

COUNTRY GERMANY	REPORT NO. 271958-56-B-4419	(LEAVE BLANK) E-136141
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT Socio-Political Information			HORST, WALTER (FN)			STEWART		
AREA REPORTED ON PANEVEZYS, UKHTA, STALINO, SHAKHTY, USSR				FROM (Agency) 7050 A.I.S.W. (USAF)				
DATE OF REPORT 1 February 1954			DATE OF INFORMATION Aug 44 to Sep 53			EVALUATION C-3		
PREPARED BY (Officer) HALBERT H. ACKER, Lt Col, USAF				SOURCE 271958				
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) () (Ref Rpt 271958-56-B-4420)								

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

1. SOURCE was born on 29 August 1919 at BRESLAU/Silesia (5106N1702E). He attended elementary school four (4) years, high school eight (8) years, and university three (3) years, studying medicine. SOURCE spoke and read Russian and Lithuanian fluently and could write both fairly well. He acquired both languages while serving in the German Army in the Eastern theater and later while a prisoner.

2. SOURCE was captured by Russian troops in the area of BIRZAI (5618N2445E) in Aug 44 and was interned in a PW camp of unknown number at BIRZAI for about seven (7) days. After that time he succeeded in escaping from the camp and hid in the forests around ROKISKIS (5558N2534E) from Aug 44 to Aug 45 living with Lithuanian partisans. He was wounded in an encounter with Soviet police troops near OBELIAI (5556N2548E) in Aug 45 and therefore had to give up. He was confined by the Russians in the town prison of ROKISKIS from Aug 45 to Sep 45, then was transferred to the town prison of PANEVEZYS (5544N2422E), where he was kept until May 46, and then was sent to the town prison of VILNYUS (5441N2520E), where he stayed only a few days. He was interned in two (2) forced labor camps at UKHTA (6334N5342E) from May 46 to Sep 50, where he worked as a doctor in hospitals for prisoners. He was interned in PW camp 6114/5 at STALINO (4759N3750E) from Sep 50 to Aug 52, where he again worked as a doctor and occasionally as an interpreter. He was hospitalized at SHAKHTY (4743N4012E) from Aug 52 to Sep 53, where, during the last weeks, he worked in the hospital's horse stables. Through his daily examinations of prisoners and the fact that he had to take care of the hospitals file card even for branch camps, SOURCE had constant close contact with Soviet and non-Soviet prisoners and also with Soviet administration personnel, doctors, officers, and enlisted men. SOURCE's knowledge of Russian enabled him to have long conversations with these people and since they came from all parts of the Soviet Union, had the opportunity to get a fairly good over-all picture of socio-political conditions.

a. SOURCE had been tried for armed resistance against Soviet authority (BEWAFFNETER AUFSTAND) according to Par 58,2 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR.

3. SOURCE was cooperative to the best of his ability. He gave his info in a very objective manner and never showed any signs of prejudice or hatred. He displayed an absolutely positive attitude toward the subject throughout the interview. He spoke freely and expressed himself precisely. His educational background, his own intensive studies of Soviet literature, and his regular reading of Soviet newspapers caused him to form his own opinion of Soviet socio-political conditions in some respects, but SOURCE never failed to state when any info was his own opinion. It is the opinion of this interviewer that the info supplied by SOURCE may be relied upon.

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B. SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD GENERAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS:

4. The following elements of the Soviet population were singled out by SOURCE as being opposed to the Soviet regime; all non-Russian national like the West-Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, Caucasians, Turkmens, Kirgize; the VOLGA, DON, and KUBAN Cossaks; the Greak-catholic, Mohammedan, and Jewish religious groups; the farmers; former members of Soviet occupation forces and many former guards of PWs; and in general all old people. The non-Russian nationals and the Cossaks were opposed for nationalistic and economic reasons; the religious groups because they felt oppressed in their free worshipping; the Jews had two (2) reasons, a nationalistic and religious because they were officially considered by the Soviets to be a national group; the farmers were opposed because of their poor living conditions and the loss of their property; the former members of occupation forces, the former guards of PWs, and the old people compared their present lot either with what they had seen abroad, what they heard from PWs, or what they had before the 1917 Revolution.

