

ESTONIA

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ESTONIAN TRIAL VERDICTS

MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH TO EUROPE 1408 20 JAN 62 L

(TEXT) TALLINN--THE TARTU COURT TODAY SENTENCED WAR CRIMINALS YUHAN YURISTE, KARL LINNAS, AND ERWIN VIKS TO DEATH WITH CONFISCATION OF THEIR PROPERTY. THE SENTENCE IS FINAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO APPEAL.

THE CONVICTS--NAZI ASSISTANTS--HAD TAKEN DIRECT AND ACTIVE PART IN THE MASS SHOOTING OF SOVIET CITIZENS ON ESTONIAN TERRITORY DURING WORLD WAR II. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF 12,000 INNOCENT PEOPLE.

IN THE CASE OF KARL LINNAS AND ERWIN VIKS THE SENTENCE WAS PASSED IN ABSENTIA. THE FORMER NOW LIVES IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE LATTER IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.

ESTONIAN PUBLIC OPINION REGARDS THE REFUSAL TO EXTRADITE THE WAR CRIMINALS AS AN ACT OF DISRESPECT ON THE PART OF THE U.S. AND AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS TO THE PEOPLE WHO SUSTAINED TREMENDOUS LOSSES IN THE WAR.

20 JAN 958A JLS/LF

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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