

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

~~SECRET~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	(b)(3)
SUBJECT	Wages and Prices in the Gelendzhik Area	DATE DISTR.	2 June 1953	
DATE OF INFO.	1947 - 1952	NO. OF PAGES	3	
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
		REFERENCES		(b)(1) (b)(3)

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE:  (b)(1)  
(b)(3)

1. As far as I can remember, prices (in rubles) for consumer goods and other basic commodities in 1947, 1949, and 1952 in the Gelendzhik (N44-34, E38-05) area were as follows:

Food (per kilogram or liter)	<u>1947</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1952</u>
Bread: Black	3.20	2.5	1.80
White	5.80		2.70-3.20
Meat: Beef	20	2.5(sic)	16-19
Pork		30	20-25
Sausage		20-70	13-56
Sugar	40-50		10.20
Potatoes			3
Cabbage			1.20
Milk			3.50-4
Vodka	90	70	45-55
Beer			3.20
Wine (cheap brand)	35	20	15-18

~~SECRET~~

(b)(3)

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

360

## SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-2-

(b)(3)

Clothing

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1952</u>
Man's work suit (better quality)			250-300 800
Woman's work dress (better quality)			
Man's work shoes (better quality)			250 400
Man's boots, untreated leather calf			125 from 300 up
Cap			40

2. The transportation costs in 1952 were:
  - a. Taxi fare in Gelendzhik from Gelendzhik to Novorossiysk: 90 rubles
  - b. Bus fare on the ZIS-162 from Gelendzhik to Novorossiysk, depending on the accommodations of the bus: 15 to 25 rubles
  - c. A truck seat for the same destination: 10 rubles
  - d. A steamer ticket from Gelendzhik to Novorossiysk: 9 rubles
3. Rent in Gelendzhik for a family apartment of one room and kitchen in 1952 was 100-150 rubles. Rent for a single room in town was 80-100 rubles monthly. Rent for a single room in a worker's settlement was 18 to 20 rubles.
4. Examples of monthly wages were:
  - a. Director of the Gelendzhik Rest Home  800 rubles (b)(3)
  - b. Porter in the rest home: 360 rubles
  - c. Truck driver: 450-475 rubles
  - d. Stevedores in Gelendzhik port: 800 rubles
  - e. The average wage of a worker in Gelendzhik: 400-500 rubles
5. Taxes ran as follows:
  - a. Childlessness tax (Nalog za Bezdetnost'): six per cent of the monthly salary starting from the age of 20. All male and female persons 20 years of age and older were subject to this tax.
  - b. State Loan: Applied to those in the wage bracket of 400-500 rubles monthly: 10%.
  - c. Income tax (Podokhodny Nalog): seven to eight per cent.
  - d. Trade Union fee: one per cent.
6. There was one hotel of approximately 20 rooms in Gelendzhik. Since most visitors came to visit one of the Gelendzhik rest homes or sanitoriums, this hotel was not overcrowded and it was quite easy to obtain a room. I have no information on prices.
7. There was always a sufficient supply of fresh meat (beef, pork, and fowl) on the market. I do not remember seeing any canned meat or corned beef; sometimes there was smoked meat.

SECRET

## SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

(b)(3)

8. Fish (fresh and pickled) was in abundant supply throughout the year; very often there was also canned fish such as pickarel or sturgeon (sevryuga, beluga). There was plenty of black and red caviar, although I never bought it and know nothing of its price. I think that in 1952 a kilogram of red caviar cost 18 rubles.
9. Ural and Rodina radio receivers were always available in one of the two radio stores in Gelendzhik. At least, I remember that whenever I went into one of these stores there were always radios for sale. Cameras, especially of the Komsomolets make, were also available for about 60 rubles. Leica cameras were not always available, and there was almost always a short supply of 35 mm. film.
10. The normal daily menu of a worker's family consisted of:
  - a. Breakfast: tea and black bread
  - b. Dinner : soup or borsch; the second course was meat and potatoes or macaroni twice weekly; and once or twice a week it was boiled or broiled fish with some vegetables. The rest of the time the second course consisted of either gruel, home-fried potatoes, or cabbage.
  - c. Supper consisted normally of one course; this was either a warmed-up meal of leftovers or some gruel and potatoes, or a glass of milk and a cheese sandwich.
11. One first-class restaurant in Gelendzhik served dinner of soup or borsch, a meat course with potatoes and one vegetable for 11 to 12 rubles. One hundred grams of vodka in this place cost 5½ to 6½ rubles. The second-class restaurants served the same dinner for 6 rubles; and 100 grams of vodka sold for 4½ to 5½ rubles, depending on its legal price. Such second-class places normally did not make any profit on beverages.
12. The social life in Gelendzhik was quite well developed. On Sunday and other holidays there were usually many family parties attended by relatives and friends. Tea and some cheap wine was usually served on such occasions. The young people at their own parties usually drank vodka and beer.
13. There were two movie houses in Gelendzhik. The price of a ticket was from 2 to 4½ rubles in the evening. The children's matinee cost one ruble. In 1952 there was quite a rash of Czechoslovak, Hungarian, and Polish pictures. I remember well one Hungarian picture which showed the activity of Hungarian secret police against capitalist sabotage in their country; it was a wonderful movie, and I enjoyed it tremendously. I remember also one Tarzan movie which was presented in Gelendzhik as war booty taken from the Germans in World War II. Soviet pictures were quite rare and they were always old. I remember only two of the new Soviet movies, "Soviet Miners" and "Kuban Cossacks", which showed in 1951 and 1952. They glorified Stakhanovism and the kolkhoz life in the Kuban' region.
14. There was one Russian Orthodox church in Gelendzhik; it was visited on Sundays and religious holidays by older people. Young people went to church only occasionally, for example, at midnight on Easter Sunday; they went then just out of curiosity. My own generation, and even much older people, did not care about religion and were quite indifferent to it. However, I never heard any jokes made by the young people about the older churchgoers.

SECRET