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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Murmansk Oblast)	REPORT	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)



- 25X1 1. Upon arrival at Nikel (N 69-26, E 30-17) on the morning of 19 February 1953, all the recruits of the Nikelkombinat were interviewed by the head of the personnel department (nachalnik otdela kadrov), Comrade N. M. Kudryashov. Kudryashov sometimes uses a stick as he is slightly lame in one leg. [redacted] Kudryashov retained the napravlyeniye (assignment certificate) and the trudovaya knizhka (labor book). [redacted] there were no vacancies in his line of work but offered [redacted] a temporary post of loader with the motor transport section (avtotransportnyy tsekh). [redacted] given a chit for Comrade Gerasimov, head of the transport section, and told to call at the dispatching office (dispecherskaya). [redacted] also given another chit for the head of the communal accommodation section (zhilishchno-kommunalnyy otdel) in order to obtain a billet. Quarters were arranged [redacted] in a hostel at Sovetskaya Ulitsa 6, where workers in the motor transport section were living at the time. Later, the workers were moved to Ulitsa Mikoyana 7.
- 25X1 2. The hostel at Sovetskaya Ulitsa 6 was actually a small Finnish prefabricated wooden house consisting of an entrance hall, a kitchen straight ahead, with a bedroom on each side of the hall. One room housed male employees and the other female. The furniture in each room consisted of one wardrobe, six iron beds, a table, and six stools. There was no bathroom and the toilet was situated about 30 meters away in a woods. This billet rented for 36 rubles per month. The hostel had some cockroaches but no other vermin.

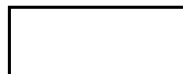
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

25X1

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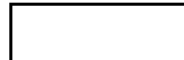


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- d. The general supplies unit is known as Prodnab (prodovolstvennoye snab-zheniye). This general supplies unit for the combine controls and supplies food and goods to all canteens, buffets, and several shops. This unit possesses its own transport and collects newly arrived goods at Liinakhamari (N 69-38, E 31-20).
 - e. A local building concern called Zhilstroy (Zhilishchnoye Stroitelstvo) belongs to the combine. It erects new houses in Nikel for the workers employed by the combine.
 - f. The motor transport shop (avtotransportnyy tsekh) also belongs to the combine. Most of the transports consist of large diesel trucks. There are more than 100 vehicles altogether, including one or two sedans for the director and other officials. There are also about six motor buses to transport the workers. Approximately 200 persons are employed in the motor transport shop.
 - g. A wood working factory (DOZ - Derovo-Obdelechnyy Zavod) is located on the same lake as Nikel, in a district called Zarechye. About 100 to 150 persons are employed there. The sawmill and carpenters' shop of the factory meet the requirements of the building program of the combine.
 - h. The Forest Sector (Lesouchastok) covers the area around the 140-kilometer point on the Arctic Highway. Hewn trees are towed in to the nearest point on the highway, loaded on trucks, and transported to the wood working factory at Nikel. There the lumber is made into planks, doors, window frames, and other building materials.¹
7. The nickel mines are located about four kilometers north of the village. Before the Second World War, the nickel mines were operated by a Canadian firm under an agreement with the Finnish Government. Since the Soviets took the area over, the mines have been under the control of a Soviet mine-operating enterprise known as the Pechengskiy Nikelkombinat (Pechenga Nickel Combine), which is subordinate to the Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy (Ministerstvo Tsvetnoy Metallurgii).
 8. The metallurgical division is at the mine site. It probably processes the ore to a certain extent. However, the ore is shipped from Nikel in a relatively unprocessed state. The ore is transported to the coast in trucks, which appear to have been specially built for the purpose. The trucks have capacities of up to ten tons.
 9. The motor transport section (avtotransportnyy otdel) of the kombinat in Nikel transports sand, coal, and other items. Sometimes lumber is picked up at a factory in Nikel and is delivered to various parts of the community and to the brickyard. The brickyard is located at the 91-kilometer point on the Arctic Highway, and the lumber is used for repair work there. Roofing tiles are sometimes picked up at the brickyard and transported to Nikel. The section also does the snowplowing and hauls snow in Nikel during the winter. The head of the motor transport section is Gerasimov (fnu).