5. As strong supporters of the regime SOURCE pointed out the party members, all MVD officials, the well paid skilled workers, especially the activists, the youth, especially those of former undeveloped parts of the Soviet Union, and all people living in well supplied industrial centers and large cities like MOSKVA (5545N3735E), LENINGRAD (5956N3015E), GORKIY (5615N4400E), and others. It was SOURCE's opinion that many of the above mentioned groups supported the regime merely for securing their personal advantages except the youth who only knew the post-WW I conditions in the USSR. SOURCE stated that it was very difficult to answer this question, because while interned at UKHTA, he talked to many members of the Soviet intelligentsia and found out that these people, although convicts, did not express their real opinion and tried to avoid the topic or gave evasive answers. With young people SOURCE very often found the conviction that a government which achieved things like building up flourishing industries in formerly undeveloped areas, or making a long war victorious, would be able to overcome temporary difficulties.

6. Major reasons for discontent among the common Soviet citizens were the excessive corruption of privileged people, the fact that a violation of any law was tried according to rank and position of the offender, the excessive criminal activity in the Soviet Union, the discrimination and forced Sovietization of non-Russian ethnic groups, the arbitrary arrests by MVD organs, and the permanent fear of deportation. While at UKHTA SOURCE heard from many people coming from all parts of the USSR that in some areas, especially in industrial areas, there were gangs of criminals terrorizing the population. Since these gangs very often concentrated on party or MVD members, merely because they thought these people had more than others, one could get the impression that there was subversive political activity in certain areas. In the hospital at UKHTA SOURCE once met a Ukrainian who had served a nineteen (19) year sentence without ever having been tried by a court. Also at UKHTA SOURCE met a former first lieutenant of the Soviet air force. He came from LIEGNITZ (5112N1612E), where he had shot a Polish woman and was sentenced to ten (10) years of hard labor. This lieutenant told SOURCE he had never heard of these numerous forced labor camps existing in the Soviet Union. He also said that he never would have had believed anybody who tried to tell him about these camps. SOURCE believed that a great number of Soviet citizens did not know about the forced labor camps or at least not about the tremendous number of such camps.

C. EVENTS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF STALIN:

7. SOURCE found with most people he talked to about STALIN that he did not have near as high a reputation as LENIN. STALIN was feared more than respected, except with the youth who were so indoctrinated that they looked upon him as their beloved leader. SOURCE talked about this question with doctors and engineers and learned from most of them that the greatest difference between LENIN and STALIN was the fact that LENIN was a Great Russian and STALIN a Georgian; another reason for the dislike of STALIN were the many changes in policy after he gained power; as one example SOURCE named the Free Trade which had been introduced by LENIN and which was

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cancelled again very soon after STALIN became chief of the Soviet government.

8. The only people with whom SOURCE had contact at the time of STALIN's death were the doctors, nurses, and other employees of the hospital at SHAKHTY. Right after STALIN's death had been announced over the radio SOURCE saw many nurses going around weeping. SOURCE believed that these tears were not shed for the person STALIN but for the leader of the country no matter who it might have been. Furthermore SOURCE always noticed that the Russians tended to be sentimental. Several doctors at this hospital were Great Russians and SOURCE had the impression that they were not sorry of the loss of "THE GEORGIAN". An old Cossak, in charge of the hospital's horse stable, said to SOURCE "I am glad he died".

9. From his many conversations with political as well as criminal convicts in the camps at UKHTA, SOURCE knew that in general all amnesties in the Soviet Union always were only for criminal offenders. Later in SHAKHTY, SOURCE learned from Russian doctors and other Russian civilians that they were not glad at all about the amnesty, especially not after the first released prisoners upon their arrival at SHAKHTY committed several murders and had to be arrested again immediately.

10. SOURCE used to read the MOSKVA PRAVDA regularly. He never read anything about the announced reform of the Criminal Code. He personally believed that it was not published because the reform either had been mentioned only to make the amnesty act look better; or, the intended changes were so insignificant that the public attention should not be drawn on them.

