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DEC 1950

CLASSIFICATION SECRET
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

COUNTRY USSR
SUBJECT Economic - Mineral resources
HOW PUBLISHED Daily and weekly newspapers
WHERE PUBLISHED USSR
DATE PUBLISHED 25 Aug - 19 Nov 1949
LANGUAGE Russian
DATE OF INFORMATION 1949
DATE DIST. 30 Jan 1950
NO. OF PAGES 5
SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

USSR STEPS UP EXPLOITATION OF MINERALS FOR BUILDING PURPOSES

[Numbers in parentheses refer to the appended sources.]

Main Sources of Materials

The Soviet Union has large reserves of natural stone for building purposes, including marble, granite, gabbro, syenite, labradorite, and various types of limestone. The best-known deposits are: Prokhorovo-Balandino white marble and Ufaley greyish-blue marble in the Urals; Lopotskiy white marble and Shrosha and Saliyeti marble in Georgia; black Davalu marble in Armenia; Golovino labradorite and red Leznikovskiy granite in the Ukraine; and Birobidzhan rose marble in the Jewish Autonomous Oblast. In the southern part of the USSR limestone and shell rock is widely used for building. (1)

The Laboratory for Physicomechanical Research of Rocks, Geological Institute, Academy of Sciences USSR, does research on building stone. The laboratory is testing various types of rocks for use in construction of tall buildings in Moscow. More than 500 samples have been tested.

Besides laboratory work, field research is carried on to determine reserves of high-grade building stone. Field work is done in the Moscow area and in the Ukraine. There are rich deposits of limestone near Serpukhov, Aleksin, Kaluga, Tula, Venev, and Mikhaylov. This rock is very durable and nonporous; it can be easily polished and is suitable for facing interior walls. In addition to light shades of limestone, there are some brown and black varieties in these deposits. (2)

The Koyelga and Prokhorovo-Balandino Mine Administrations, Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR, have shipped to Moscow more than 700 cubic meters of white Ural marble to be used in the Moscow State University

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building. The same project will soon receive rose Uzoek and red Nizhne-Tagil marble. Various types of granite have begun to arrive from the Leznikovskiy, Golovino, Sokolovskiy and other quarries in the Ukraine. In 1949, the ministry's quarries will send more than 3,000 cubic meters of granite for Moscow construction projects. (3)

Ukraine

The Ukraine has long been famous for its granite. This region has many remarkable varieties of red and grey granite of different shades. Near Zhitomir, there are deposits of valuable labradorite, a black stone showing dark blue and light blue iridescence in the sunlight. The best granite deposits are in two areas of the Ukraine: near Zhitomir, and between Unan' and Kirovograd.

Research work is also being done in the Transcarpathian Ukraine, which has valuable colored and white marble. (2)

Granite found along the banks of the Yuzhnyy Bug is not inferior to Ural granite. It has been used in the construction of many community centers and theaters of Moscow, Kiev, Kharkov and Odessa. In postwar years, the Aleksandrovskiy Stone-Crushing Plant, in Voznesenskiy Rayon, Nikolayev Oblast, has produced and shipped to Moscow over 100,000 carloads of granite to be used in building the subway and for the Moskva River embankment.

Among Ukrainian granite quarries, the Trikratskiy Quarry is foremost in production, having fulfilled the 1949 plan. (4)

Caucasian Resources

There are large deposits of high-grade marble in Kvemo-Svanetskiy Rayon, Georgian SSR, which are insufficiently utilized. An automobile road, in fairly good condition, connects the marble deposits with the nearest railroad station, Kutaisi.

This type of marble is very adaptable in processing. Samples were sent to the "Gruzramor" Combine in Tbilisi in December 1946. However, nothing has been done toward exploitation of these deposits. (5)

Mountains of Armenia have inexhaustible reserves of natural construction materials such as tuff, marble, and granite. These materials are used in many projects throughout the country. Over 8,000 cubic meters of rose-colored tuff have been shipped for construction of tea factories in Georgia. New sanatoriums are being built in Sochi from colored varieties of tuff. Large granite blocks are sent to Baku.

Stone quarrying for new construction is expanding. Tuff-cutting machines have been installed in quarries and stone hauling has been mechanized.

New quarries have been opened in northern Armenia, where rich deposits of cream-colored tuff have been found. Twelve different shades of tuff are being quarried. The output of tuff blocks has tripled since the war. (6)

The Yerevan Quarry Administration, Ministry of Construction Materials Industry, Armenian SSR, fulfilled the 1949 plan for gross production and quantity of production on 20 August. Quarry workers produced 5,360 cubic meters of tuff, 13,350 cubic meters of sand, and a large quantity of other building materials above the year plan.