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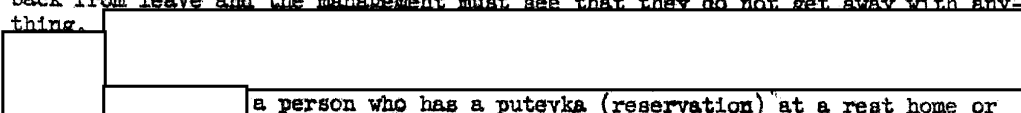
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10. Most of the men who work as loaders for the transport section begin work at 0800 hours. All the loaders assemble at the dispatching point, from which they are assigned to vehicles. The loaders eat their noon meal on their truck or near where the truck is parked during a stop. Workers usually get off work at 1700; if their truck has traveled a long distance away from their quarters, they sometimes do not get back until 1900 hours. In the evening, the workers sometimes go to a movie or to the club; most of the time they stay in the dormitory.

25X1 11. Most employees who work under three-year contracts for the Pechengskiy Nikel-kombinat in Nikel usually take only one leave, and that comes at the completion of their contract period. However, some workers do take leave before their tour of duty is up. All Nikelkombinat workers going on leave have to complete a regular check-out form (obkhodnyy list), which involves their receiving clearance from the several offices (finance, supply, housing, etc.) connected with the kombinat. This procedure is required because some workers never report back from leave and the management must see that they do not get away with anything.



25X1 [redacted] a person who has a putyaka (reservation) at a rest home or sanitarium would not need a propusk to leave Nikel. Several workers at the Nikelkombinat were called back to military service for the purpose of taking a re-training course (voyennaya perepodgotovka).

12. The workers' settlement (rabochiy poselok) of Nikel is the rayon center for the Pechengskiy Rayon. The settlement is located in Zapretnaya Zona (Restricted Zone) #2.

25X1 13. [redacted] Nikel has a population of approximately 15,000 persons, of which 8,000 are workers. A large percentage of the population consists of persons who came to the area several years ago and started raising families here. With the exception of those persons who work for governmental organizations, the police, border troops, and the Army, all the inhabitants of this area work for the Pechengskiy Nikelkombinat, whose offices are in this settlement. Because Nikel is located north of the Arctic Circle, wages paid by the kombinat are much higher than those paid in areas farther south. Prices are also much higher around Nikel, although not so high as to offset the wage advantage which workers in this area enjoy. In general, the workers seem to be satisfied with their working conditions, although source admittedly did not make many inquiries on this subject. All workers for the Nikelkombinat have to sign three-year contracts.

25X1 14. The main street in Nikel is Gvardevskiy Prospekt [redacted]

[redacted] Buildings in Nikel include wooden frame buildings, brick buildings, and buildings of concrete blocks.

15. The police station in Nikel is located on Ulitsa Mikovana [redacted]

[redacted] forced labor is used for maintenance work on the Arctic Highway.

16. There is a dining hall in Nikel which is open from 0600 to 0900 hours in the morning, from 1100 to 1500 in the afternoon, and from 1700 to 2300 at night. It has two dining rooms, one for laborers and one for office workers. A two-course dinner including coffee costs from 10 to 15 rubles. Prices for other meals are about the same. The soup course usually consists of borshch or some kind of cream soup. The second course is usually some kind of fish or hamburger steak (kotlet).

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25X1

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25X1 17. Nikel has a club, and there are movies and sometimes concerts at the settlement. Source saw the following movies while in Nikel: Maxim, a film which deals with the lives of Russian sailors in 1850; Druzya i Vragi Ameriki (Friends and Enemies of America); Razlom (The Break); and Posledniy Raund (The Last Round). A ticket to the movies costs from 3.00 to 4.50 rubles, the price depending on the location of the seat. The front rows are least expensive. Dances are held at the club and are frequented mostly by young people. [redacted] a ticket to a dance costs six rubles.

25X1 18. Pechengskaya Pravda, the local newspaper for the western part of the Murmanskaya Oblast, is published in Nikel. Another newspaper, called Sovetskaya Pechenga, is published two or three times a week.

25X1 19. Snowstorms are frequent in the area around Nikel. Thawing begins in about April. By May there is no snow left on the roads, though patches of it remain in the woods. It rains in May, but not very often. On the whole, the weather is very changeable, sometimes clear and sometimes cloudy. [redacted] By the end of May, the days are extremely long; the sun hardly disappears at all.

25X1 20. The terrain around Nikel is marked by several hills. In addition to the hills shown on the plan of Nikel (See sketch of Nikel, page 9), there are other hills of equal height in the area. The region is sparsely wooded and does not differ remarkably from the rest of the sub-arctic section of the Murmanskaya Oblast.

