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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY: Rumania

SUBJECT: Major Industries of Brasov, Arad and Medias, Rumania

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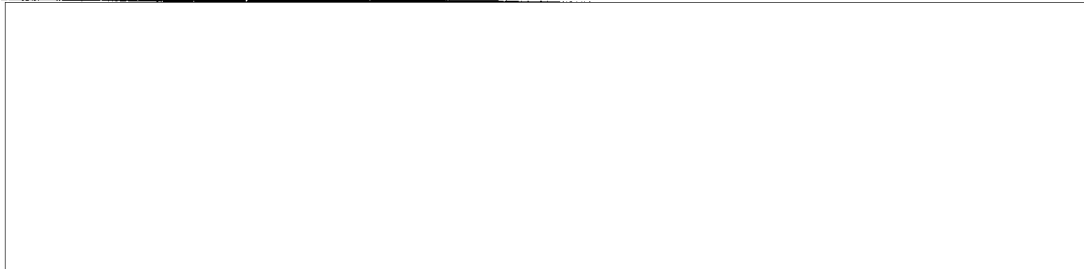
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1. The city of Brasov [now Stalin] [REDACTED] was alleged to be the most industrialized sector of Rumania and was considered the home of Rumania's heavy industry. Among its many industries were the following [REDACTED]

(a) Astra Vagone

- (1) [REDACTED] Astra Vagone was erected between 1936 and 1938. It employed from five to six thousand workers during World War II. This plant produced artillery for the German Army.
- (2) Power necessary for machine operation was converted from natural gas turbines which were located within the plant.
- (3) After World War II Astra Vagone was converted to the production of railway cars (freight cars). These cars varied in size and were from 20 to 40 tons.
- (4) Railway oil tankers were also produced. These oil tankers were approximately the 50-ton size. Both the freight cars and the tankers had from two to eight axles. In December 1947 [REDACTED] the tankers were being constructed for the USSR.
- (5) With reference to output [REDACTED] estimate that from 50 to 60 tankers per month were produced for the Soviet Union. The tankers were made by the lamination roll process which eliminated the use of many rivets. [REDACTED] the entire tanker was rolled from one solid sheet of metal -- thus eliminating the use of rivets with the exception of the ends or bungs. The tankers and freight cars were made for the USSR standard gauge railways (4 ft 9 in).
- (6) In 1947 the number of personnel employed at Astra Vagone was approximately five to six thousand. The workers labored 55 hours per week, from 7 am to 5 pm, with the lunch hour from 1 pm to 2 pm. [REDACTED]

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(7) Astra Vagone was purported to be the best camouflaged plant in Brasov.

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(b) IRA (Industria Romana Aeronautica)

- (1) This plant is also located in Brasov. In 1947 it produced airplanes, but was partially converted to the production of tractors. These tractors bear the initials IRA, thus designating their origin.
- (2) The personnel working at IRA in 1947 approximated six to seven thousand. The plant operated two 12-hour shifts per day with from 3,000 to 3500 workers per shift.
- (3) The management and administrative personnel was by and large comprised of German engineers who during World War II had been delegated by Herr Hitler to operate IRA. After World War II concluded these engineers elected to remain in Brasov rather than return to Germany.
- (4) The most successful airplane output at IRA was in the production of the World War II IR-80. [redacted] that several German-type fighters and bombers were built during World War II.
- (5) In 1947 no specific concentration in airplane output existed, however, a great deal of aeronautical research and airplane repair was evident.
- (6) IRA was damaged during World War II air raids and production was impeded by 60%. Reconstruction was underway [redacted] in December 1947.

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(c) Farola

- (1) This plant employed approximately 1500 workers who were engaged in the production of artillery shells.
- (2) It was also the chief Rumanian producer of laminated aluminum, brass, and copper sheets. In fact, Farola was considered the main producer of such non-ferrous materials as: aluminum, copper, brass, and magnesium. (magnesium-aluminum plus magnesium are all used in aircraft production)
- (3) None of the above items were produced for commercial consumption but solely for defense purposes.
- (4) Farola also specialized in the deep drawing of non-ferrous materials for shells and tanks, all primarily developed for the USSR.

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(d) Metronome

- (1) This plant is located 15 miles west of Brasov and produces small artillery, artillery ammo and small arms.
- (2) The security controls were very rigid in 1947. Little information could be had; visitors and non-workers were prohibited. The number of personnel employed was not generally known. The factory was under the permanent protection of the Rumanian Army.

(e) Schill

- (1) This plant which is located in Brasov produced machine tools, engine lathes, hydraulic presses, milling machines, hydraulic hammers. Although some of these items were produced for the general welfare, the bulk of its production was concentrated toward the needs of the aircraft industry.
- (2) Schill employed about one thousand workers in 1947. [redacted] it could be readily converted to war production.

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(f) Banlock-Goodrich

- (1) A rubber plant located in Brasov which produced tires for autos, tractors, trucks, and airplanes.
- (2) The chief source of rubber, which was of course synthetic, was coal. (Buna rubber)
- (3) A great deal of energy and effort was expended in reworking and vulcanizing old rubber, for in 1947 rubber in any form was very scarce in Rumania.
- (4) Rubber consumption was handled on a priority basis for commercial and defense items. This plant employed from six to seven hundred people who worked a 10-hour day.

(g) Portland Cement Company

- (1) This concern, which is located in Brasov, is the main producer of cement for all of Rumania; producing about 60% of the total cement consumed. Excluding the miners, this plant employs about 500 to 600 people.
- (2) The sources of cement are the mines which are located very near the plant. This supply in 1947 appeared to be inexhaustible.

(h) Bere Aluga (Beer Brewery)

- (1) This brewery is located seven kilometers south of Brasov. It brews over 50% of all beer consumed in Rumania.

2. Plants Located Outside Brasov:(a) Resita

- (1) A steel plant located at Resita, the town for which it is named. Resita is the chief Rumanian producer of low carbon-type steel and construction steel.
- (2) It also produces some very poor quality tool steel. The tool steel is of poor quality because the Rumanian technicians lack the technical knowledge necessary to produce a better quality.
- (3) Incidentally, Resita is the only factory in Rumania which produces railroad engines. [redacted]

(b) ITA (Industria Textila Arad)

- (1) This textile plant is located in Arad, Rumania and is considered the main producer of raw textile fibers in that country. [redacted]
- (2) [redacted] Astra Vagone had a subsidiary plant in Arad. In 1947 this plant, which employed between five and six thousand workers, was being dismantled and the parts transferred to Astra Vagone at Brasov. Dismantling had not been completed [redacted] in December 1947.

(c) Medias, Rumania

- (1) [redacted] the government-owned shoe factory Kares is at Medias. In addition to producing shoes, Kares is a large producer of raw leather products.
- (2) The largest glass factory in all of Rumania is located at Medias. Although it produces large amounts of bottle and window glass, this factory also manufactures unground optical lenses for spectacles and for bomb sights.

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