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The Yerevan Marble Plant fulfilled the year plan for gross production and for main types of products on 1 October. (7)

Enormous reserves of dark red and rose-colored tuff have been found on the slopes of Agmagan Mountain in Armenia, as well as large quantities of pure sand. (8)

Workers of the Artiktuf Quarry imeni Shaumyan in Armenia exceeded the 10-month plan for tuff quarrying. During October 1949, 1,000 cubic meters of tuff were cut above plan. Quarry workers pledged to fulfill the year plan by 20 November. (9)

Tyumen' Oblast, RSFSR

Tyumen' Oblast is rich in mineral deposits of building materials, including quartz sand which is suitable for glass production, plastic clay, and limestone. In the vicinity of these deposits there are large fields of peat, a good fuel for the glass and ceramics industry. However, these raw materials are insufficiently utilized. The demand for building materials in Tyumen' Oblast is constantly growing, but the local industry and industrial cooperatives have done little to organize production of cementing materials, etc. Only very few enterprises produce bricks, tiles, and pottery. (10)

Western USSR Republics

Molodechno Oblast, Belorussian SSR, has considerable resources of clay, lime, chalk, and sand, which would make it possible to develop production of various construction materials in a sufficient amount to satisfy local requirements. During postwar years, a number of enterprises were built in the oblast for the production of construction materials. However, the production level is far from meeting the growing requirements. The disparity between production and demand is increased by the failure to complete the production plan for construction materials. For instance, the Moros'kovskiy Brick Plant, Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Belorussian SSR, completed only 54 percent of the plan. Local industry enterprises also fell considerably short of fulfilling the production plan for bricks and lime. Tile production has not been organized at all. (11)

The Moldavian SSR also has a number of limestone deposits. The Rybnitsa Lime Plant fulfilled the 1949 year plan in October; the plant had quarried 3,067 tons of stone and produced 1,122 tons of lime above plan by that time. The Kishinev Quarry Administration, the Meteutsskiy Lime Plant, the Tiraspol' Gravel Pits, and other enterprises fulfilled their year plans ahead of schedule. During a 9-month period, these enterprises produced 2 million rubles' worth of building materials above plan. (12)

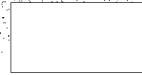
The "Saureshi-Salaspils" Gypsum Quarry, Latvian SSR, was awarded an All-Union prize by the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR for meeting the second-quarter plan 138 percent, decreasing gypsum costs 22 percent, and releasing more than 120,000 rubles of state funds. (13)

The Nigozero schists in the Karelo-Finnish SSR provide an excellent construction and facing material. A geological prospecting party of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR was sent to the location of these quarries in 1948. It has been found that the schists are easily processed and can be used in the production of window sills, railings, plinths, and facing blocks. In a powdered form this material is used for

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the production of phonograph records. By adding this powder to the mixture used in producing records, their acoustic quality has been improved. Several schist deposits of various colors have been discovered in the Kondopoga region. (14)

Until now, Shoksha porphyry from the Karelo-Finnish SSR has been known in the Soviet Union and abroad only as a decorative building stone. Stonecutters of the Shoksha deposits have recently begun to use porphyry for industrial purposes, such as the production of millstones for grinding various substances, and parts of ball mills, cement plants, and enamelware workshops. (15)

The Estonian SSR has large deposits of diatomite. The "Esti diatomit" enterprise has shipped a large quantity of diatomite above the 1949 year plan to Leningrad building organizations. It is widely used in industrial and civilian construction as a valuable heat-insulating material. Reserves of diatomite in Estonia are estimated at millions of tons. In July 1949, deposits of diatomite were first exploited in the Narva--Iyesu-Merikyula and Ryygikyula areas. A mechanized processing plant will be built in 1950. (16)

Kazakh SSR Trains and Hires Experts

The Union Central-Asian Geophysical Trust, Ministry of Geology USSR, is enrolling students in 3-month courses for technical engineers of geophysical expeditions. Persons with higher education, incomplete higher and secondary-school education, are eligible. Applicants must pass examinations in physics, mathematics, and Russian language, within a secondary-school program. Successful students are granted a stipend of 260 rubles per month. Classes begin on 26 November 1949. Applications must be sent to Alma-Ata, ulitsa Furmanova 110, Personnel Department. (17)

The following workers are needed in the North for contract work: mining engineers and technicians, including production engineers, surveyors, concentrating plant operators, blasters, drillers, electrical engineers, geologists; mineralogists, hydrologists, topographers, meteorologists, chemical engineers, heat engineers, mechanical engineers, hydrotechnical engineers, electric-wire communications technicians, postal workers, economic engineers and technicians, chief and senior accountants, pharmacutists, and automobile drivers with practical experience of at least 3 years. For details of employment apply to Alma-Ata, ulitsa Kalina 87. (18)

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