

CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL**
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1949SUBJECT Economic - Industry, agriculture
Geographic - Cities, weather

DATE DIST. 9 Jan 1951

HOW
PUBLISHED Bimonthly periodicalWHERE
PUBLISHED Moscow

NO. OF PAGES 5

DATE
PUBLISHED Nov/Dec 1949SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Russian

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
 OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50
 U. S. C., 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION
 OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PRO-
 HIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Geografiya v Shkole, No 6, 1949.GORI, STALINGRAD, AND STALINABADGori

After passing through Suramskiy Pass -- that stone bridge between the Great and Little Caucasus mountains -- the train descends gradually into Kartalinskaya Valley, bears eastward along the right bank of the Kura River (which begins to flow more slowly after plunging from Borzhomi Gorge) until it reaches the confluence of two rivers and simultaneously arrives at the city of Gori, not a large city, but the home city of Stalin.

Under the Soviet regime, Gori has taken on a new look. Resolute reconstruction measures were begun in 1934 on the initiative of L. P. Beriya, a companion-in-arms of Stalin. Reconstruction of Gori was undertaken with a view towards its significance as the birthplace of the Soviet leader. A square in front of his paternal home, protected from the elements by a marble and granite pavilion, from whence all main thoroughfares of the city branch out, has become the heart of the reconstruction plan. The slopes of the mountain descending from the ancient fortress have been planted with vegetation. Vast forests approach the city from east and west. Marble and granite embankments have been created along the banks of the Kura and Liakhva rivers. New squares and parks are still being laid out.

As a result of reconstruction of its industry, the population of the city has almost doubled. In years to come, the city will add new large industrial enterprises. The canning factory will be rebuilt and expanded. Construction of an automatic telephone exchange has been planned.

The best architects in Georgia are at work on the reconstruction and construction plan of Gori. Much has already been accomplished.

The new look of the city can best be observed from the Gori Fortress. The Liakhva, a small mountain river, bends around the city on the west. The Kura runs its turbulent course on the south; it separates the city from the Transcaucasian Railroad, which carries a traveler to the Georgian capital of Tbilisi in 2 hours.

A new rail line from the mouth of the Liakhva River (where it joins the Kura) links Gori with Stalinir. Construction of this line, a long-time dream of the Osetian people, was begun in 1939 and completed by the end of World War II.

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB																	
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI																	

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Farther on, the canning factory, the largest in Georgia, the railroad-tie-impregnating plant, the distillery, and other plants can be seen. From the fortress wall, also Stalin's home, the new drama theater, the movie theater, pedagogical institute, and regional museum can be seen. Beyond the Kura, the stadium stands in a green setting.

Orchards and vineyards in Georgia have expanded from 9,000 hectares, when the Soviets took over, to 66,000 hectares in 1940.

Stalingrad

Located along the northern edge of the Caspian Lowland where the Yergeni and Volga uplands meet, Stalingrad and its suburbs stand on ground which is hilly and cut by deep ravines. This type of terrain makes city planning difficult and complicates construction work.

The climate of Stalingrad may be classified as intermediate between steppe and desert climate. In summer, the heat sometimes reaches 40 degrees centigrade; in winter, the temperature drops to below 25 degrees below zero. A January isotherm of 10 degrees below zero and a July isotherm of 25 degrees pass through Stalingrad. Stalingrad lies in an area of insufficient rainfall, receiving not more than 300 millimeters per year, and irrigation is widely practiced. Strong easterly winds prevail and for protection from these winds the city has been surrounded with a wide "green ring" of trees.

The location of Stalingrad at the edge of the dry steppe and semidesert influences the type of agriculture carried on in its area. On the west side of the Volga, wheat, mustard, and sunflowers are grown; in the vicinity of the city, watermelons and vegetables are raised. On the east side, in the Volga-Akhtuba bottom, truck gardens, orchards, and meadows cover the land. Dairy cattle and sheep are the main kinds of livestock kept in the area around Stalingrad.

