

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Lithuania)

DATE DISTR. 8 NOV 49

SUBJECT 1. Guerrilla Forces in Lithuania
2. Soviet Troops in Lithuania

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1C

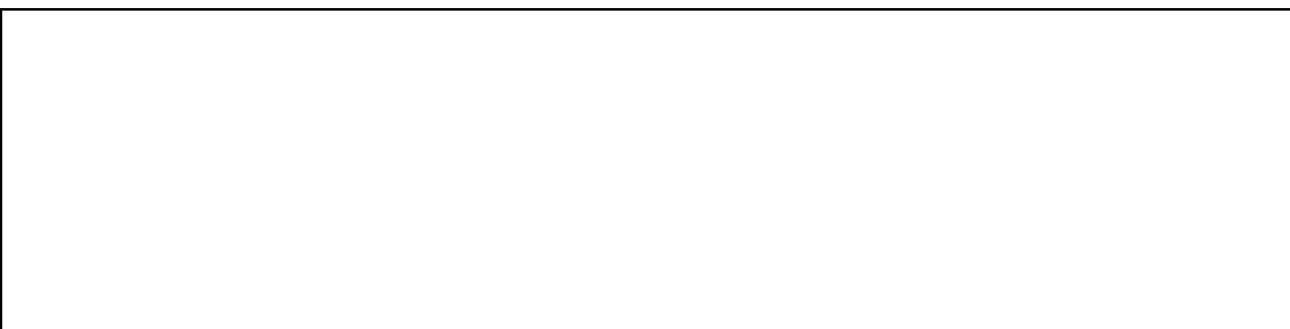
PLACE ACQUIRED []
DATE OF INFO []

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1X

File 241



- The territory of the Lithuanian SSR is only nominally under Soviet control and the Soviets can be said to be actually in charge of only such cities as Kaunas, Vilnius (Vilna), Alytai, Kalveriya, Virbaliai (Virballen), Ukmerge, Penavezis (Ponewesch, Ponovesh), Siauliai (Schaulien), Taurage (Tauroggen), Klaipeda (Memel), Palanga, Utena, Birzai and Telsiai. In the country, the predominant social and political factors are the anti-Soviet guerrillas.
- There are at present about 20,000 guerrillas in Lithuania. There is an "army" of between 3,500 and 4,000 men which fights the Soviet troops when the occasion is propitious. The main object of the guerrillas is to prevent by force of arms the collectivization of the land. They seek to drive away the farmers who have been brought to Lithuania from the Soviet Union and sometimes even kill them. Farmers who escaped from East Prussia and took over abandoned farms in Lithuania are not molested.
- On a percentage basis, the guerrillas are made up of:
 - 70 percent Lithuanians
 - 12 percent Germans - There are about 500 former officers of the Wehrmacht and SS who were trapped at the time of the German retreat. They are generally responsible for the good training the guerrillas have received in the use of arms and tactics.
 - 10 percent Russians - Mostly from the Vlassov Army and the Auxiliary Volunteers who fought on the German side during the war. About 500 of them are former Soviet guerrillas who operated in the Vilna area. In November 1944 they were incorporated into the regular Soviet Army; in June 1945 they deserted because of harsh treatment by the Soviet military authorities. Their operational region is between Trakai (Stare Troki), Jeznas, (Yeznas) and Valkininkai, SW of Vilna.

25X1

[] does not account for the remaining eight percent.)

WARNING NOTICE: THIS DISTRIBUTION LISTING MUST BE

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISTRIBUTION BEFORE PUBLIC RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT			
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Approved For Release 2005/12/23 : CIA-RDP82-00457R003500230008-4
Next Review Date: 2002

VOID

25X1

Date: 27 MAY 1978

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

4. There is no unified guerrilla organization or headquarters*, but hatred of the Communist rule is the common bond in spite of a diversity of political opinion among the members. Their fighting abilities in forest and night operations are of a high order. Proof of this fact is that they have been operating for several years. They are well equipped with modern weapons and have had no lack of arms or ammunition, which are still hidden in the forests in large quantities. Their weakest point is the food supply. The country has been devastated by Soviet experiments and only two-thirds of the arable land is cultivated. The local population supports them as much as it can. The railway lines Kaunas-Vilna and Ustyani(?)-Daugavpils especially have been subjected to guerrilla operations. Certain trains move along these lines only in the daytime.
5. The Soviet fight against the guerrillas is conducted by MVD units and special anti-guerrilla units called "Istrebiteli" (Destroyers). The latter were formed in all districts and villages in the summer of 1945, mostly from among the newcomers to the Communist Party. Each unit consists of about 30 men. They are poorly armed and commanded and often suffer heavy losses when they are engaged with the guerrillas. The Istrebiteli are hated and despised by the population because of their cruelty.
6. As of October 1948, the Soviet forces in Lithuania comprised:

About 60,000 regular army troops including the 16th Motorized Infantry Division, stationed at Vilna.**

About 30,000 MVD troops

About 30,000 Istrebiteli

Eighty percent of the personnel of the 16th Motorized Infantry Division consists of Lithuanians. The officers of this unit are exclusively Russians and the predominant language used is Russian.

25X1A

Comment: [redacted] is to the effect that there is a top command directing Lithuanian partisan activities, namely the BDPS (Joint Democratic Resistance Movement; in Lithuanian, Bendras Demokratinio Pasipriesinimo Sajudis).

25X1

25X1A

** [redacted] **Comment:** This unit has also been identified as the 16th Lithuanian Red Banner "Klaipeda" Rifle Division [redacted] but it has not previously been reported as a motorized unit.

25X1A

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~