

~~TOP SECRET~~

Director, CIA

30 March 1948

Assistant Director, ORE

IM-22

Ruhr Coal Production

1. Ever since the close of hostilities in Germany, the food situation in the Ruhr has been described, in both official and unofficial reports, as more or less acute. To date, no information has been received by ORE that the shortage of basic rations has been solved.

2. The reports of the Military Government on the subjects of food and coal take approximately two months to reach ORE. Other official comments on the matter received during this time lag (see attached citations for examples) have, however, not contradicted earlier reports.

3. In view of the foregoing, ORE credits, and has as yet received no official data to discredit, a 21 March New York Times article from Frankfurt quoting an official Ruhr MG appeal for an improved rationing system. According to the New York Times the appeal stated that:

a. the underground miners were getting less food than had been guaranteed;

b. the quality of Ruhr food during the past month probably had reached its lowest point in two years;

c. the normal consumer in the Ruhr had received no official meat ration for at least five weeks;

d. neither the underground nor the surface miner has received his full ration;

e. statistics of the Ruhr District Food Office showed that in January the underground miner received 3,640 calories daily out of 4,050 calories on the schedule, and that, despite some improvement in February, it is estimated that the ration did not exceed 3,800 calories a day;

~~TOP SECRET~~

001

This document has been reviewed by the CIA and a classification retained only because it contains information received from another government agency. The document may be declassified subject to approval by the other agency(s) concerned.

Reviewer: 003 Date: 9/1/78

~~Document No. 001~~
~~NO CHANGE in Class.~~
 ~~DECLASSIFIED~~
~~Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C~~
~~Auth: DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77~~
~~DDA REG. 77/1763~~
~~Date: 19/10/77 By: 010~~
raid
9/1/78 003

IM-22

f. these shortages had been caused by the failure to meet the normal consumer ration of 1,400 calories a day and the failure to meet the ration on the miners supplementary workers card;

g. during the last month the normal consumer ration amounted to only 1,350 calories a day, and in the more important areas, such as Essen, it was 1,135 calories a day;

h. items such as meat and fat, which are essential for the physical output of the worker and in the preparation of the workers' meals were almost entirely absent;

i. no meat has been called up in the Ruhr for at least five weeks for the normal consumer card nor on his workers supplemental card for at least five weeks.

THEODORE BABBITT

Attachment:



50X1

~~TOP SECRET~~

CITATIONS

1M - 22

1. Weekly Intelligence Report No. 89, 6 January 1948, ODI, OMGUS, Pages 8 and D1 and Pol. 3 -- Miners delegations visit food office and union, requesting permission to strike.
2. State Department telegram from Bremen, No. 9, 16 January 1948 -- Food crisis in Ruhr developing - shortage of potatoes - collections and distribution not made.
3. State Department telegram from Berlin, No. 176, 21 January 1948 -- New miners' ration of 4,200 calories announced, but not fully implemented.
4. Intelligence Summary No. 26, Hq. EUCOM, ODDI, 2 February 1948 -- Incentive program has not increased productivity of miners but only number of them.
5. Hearings before the Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, on a Foreign Policy for a Post-War Recovery Program. Statement of Lewis H. Brown, Chairman of the Board, Johns-Manville Corporation, 10 February 1948. (Here is presented the viewpoint of an American industrialist who made a special study of Germany at the request of the United States occupation authorities.)
 - a. p. 1013. "Insufficient food in the Ruhr is the foundation of the vicious cycle that leads through coal shortages and steel shortages to shortages in every economic sector of Germany and in fact all Europe."
 - b. p. 1041. "In a section of the Ruhr, very recently, potatoes, the biggest item in the German worker's diet next to bread, were unobtainable on the ration cards for almost 4 weeks."
6. FBIB No. 249, 17 February 1948 -- North Rhine Westphalian Food Ministry says only supplies of fish and bread fully met.
7. Semi-Monthly Military Government Report No. 84 for the US Occupied Area of Germany, OMGUS, Public Information Office, 20 February 1948 -- Failure to regain November coal peak due to deterioration of food situation in Ruhr.
8. Estimate of the Situation, ODDI, EUCOM, 1 March 1948, Page 14, Paragraph 1 -- Walkout of Ruhr miners due to food situation.