11. SOURCE learned from conversations with the people at the hospital at SHAKHTY that the price reductions ranged from ten (10) to thirty percent (30%). He found that the reaction of the population in general was positive because with the extremely low living standard of the Soviet Union even minor improvements meant a lot. The Soviet people were expecting a slow but steady rise of the living standard.

12. SOURCE talked to several Cossaks living in the SHAKHTY area. These Cossaks, who always had been fanatic anti-semitics, liked the news of the arrest of the KREMLIN doctors. SOURCE learned from conversations that in the area of SHAKHTY, where there were still whole villages inhabited by Cossaks, anti-semitic riots occurred although open anti-semitism was under penalty of law in the Soviet Union, according to Par 59, of the Criminal Code RSFSR. From an old Cossak SOURCE heard that at ROSTOV (5711N3925E) two (2) Jewish doctors committed suicide.

14. While at UKHTA SOURCE often talked to political convicts who had been in leading positions in the USSR. From these people SOURCE learned that BERIA, ever since he came to office, had tried to gather as much armed force under his command as possible. In 1950 he had an estimated fifty percent (50%) of all armed forces of the USSR under his MVD and MGB control. His MVD troops were stationed in all major cities and industrial centers whereas the Red Army troops usually were in rather isolated areas. SOURCE believed that BERIA as the head of such a concentrated power became too dangerous to the rest of the government members. In addition to this he also was in the way of the Great Russian movement in the KREMLIN.

17. From conversations with Russian doctors, nurses, and Cossaks, SOURCE learned that marshal ZHUKOV had a very good reputation among the Soviet population. MALENKOV had been relatively unknown before the fall of 1952. BULGANIN and MOLOTOV were popular. In general the Red Army was respected, probably because every Soviet citizen sometime had to serve or at least had a relative in the service. The MVD officials and troops always had been hated. The new government obviously had a Great Russian trend. SOURCE noticed in newspapers and in broadcasts that the KREMLIN tried to make it look as if STALIN had not been replaced by MALENKOV but by the Central Committee. SOURCE also heard that the local party leaders of major cities like LENINGRAD, GORKIY, and MOSKVA played important roles in the communist party of the USSR.

D. PURGES, RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND MASS ARRESTS:

19. SOURCE was interned in the area of UKHTA where not only Soviet prisoners political and criminal, were interned but also some non-Soviet nationals. He himself was treated as a civilian forced laborer. During his time at the hospital SOURCE had

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contact with a great number of convicts and had many chances to hear about their personal history. SOURCE refused to reveal any names reasoning that these people still lived there and that they might be exposed to retaliation if he carelessly gave away their names. SOURCE only was willing to tell about the history of the most prominent prisoners he met. There was an old Jewish surgeon from the BALTIC states whose 200 relatives had been killed by the Germans and White Russians except for one (1) daughter, who escaped and now lives in MOSKVA. This surgeon served with the Soviet occupation forces in Germany in 1945 where he had frequent contact with officers of the American forces in May 45. Upon his return to the USSR he had been arrested by the MVD and sentenced to ten (10) years of hard labor for illegal international relations. When he complained about the sentence and pointed out that he was an old party member the sentence was increased to twenty five (25) years. Another political prisoner was a Rumanian professor of the theology from BUKHAREST (4425N2606E) who was fighting the Germans subversively during WW II but later also the Soviets. He had been betrayed by fellow country-men and was sentenced to twenty (20) years of hard labor. Another prisoner was a Great Russian whose parents emigrated to Yugoslavia after the 1917 Revolution. He was raised in Yugoslavia, attended a cadet school, and participated in WW II until he was confined in a German prison. After May 45 he went back to Yugoslavia and lived near BELGRADE (4450N2030E) When the Russians came he stayed there although he knew that the Soviets would arrest him. He told SOURCE that he was suffering from nostalgia so much that he wanted to see Russia no matter how. He arrived at UKHTA in 46 after having been sentenced to twenty (20) years for illegal international relations and espionage according to Par 58, 4 of the Criminal Code RSFSR. He had been interrogated sixty six (66) times by the MVD. Another prisoner was the wife of a Soviet high-school teacher from MOSKVA who had been sentenced to ten (10) years for counter-revolutionary activity. Her husband also was in a prison. She was about forty (40) years old. A Ukrainian engineer served a ten (10) year sentence at UKHTA; he had worked under the Germans during WW II, then was sent to a concentration camp for two and one half (2½) years, where the Soviet liberated him in 45. He was accused of collaboration. A Ukrainian nurse also served a ten (10) year sentence. She had been fighting the Germans as a partisan during WW II but later also the Soviets. An old Latvian diplomat, sixty (60), former ambassador to PARIS, later interned in a German concentration camp, had been sentenced to five (5) years for counter-revolutionary activity. A Gruzian doctor, sixty (60), served a fifteen (15) year sentence for the same reason. A Crimean Tartar, sixty (60), doctor MD, specialist for nerves, former minister of the Crimean Republic, served a twenty (20) year sentence also for conspiracy. SOURCE also met a great number of Polish students interned here for political reasons.

