

UNCLASSIFIED
FM TALLINN
TO DESKBY 260800Z FCO
TELNO 217
OF 251100Z NOVEMBER 92
INFO ROUTINE RIGA, VILNIUS, MOSCOW, HELSINKI, KIEV, STOCKHOLM
INFO ROUTINE OSLO, COPENHAGEN, WASHINGTON, BONN, PARIS
INFO ROUTINE UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS, [REDACTED]

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ESTONIA: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY

1. VIOLATION OF ESTONIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AND GUN FIRE NEAR NARVA. RUSSIANS OFFER TO SEEK IAEA HELP IN DISMANTLING PALDISKI NUCLEAR REACTORS. THE ESTONIAN PRIME MINISTER, MART LAAR, VISITS NARVA. SOVIET PASSPORTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE VALID AFTER 1 JANUARY 1993. MORATORIUM ON THREE COMMERCIAL BANKS. FORMATION OF NEW POLITICAL PARTY, ISAMAA. ORGANISED CRIME CAUSES VIOLENT INCIDENTS. ENERGY SUPPLIES PROVE TOO EXPENSIVE FOR CONSUMERS, SIGNIFICANT LOANS TO ESTONIA. PRIME MINISTER VISITS FINLAND. PRESIDENT MERI AND FOREIGN MINISTER VISIT BELGIUM AND NATO HQ. US SENATOR PAYS A FLYING VISIT TO TALLINN.

DETAIL

RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

2. ON 19 NOVEMBER THE ESTONIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CHANCELLOR, ALAR OLLJUM, PRESENTED A NOTE TO THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR PROTESTING ABOUT A VIOLATION OF ESTONIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS ON 18 NOVEMBER BY A RUSSIAN SUBMARINE AND A TRAWLER (INCLUDING A LANDING ON RUHNU ISLAND BY 15 TROOPS) AND GUNFIRE FROM THE RUSSIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER IN NARVA ON 17 NOVEMBER. IN BOTH CASES THE RUSSIANS EXPLAINED THAT EXERCISES WERE BEING CARRIED OUT.

3. THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR IN TALLINN, ALEXANDER TROFIMOV, SAID ON 20 NOVEMBER THAT RUSSIA IS READY TO ASK FOR HELP FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY TOGETHER WITH ESTONIA TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE NUCLEAR REACTORS AT PALDISKI.

INTERNAL

4. ON 11-12 NOVEMBER, THE ESTONIAN PRIME MINISTER, MART LAAR, VISITED THE MAINLY RUSSIAN-SPEAKING AREA OF NARVA. HE MET WITH

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CITY COUNCIL, VLADIMIR TSHUIKIRI, AND THE MAYOR, VLADIMIR MIHZUI. THEY DISCUSSED THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE REGION, AND MART LAAR ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE PROBLEM OF NARVA ENTERPRISES.

5. SOVIET PASSPORTS WILL NOW REMAIN VALID IN ESTONIA UNTIL 1 SEPTEMBER 1993, BUT SOVIET BUSINESS AND DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS WILL STILL CEASE TO BE RECOGNIZED IN ESTONIA AFTER 31 DECEMBER 1992.

6. ON 17 NOVEMBER, THE BOARD OF THE ESTONIAN CENTRAL BANK DECLARED A MORATORIUM ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNION BALTIC BANK, THE TARTU COMMERCIAL BANK AND THE NORTH-ESTONIAN SHAREHOLDERS BANK. THE MORATORIUM AIMS TO HELP THE BANKS SORT OUT ACCOUNTING PROBLEMS AND ASSESS THEIR FUTURES. THE MORATORIUM IS EXPECTED TO LAST 10 DAYS.

7. ON 21 NOVEMBER, THE ESTONIAN CONSERVATIVE PEOPLE'S PARTY, THE ESTONIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THE ESTONIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY UNITED TO FORM A NEW PARTY, ISAMAA (FATHERLAND OR PRO PATRIA). MART LAAR WAS ELECTED AS LEADER.

8. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO BOMB EXPLOSIONS THIS MONTH, ONE IN TALLINN AND THE OTHER IN NARVA. IN BOTH CASES THE INCIDENTS WERE CAUSED BY ORGANIZED CRIME GANGS INVOLVED IN PROTECTION RACKETEERING. LAST WEEK THERE WAS A GUN BATTLE BETWEEN POLICE AND CRIMINALS NEAR THE OLYMPIA HOTEL IN TALLINN.

THE ECONOMY

9. ENERGY COMPANIES SAY THAT MANY PRIVATE AND STATE CUSTOMERS ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY IN PAYING THEIR BILLS. HOWEVER, NO CUT IN SUPPLIES TO NON-PAYERS IS PLANNED AS YET. TARTU STILL HAS NO HOT WATER SUPPLIES. POSTAL CHARGES HAVE DOUBLED IN THE PAST WEEK.

10. ON 17 NOVEMBER, THE FINANCE MINISTRY ANNOUNCED THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED TO LOAN 100 MILLION US DOLLARS TO ESTONIA TO HELP SUPPORT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. THE JAPANESE HAVE ALSO OFFERED 20 MILLION US DOLLARS IN CREDIT FOR 15 YEARS AT 7-8 PER CENT. THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAS ALSO APPROVED A SEVEN YEAR 60 MILLION US DOLLAR LOAN TO ESTONIA.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

11. MART LAAR PAID HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO FINLAND ON

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17-18 NOVEMBER AND MET WITH THE FINNISH PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER. TALKS COVERED TROOP WITHDRAWALS, MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. THE ESTONIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, TRIVIMI VELLISTE, MET WITH HIS FINNISH COUNTERPART ON 19 NOVEMBER TO DISCUSS THE ESTONIAN CLAIM TO TERRITORIAL WATERS, 4 NAUTICAL MILES HAS BEEN PROPOSED AS THE LIMIT.

12. PRESIDENT MERI AND FOREIGN MINISTER VELLISTE ARE IN BELGIUM FROM 24-27 NOVEMBER ON A STATE VISIT. ON 25 NOVEMBER THEY WILL MEET THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF NATO, MANFRED WERNER. ON 26 NOVEMBER THEY WILL MEET KING BAUDOUIN AND THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILLY CLAES. THEY ALSO PLAN TO MEET JACQUES DELORS, HENNING CHRISTOPHERSEN AND HORST KREGLER AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN BRUSSELS.

13. US REPUBLICAN SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR VISITED TALLINN ON 18 NOVEMBER AND SAID THAT RUSSIAN TROOPS WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE THE BALTICS. HE DID NOT THINK THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WERE BEING VIOLATED IN ESTONIA.

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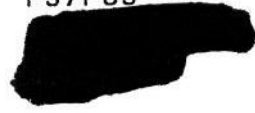
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