIAN NOW REPORTED TO BE LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES, WILL BE TRIED IN ABSENCE JAN. 16 FOR WAR CRIMES ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED DURING WORLD WAR II, ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER SOVIET ESTONIA. THE SOVIET UNION LAST OCTOBER ASKED THE UNITED STATES TO EXTRADITE LINNAS. RUSSIA ALLEGED THAT LINNAS, WHO LEFT ESTONIA IN 1941, WAS CHIEF OF THE TARTU, ESTONIA, CONCENTRATION CAMP WHERE GERMANS KILLED MOST OF THE 12,000 PERSONS INTERMENTED THERE.

LINNAS WAS BEING TRIED BY THE ESTONIAN SUPREME COURT ALONG WITH TWO OTHERS WHO NOW LIVES IN AUSTRALIA. THE SOVIET UNION ALSO ASKED THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO EXTRADITE VIKS TO STAND TRIAL FOR ALLEGED MASS SHOOTINGS OF SOVIET CITIZENS WHO WERE HELD IN TARTU. RUSSIA REFUSED TO EXTRADITE HIM. THE NEWSPAPER SAID THE TRIAL WOULD BE HELD IN TARTU.

1777
R104

PRIESTS--CRIMES

LONDON, JAN. 15--(REUTERS)--A MAN NOW LIVING IN NEW YORK IS ONE OF THREE MEN WHO WILL FACE CHARGES OF WAR CRIMES TOMORROW AT TARTU IN ESTONIA, THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY TASS SAID TODAY. HE IS KARL LINNAS, SAID TO HAVE BEEN A GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMP OFFICER AT TARTU DURING WORLD WAR II. HE NOW LIVES ON LONG ISLAND, TASS SAID.

THE OTHERS ARE JUHAN JURISTE, SAID TO HAVE BEEN THE CAMP CHIEF, AND ERVIN VIKS, DESCRIBED AS ASSISTANT CHIEF OF THE CAMP'S "SPECIAL DEPARTMENT."
JURISTE HAS PLEADED GUILTY TO THE CHARGES, TASS SAID.

TWO OF THE ACCUSED, KARL LINNAS AND ERVIN VIKS ARE BEING TRIED IN THEIR ABSENCE. LINNAS IS IN NEW YORK AND VIKS IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA. THE STATE PROSECUTOR CONDEMNED THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA FOR GIVING THEM PROTECTION. PROSECUTOR KARL KIMMEL SAID LINNAS, VIKS AND THE THIRD ACCUSED, JUHAN JURISTE, HAD COLLABORATED IN THE KILLING OF MORE THAN 12,000 INNOCENT PERSONS AT TARTU CONCENTRATION CAMP.

THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA HAVE BOTH REFUSED SOVIET REQUESTS FOR THE EXTRADITION OF LINNAS AND VIKS. RUSSIA ALLEGED THAT VIKS HAD PERSONALLY TAKEN PART IN MASS SHOOTINGS AND THAT LINNAS HAD BEEN CHIEF OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMP.

JAB 11.32A

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

DATE 2004 2006