21. SOURCE escaped from the PW camp at BIRZAI in Aug 44. He hid in the forests in the area of ROKISKIS and for some time lived with an old woman in an isolated house. This woman recommended him to a group of about eighty (80) partisans which he found on 24 Dec 1944 near ANTAZAVE (5549N2555E). On the 27th Dec this group was discovered by a large group of about 300 Soviet militia troops and was immediately attacked. After a one (1) day-battle the partisans succeeded in withdrawing to the West and during the withdrawal SOURCE was wounded in the shoulder. He lost the group and went back to the old Lithuanian woman. In spring of 45 he met another partisan group of thirty (30) to forty (40) men near OBELIAI. In Jun or Jul 45 Soviet border police searched the forests around OBELIAI, discovered the partisans, and in the fight SOURCE again was wounded in the hip, arm, and shoulder. For several weeks he stayed in the forest, deserted from the partisans, but finally had to give up because he needed medical care. He was put in the town jail of ROKISKIS. During his time with the Lithuanian partisans SOURCE learned the following: The members were almost exclusively Lithuanian nationals. They were deserters, criminals, former officers, people who did not want to serve in the Soviet army and former members of national Lithuanian semi-military organizations. They banded up only because they thought as a group they could overcome life as outcasts easier.

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They lived in earth bunkers, they were clothed in Russian, German, and Polish uniform pieces, their food supplies were either stolen or robbed, they were armed with rifles, machine guns, and small mortars of various origins. They were merely passive organizations and if they became active they were committing only revenge acts thus making themselves unpopular with the Lithuanians still living in the villages. These partisans were aged from twenty (20) to twenty five (25) years, there were only very few women with them. SOURCE never met another German in the forests. The partisans lacked leaders. In the summer of 1945 a central staff was being set up in the area N of PANEVEZYS. The various partisan groups were loosely held together by messengers. SOURCE saw several mimeographed pamphlets in which this staff tried to create idealistic trends among the partisans. For recognition the partisans used to wear national Lithuanian symbols. In 1948 at UKHTA SOURCE met a Lithuanian who had been captured by the Soviets and sentenced to forced labor. From him SOURCE heard that the partisans were still active, especially toward the Polish-Latvian border, where they were well organized under former Lithuanian generals. In 1948 the Soviets had started a new system of depriving the partisans of their moral support, by deporting the relatives of partisans to central Russia.