The industry of Stalingrad developed mostly in the direction of producing the means of production. The following are 1939 data:

1. The Tractor Plant built more than half of all tractors produced in the USSR up to World War II.
2. The "Krasnyy Oktyabr" Metallurgical Plant produced 18 percent of all steel -- one third of all high-quality steel -- output in the USSR.
3. The Krasnoarmeyskiy Shipyard was the best equipped river shipyard in the USSR. It was outfitted with mechanical launching equipment and was able to launch ships the year round. Ships built were all-metal, and electric welding was widely applied in their construction.
4. A nail and wire plant and a metal products plant were smaller metallurgical industries.
5. The overwhelming majority of all metalworking enterprises was concentrated in the northern part of the city, on the west bank of the Volga, along the railroad line running through that part of the city.
6. The woodworking industry was concentrated in the southern part of the city. The Lumber Milling Combine imeni Kuybyshev processed about 1,130,000 cubic meters of logs annually. Its product went to the southern European USSR, although a portion of it was exported, through Novorossiysk.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

7. Agricultural product processing plants included a canning factory which turned out 30 million one-pound jars of meat, fish, vegetables, tomatoes, and fruits annually.

8. The Stalingrad Rayon Power Plant had a capacity of 175,000 kilowatts.

In 1939, Stalingrad had 125 schools with 70,000 students, three institutes -- mechanical, medicinal, and pedagogical --, 57 libraries, a drama theater, musical comedy theater, circus, 6 movie theaters, 33 movie theaters in clubs, 2 summer theaters, 34 polyclinics, and 17 hospitals.

In 1939, the city covered an area 6 kilometers wide and 60 kilometers long along the Volga and had a population of 446,000 inhabitants. The people lived, mainly, in that part of the city where they worked: metal workers lived in the northern part of the city, wood workers in the southern, dock workers in the eastern along the river, and railroad workers in the western along the rail lines.

Now, 7 years after their destruction in World War II, all enterprises in Stalingrad have been restored. Its largest plants fulfilled the 1949 plan ahead of schedule. The tractor plant is now producing larger and better (STZ-NATI) tractors than before the war and has begun production of diesel tractors. The Stalingrad Rayon Power Plant is producing more power than before the war. Living and cultural facilities are being restored.

The southern half of the city, from the meat combine to Krasnoarmeysk, has been almost completely restored. A great part of the Tractor Plant workers' settlement in the northern part has been rebuilt. Ruins are disappearing in the central part of the city. However, Stalingrad is not being merely restored but is being replanned. Construction work will be carried on through two or three Five-Year Plans according to a general plan worked out by the best architects of the country.

Stalinabad

The capital of the Tadzhik SSR is one of the young cities of the USSR. Not so long ago there were only three villages -- Sarry-Assiya on the north, Shakhmensur on the south, and Dyushambe in the middle -- on the site where the city of Stalinabad now stands. Dyushambe was chosen as the capital of the Tadzhik SSR in 1929 and renamed Stalinabad in 1930.

Stalinabad lies within the Gissar Valley, which is shut in by mountains on all sides but is open toward the west. Through this gateway into southern Tadzhikistan runs a wide-gauge railroad from Termez, and from this gateway auto roads fan out into the mountain valleys of Tadzhik SSR.

Thus, Stalinabad is the center toward which the entire area lying south of the Gissar Mountains gravitates. Three fourths of all cotton fiber produced in Tadzhik SSR passes through Stalinabad. Approximately 60 percent of the Tadzhik population reaches other parts of the USSR through the Gissar Valley.

The Gissar Valley, an intermountain depression, lies 700-900 meters above sea level. Stretching out along the 38 degrees 30 minutes parallel, the valley is shaped like a flat-bottomed boat; 70 kilometers long, it is 18 kilometers wide in the middle but narrows to 2.5-3.0 kilometers at the extremities.

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

On the north, the Gissar Valley is bordered by the lofty Gissar Range which protects it from cold northeasterly winds; on the south, the valley is somewhat shielded from dry southerly winds by lower mountain ridges. Only on the west, in the valley of the Surkhan-Dar'ya River, is the valley open; through this opening, warm and comparatively moist winds gain entrance to the valley.

