

ESTONIAN

FBIS 67

ESTONIAN WAR CRIMES TRIAL

MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH TO EUROPE 1527 16 JAN 62 L

(TEXT) TALLINN--A TRIAL OF A GROUP OF FASCIST CRIMINALS WHO MASSACRED SOVIET PEOPLE DURING WORLD WAR II BEGAN AT THE ESTONIAN TOWN OF TARTU TODAY.

FORMER ACCOMPLICES OF THE HITLERITES, ESTONIAN NATIONALISTS JUHAN JURISTE, KARL LINNAS, AND ERVIN VIKS, ARE CHARGED UNDER PART ONE OF ART. 62 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE OF THE ESTONIAN REPUBLIC, WHICH CARRIES A PENALTY OF DEATH BY SHOOTING.

TWO OF THE DEFENDANTS ARE TRIED BY DEFAULT: VIKS PRESENTLY RESIDES IN SYDNEY AND LINNAS IN NEW YORK. THE LATTER'S ADDRESS IS 21 GOLDSMITH AVENUE, GREENLAWN, LONG ISLAND. THE DEFENDANTS HELD TOP POSITIONS IN THE TARTU CONCENTRATION CAMP, WHICH WAS SET UP IN THE SUMMER OF 1941, AND WHERE WITHIN A SHORT TIME MORE THAN 12,000 ABSOLUTELY INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE MURDERED WITH THE DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF THE DEFENDANTS.

THE CASE IS BEING TRIED IN OPEN SESSION BY THE COLLEGIUM FOR CRIMINAL CASES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ESTONIA. THE PRESIDING JUDGE IS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COURT PAVEL AFANASYEV, AND THE PEOPLE'S ASSESSORS ARE CHAIRMAN AUGUST VILYUS OF THE PALASK RURAL SOVIET OF TARTU DISTRICT, AND CHIEF POWER ENGINEER AKSEL SARAP OF THE TARTU INSTRUMENT BUILDING FACTORY. THE PROSECUTION IS SUPPORTED FOR THE STATE BY DEPUTY PROCURATOR OF ESTONIA KARL KIMMEL. THE ACCUSED ARE DEFENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL BAR.

PRESENT IN THE HALL ARE MANY TARTU RESIDENTS. SIXTYEIGHT PERSONS, FORMER INMATES OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMP AND EYEWITNESSES TO THE FASCIST CRIMES, HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO GIVE EVIDENCE. TODAY'S MORNING SESSION OF THE COURT WAS GIVEN TO THE READING OF THE INDICTMENT, WHICH BRIEFLY SUMMARIZES THE CONTENTS OF NINE THICK VOLUMES OF EVIDENCE AGAINST JURISTE, LINNAS, AND VIKS.

16 JAN 1204P FK/HH

[ ]