22. The following info was obtained by SOURCE from members of the respective national groups who served sentenced in the area of UKHTA. The population of the Baltic states was deported in the years 46-48; the young men mainly to the area of VORKUTA (6730N6400E); the women, children, and old people mainly to the area of IRKUTSK (5217N10418E). The VOLGA Germans had been deported in 41/42 mainly to KAZAKHSTAN and to the areas around TOMSK (5629N8459E) and KRASNOYARSK (5601N9253E). SOURCE heard this from a Gruzinian who accompanied one (1) of the shipments. The deportees were marshed into large forests, were given a small food supply, and were told to build their own log-cabins. The men and young girls were separated. The Crimean Tartars were deported also to KAZAKHSTAN and to the area around ALMA ATA (4316N7656E). The fate of the Soviet Jews changed too after the constitution of ISRAEL in 48. En route to STALINO in Sep 50 SOURCE saw at the RR station at KHARKOV (4959N3614E) great numbers of Jewish prisoners under way to an unknown area. The former members of the VLASOV army were used to a great extent as guards of forced laborers in the area of UKHTA.

E. FORCE LABOR CAMPS:

23. Through his work at the central hospital at UKHTA, where SOURCE had to keep the files of the forced labor camps belonging to this hospital, he obtained the following info. SOURCE estimated the total number of inmates in the camps around UKHTA in 1950 to have been 70,000 to 80,000. The ratio of Soviet to non-Soviet prisoners was about 49:1; the ratio of male and female prisoners was about 5:1 with the females steadily increasing. The following is a list of all forced labor camps belonging to UKHTA:

- Camp # 226/1, men and women, central hospital for men, prisoners worked at oil refinery, technical personnel and artists also interned in this camp.
- Camp # 226/2, only men, worked at oil well # 3.
- Camp # 226/4, men and few women, worked at oil well # 1.
- Camp # 226/5, men, worked at asphalt factory.
- Camp # 226/6, women, did farm work.
- Camp # 226/7, called VESTLOSAN, central hospital for women, prisoners worked in utility shops, on farm, and in forest.
- Camp # 226/8, hospital.
- Camp # 226/9, men and women, camp had many branch camps, lumber cutting.
- Camp # 226/10, men and women, worked in installation producing radium from radium well.
- Camp # 226/11, men, worked at oil well # 2.
- Camp # 226/12, two (2) or three (3) branch camps, only women, farm work.

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- Camp # 226/13, penal camp, prisoners worked in brickyard.
- Camp # 226/14, men, excavations and constr work.
- Camp # 226/15, men, road constr, gas pipelines.
- Camp # 226/16, only women, worked in brickyard.
- Camp # 226/17-23, located at VOYVOZH, about eighty (80) km N of UKHTA, at RR line UKHTA-VORKUTA, men and women, production of natural gas, miscellaneous work.
- Camp # 226/24, men, worked at electric power plt, motor factory, oil refinery.
- Camp # 226/25, located at PECHORA (6525N5702E), men and women, type of work unknown.

25. SOURCE knew from Soviet officers that the forced labor camps in the Soviet Union were administrated by the GULAG/MVD, MOSKVA. This GULAG (meaning of abbreviation unknown) was subdivided into districts, each district was under the command of a general MVD. The districts were named according to the major industrial activity in which the prisoners were engaged, e.g. PECHOR-UGOL, VORKUT-UGOL. The district of UKHTA was called UKHT-COMBINAT, commanding officer in 1950 was general BURDENKO. A main camp was called OLP, and an OLP could consist of several branch camps. The main camp was commanded by an MVD officer called NATCHALNIK, the administration was subdivided into sections; Section I - Operations, Section II - personnel, Section III - Political sections; other sections were Labor Supervision, Economy and Finance, Planning, Medical Section, Culture and Education. Each OLP (Camp) had its own guard garrison called GARNISON. The commanding officer of a garrison was directly responsible only to the CO of the regiment which detached the guard unit. No camp commander could give an order to the members of the garrison. In 1949 there was a general replacement of all civilian employees of the camp administrations by MVD officers. A general segregation of male and female prisoners was in progress. The forced labor camps located at VOYVOZH was to be made independent from UKHTA and put under their own main administration. In the central hospital at UKHTA, SOURCE met Soviet prisoners who came here probably by mistake. They told SOURCE about a group of slave labor camps belonging to SEV JEL DOR LAG (Northern RR constr Camps), located along a new RR line under constr from KOTLAS (6115N4638E) via VORKUTA along the N foothills of the URALS to the DON River.

APPROVED

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