The climate of the Gissar Valley is dry steppe climate with a long hot summer and dry air. Summer air temperature at times exceeds 40 degrees in the shade. Average annual precipitation amounts to 600 millimeters; almost all of it falls during the winter and spring. In summer and fall, the sky is cloudless and not a drop of rain falls for months at a time; relative humidity drops to 25 percent during the day. Where irrigation is not practiced, vegetation dries up and the earth resembles the desert. Where irrigation is carried on, such crops as long-fibered cotton, rice, tobacco, geraniums, grapes, figs, pomegranates, peaches, and apricots are grown successfully.

The Gissar Valley is irrigated from the waters of the upper Kafirnigan River, and the upper part of the Surkhan Valley by the Karatag River. These rivers rise in the Gissar Range, flow south, and leave the valley between low mountain ranges. Tributaries flowing into the Kafirnigan from the west are the Sarday-Miona, Varzob, and Khanaka rivers. The largest populated places are located along these rivers.

The Varzob is the largest of these tributaries of the Kafirnigan. Stalinabad is located along the lower course of the Varzob, on the wide terraces of the Dyushambinka, as the lower course of the Varzob is called. The river supplies adequate water for the city the year round. The hydroelectric power potential of the Varzob-Dyushambinka is not less than 80,000 kilowatts. A bridge already spans the river.

The population of the city increased from 5,600 in 1926 to 16,000 in 1928, 19,000 in 1929, 24,000 in 1930, 42,000 in 1933, and 82,500 in 1939.

Because of the predominance of agricultural activity (cotton and grain growing, livestock raising, and sericulture) around Stalinabad, the first industries to be established between 1930 and 1940 were a cotton gin, a rolling mill, a meat combine, a silk factory, and a tannery. For city construction work, a brickyard, an alabaster plant, an asphalt-concrete plant, and other plants were established.

Supplying Stalinabad with local fuel is difficult. On the north side of Anzobskiy Pass, high in the mountains and 135 kilometers from the city, the Ravatskoye Coal Deposit was discovered; however, the deposit is not as yet being exploited because the coal cannot be gotten out. Nearer the city there are two deposits, Tashkutanskoye and Ziddinskoye, but their resources are small, their quality is poor, and besides they lie high in the mountains. There is no oil nearby.

Small power plants operating on shipped-in fuel were unable to supply the growing power requirements of the city. A large hydro-electric plant VarzobGES built in 1937 in the Varzob River gorge, solved the power problem.

Stalinabad is 10 kilometers long from north to south and about 6.5 kilometers wide. It is a city of one-story buildings; two- and three-story homes are still few in number. The predominance of one-story construction is due to seismic conditions in the Stalinabad area. Average population density was less than 30 persons per hectare in 1939, although in the heart of the city it was 140 per hectare.

- 4 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Stalinabad is one of the greenest cities in the Soviet South. Vegetation grows quickly. Maple (Acer), poplar (Populus), catalpa (Catalpa), black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia), plane tree (Platanus), and willow (Salix) are the main types of trees seen along the streets and in the parks. Elm (Ulmus densa) and chestnut (Castanea sativa) are comparatively rare. The botanical garden, north of the city, contains more than 400 types of trees and bushes and about 300 types of grass collected from all parts of the world.

Stalinabad is no longer an end-of-the-line railroad station. The railroad continues 22 kilometers eastward of the city, serving a stone quarry on the Dyushambinska and a limekiln located in an area of extensive building material deposits.

Because they mature at varying times in the valleys and mountains, the Stalinabad market offers fresh fruits and vegetables almost 9 months of the year. Products which reach the market between April and December are onions, radishes, lettuce, cucumbers, potatoes, tomatoes, muskmelons, watermelons, apricots, peaches, apples, grapes, and walnuts. Food products are brought into Stalinabad from points as far as 300 kilometers away by donkey, horse, truck, and plane.

Cultural institutions in Stalinabad are the Tadzhik Opera and Ballet Theater, Republic Public Library imeni Firdousi containing many millions of volumes, and the Tadzhik State University, which has physics-mathematics, soil-geology-geography, biology, and history-philology faculties.

- E N D -

- 5 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL