

UNCLASSIFIED INTERNAL USE ONLY CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

SB/CA E 7

EXTENSION

6508

NO.

DATE

24 October 1967

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

SB/CAO

BJ

2.

DC/SB/S

W

- Another document of discontent.

3.

4.

5.

6.

SB/CA/E 7

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2007

1-6 we should certainly try to place this somehow. Let's discuss. B

Jessie had cc hand-carried to E, all 7

FORM 3-62

610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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24 October 1967

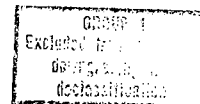
MEMORANDUM FOR: SB/CAO

SUBJECT : Excerpt from a "White Book" Recently Brought
Out to the West

1. An AERODYNAMIC source brought out from the Soviet Union in September of this year a document which is a contradiction to Soviet claims that conditions in the Soviet Union have changed so much for the better and that there are no political prisoners in the Soviet Union. The document is a copy of a letter from a political prisoner in Camp No. 17 in Mordovia, written in the summer of 1967. Camp No. 17, under the Dubrovnyy Directorate of Corrective Labor Camps, is located in the village of Ozerne in the Zubovo-Polanskyy rayon of Mordovia. The chief of the Dubrovnyy Directorate is Colonel HROMOV, known for his arbitrariness in the 1940's and 1950's in Kemerov Oblast. The chief of the KGB section attached to the Dubrovnyy Directorate is Lieutenant-Colonel BLINOV. Following are some of the salient points brought out in the document.

a. Camp No. 17 has two zones. The main one holds approximately 700 women convicted for ordinary crimes. The second zone holds 276 male political prisoners. The chief of Camp 17 is Captain NOVIKOV. Chief of Section 17-A (the men's zone) is Captain ANNENKOV. The medical section chief is 1st Lieutenant ZABAYKIN. The KGB representative for the camp is Captain Ivan Romanovych KRUT'.

b. Of the male prisoners, 259 are second and third degree invalids. There are only two crowded, cold and badly ventilated barracks in the men's zone. Food is brought in from the women's zone. In spite of the fact that the prisoner's food ration is small to begin with, he never receives his full portion. Even the healthier prisoners find it difficult to eat the sour, underbaked bread.



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c. Medical aid is virtually non-existent. On 7 January 1967, Mykhaylo SOROKA, who has been in Soviet prisons for 24 years, fell seriously ill with a myocardium infarct. Although it is well known that immediate qualified aid is essential in such instances, a medical assistant arrived four days later, and SOROKA was taken to a medical station on the seventh day following his attack. In the meantime, he was attended by Mykola YEVDOKIMOV, one of the prisoners in the camp who also is an experienced medical assistant but who could do nothing for SOROKA because he had no drugs or medical instruments. The medical station contains only seven beds to accommodate 225 invalids, the majority of whom are seriously ill and elderly. Drugs are scarce and the prisoners are not permitted to receive any from their relatives, not even vitamins, although the diet is so poor. As for dentists, no one even thinks about them. Theoretically, the seriously ill are supposed to be transferred to the central hospital, in Camp No. 3, in the village of Barashevo. On several occasions when the camp doctor sent an ill prisoner to the central hospital with diagnosis of cancer, the doctors at the central hospital returned them to the camp from which they came with a diagnosis of severe gastritis, instead of releasing the prisoner as the doctor is authorized to do in case of a severe illness. The initial diagnosis of cancer was confirmed in these cases by autopsies performed after their death. A prisoner is released only when his death is expected within days.

d. The deciding voice in Camp No. 3 (the central hospital) is that of the chief, Captain KITSAYEV. In Camp No. 11, when Svyatoslav KARAVANSKY (philologist, poet and journalist from Odessa) was on a hunger strike, the medical section chief, YEREMEYEVA, stated that she could do nothing without orders from the operations department. Prisoner Ivan MAKSYM in Camp No. 11 died because he was refused medical aid on the grounds that he was only pretending to be ill. Medical assistants are untrained and are chosen from among the prisoners only because they cooperate with the KGB and the operations department.

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e. In general, Camp No. 17 operates as a penal camp and the administrators make no effort to conceal this fact, although officially the camp is not classified as such. Severe repressive measures against the least display of rebellion or protest are taken against the prisoners. Prisoners assigned to construction work are not supplied with the required warm clothing (felt boots, quilted jackets, etc.). The temperature in the work shop remains between +5C and +9 C, and the floor temperature is usually under 0 C. It is absurd to think a man can perform normally when he has to handle metal machine parts with bare hands at such temperatures. Nevertheless, the prisoner is expected to fill a quota which would be impossible to fill even under normal circumstances. The prisoners are supposed to work an eight-hour day, but they are forced to spend nine hours daily in these unheated premises. One hour is reserved for a so-called lunch break and rest period, but the hour is considered extra punishment since it keeps the prisoner in the cold building for an hour longer. The prisoner has to eat at his machine because there are no tables and there are no towels or any place for him to wash his hands. Smoking is prohibited in both the workshop and in the corridor. The prisoners who are unable to fill their quotas are constantly threatened with repressive measures. Captain ANNENKOV, chief of Section 17-A, said that because there are not enough prisoners to perform the work assigned, invalids of the second category, who theoretically do not have to work, would be reclassified and put to work. The guards state quite openly that the more the prisoners complain about the violations of their legal rights, the more the authorities praise them.

f. The prisoners have complained frequently but in vain. Captain ANNENKOV shouted that things would remain unchanged. When told that the prisoners were forced to eat in the cold, under unsanitary conditions, the head engineer replied that it was not his concern and suggested that the prisoners direct their complaint to "Van'ka Vyetrov" (an expression meaning to tell your troubles to the wind). Following numerous complaints, a medical inspector arrived on one occasion from Dubravlah Directorate, but without measuring the temperature in the work shop he said he could not believe the temperature was too low since quotas were

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always filled and even exceeded. Yuri DANIEL sent in a written complaint about the shocking treatment received by Mykhaylo SOROKA (see para 1 c) during his illness. The medical inspector replied that since SOROKA did not die in the absence of medical aid, it was irrelevant to bring up the subject of how he was treated. He also tried to force DANIEL to acknowledge that conditions in the camp were in order (he needed such a statement for his report) but DANIEL refused to be implicated. "To whom can we address our complaints, when our former educators occupy all the positions?" The "doctor" in Camp No. 7 for the past three years was the former representative from the operations department in Camp No. 19, from where he was transferred after he attempted to rape a nurse. Presently he is working as an orderly in the prison in Ruzayevka in Mordovia. The chief of Camp No. 1 is 1st Lieutenant NEKRASOV, who had previously been a medical assistant in the same camp. Our law consultants, like our medical men, switch from positions as lawyers to positions as chiefs of camps, Directorate officials, etc. and vice versa. The reception of parcels, books, and letters by the prisoners, which is legally permissible, depends on the will of the KGB operative (in the case of Camp No. 17, Captain KRUT') who turns out legal right into an illusion.

g. Camp No. 17 holds Latvians, Lithuanians, Estonians and Russians. Naturally, there are also quite a number of Ukrainians. The author of the document gives a list of the Ukrainian prisoners who he groups into the following categories: (a) participants of national liberation movements 1942-1954; (b) those convicted for religious beliefs; (c) those convicted for so-called anti-Soviet agitation, for attempts to cross the border, and similar crimes; (d) those committed for "crimes" during the war. The list gives the name of the prisoner, the oblast from which he comes, his date of birth, date of arrest, terms of sentence. There are 114 names on the list. This, however, is obviously not a complete list of the Ukrainian prisoners in Camp No. 17-A, because at the end of some of the categories, the author states "and others."

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2. The letter referred to in the foregoing is part of a "White Book" compiled by a Soviet Ukrainian literary critic, who has been released by the authorities after having been arrested and imprisoned for about eight months for nationalist and anti-regime activities in 1965. Excerpts of the "White Book" will be surfaced in a Ukrainian-language newspaper in Canada within the next week or two. It is planned also to have the material published in book form in the near future.

3. [] of SB/RR said he did not think there was any real interest in the material, but he asked me to check it out with [] (upon her return from vacation) to see if it was disseminable. SB/CI is not interested in the names of the KGB-niks in the camps, but will have them RI indexed. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[]
Project AERODYNAMIC

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