25X1 21. As a civilian [redacted] inoculated for T.T.B. (typhoid) [redacted] in Leningrad [redacted] also inoculated against tetanus (stolbnyak). [redacted] these inoculations were only given to the workers by their respective employers and were not automatically given to the whole of the population of the Soviet Union.

25X1 22. There is an airfield near Nikel [redacted] [redacted] most of the workers now employed at the Forest Sector 14-kilometers were previously working at this projected airfield clearing timber. This was completed in October 1952, when all of them were sent to the Forest Sector.

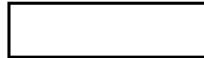
25X1 23. The following types of trucks were used by the Nikelkombinat:

- a. MAZ (Minskiy Avtomobilnyy Zavod) and YaAZ (Yaroslavskiy Avtomobilnyy Zavod), 10-ton vehicles, some of which are dump trucks. These trucks are used with trailers and source heard from some of the drivers that the truck with a trailer formed a 25-ton combination.
- b. Five-ton vehicles, built by ZIS (Moscow).
- c. Four-ton vehicles, new postwar design built by ZIS, known as ZIS 150.
- d. Three-ton vehicles, also built by ZIS.
- e. One-and-one-half-ton vehicles, built by GAZ (Gorkiy).

25X1

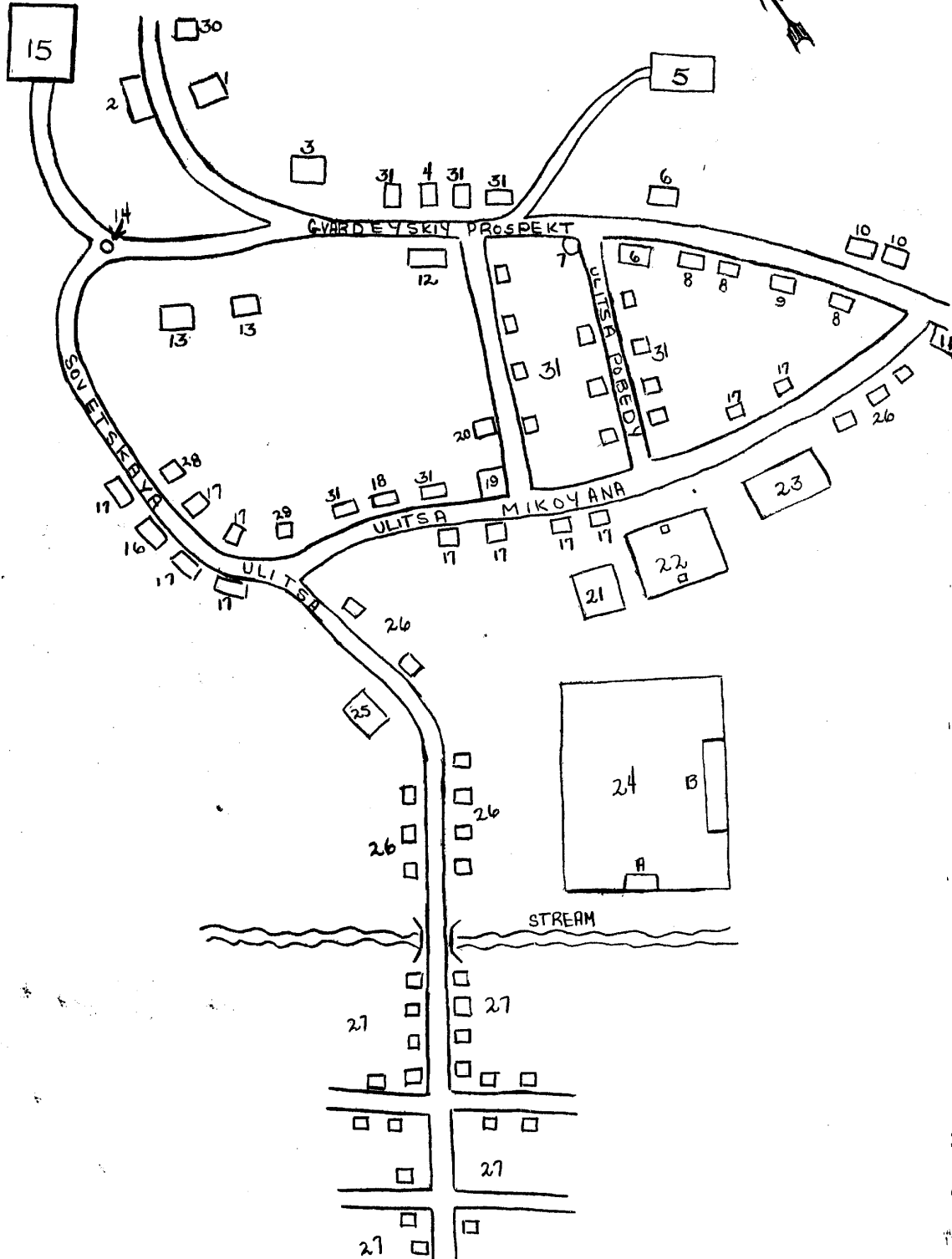
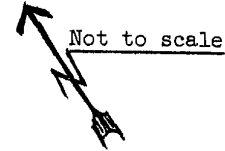
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Sketch of Nikel



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Legend to Sketch of Nikel

- 25X1 1. Pechengskiy Nikelkombinat. Headquarters of the combine is situated on Gvardeyskiy Prospekt in a three-story stone building which is plastered outside and painted cream. [REDACTED]
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
- the whole building is used for offices.
- 25X1 2. Canteen. Opposite the main office of the combine there is a fairly large canteen in a two-story house, which is built of stone on the ground floor and of wood on the first floor. The ground floor is used as a store and the canteen is situated on the first floor.
- 25X1 3. Fire Station. This is situated not far away from the main office of the combine and is a one-story stone house with a lookout tower on top where a fireman is always on duty. [REDACTED] fire engines [REDACTED] are specially built vehicles, similar to those he had seen in Leningrad, and are painted red.
4. Personnel Section (Otdel Kadroy) of the combina. Further along on Gvardeyskiy Prospekt; it is situated in a semi-basement of one of the four stone dwellings located there. This section occupies about three rooms.
5. Hospital. The only hospital in the town, a large plastered stone building standing on a hillock.
6. New buildings, under construction as of June 1953.
7. A military memorial built on a concrete base with various shells with a star on top. This monument stands at the corner of Ulitsa Pobedy and Gvardeyskiy Prospekt.
- 25X1 8. Three-story, plastered, brick houses mainly occupied by workers' families.
9. Rayvovenkomat. [REDACTED] it was previously in the Dom Okhira 30, where the Voyenno-Uchetnyy Stol still remains.
10. Directorate of the Arctic Highway (Upravleniye Zapolyarnoy Dorogoy) is on Gvardeyskiy Prospekt, occupying two houses nearly opposite the weighing platform.
11. Weighing platform for weighing trucks loaded with crude ore. Built of wood, completely roofed; there is a small office within.
12. Buffet. A small, one-story, wooden house constructed of planks is used as a buffet where light refreshment and alcoholic drinks may be obtained. This buffet is locally known as "S Dobrym Utrom" (good morning) because it begins serving alcoholic drinks from 0600 hours.
13. Two more plastered stone houses used by families. One of these contains a provision shop.
14. A memorial.
15. Metallurgical plant. This is the main plant of the combine and is surrounded by a high fence with large gates.
16. Hostel. Finnish prefabricated wooden bungalow at Sovetskaya Ulitsa 6.
17. Other Finnish prefabricated wooden bungalows, all occupied as billets for single and married workers.

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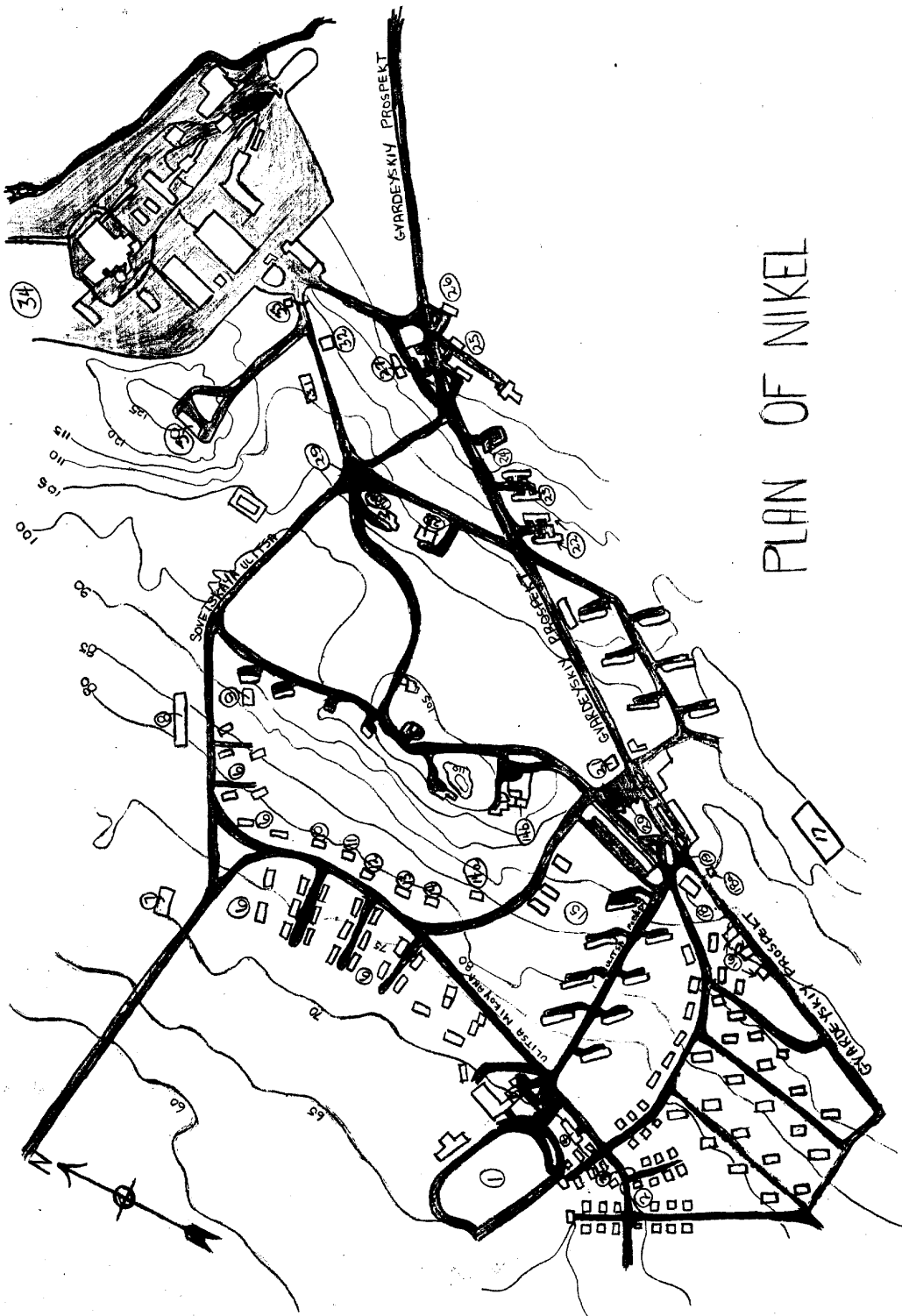
- 25X1 18. Hostel on Ulitsa Mikoyana 7. It is in a plastered stone house.
[redacted]
- 25X1 19. Headquarters of the Militia. It is located at the corner of Ulitsa
25X1 Mikoyana and another road. A stone house painted yellow. There used
25X1 to be a sign outside reading: "Pechengskiy Rayonniy Otdel Militsii
MGB Murmanskoy Oblasti". This was taken down shortly before June 1953.
- 25X1 20. Children's Clinic (Detskaya Konsultatsiya). It was probably controlled
25X1 by the hospital. This is housed in a Finnish prefabricated wooden bunga-
25X1 low.
- 25X1 21. Public baths. A large two-story house of plastered brick, with a barber
25X1 shop and a laundry on the ground floor and Russian baths upstairs.
25X1 [redacted] men's barber shop, and [redacted] three barbers were
25X1 employed there [redacted] on Saturdays and Sundays. A haircut cost 1.10
25X1 rubles. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] some "local ladies" with permanents. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] bundles of washing could be left at the laundry. The
25X1 baths on the first floor were divided into one for men and the other for
25X1 women. The men's part consisted of a changing room, a washing room
25X1 where there were tin basins, showers, and a steam room which was fitted
25X1 out with wooden benches to lie on. The charge was 1.50 rubles.
22. Small garden. It was known as Skver Skulptury and was newly built with
shrubs planted in May 1953. There are two statues of a man and a woman
representing Fizkulturniki (Sportsmen). A small metal fence surrounds
this square.
23. Club. A large one-story wooden house, plastered over and painted
white. This club contains a theater which is also frequently used as
a movie. In the foyer to the theater, dances are occasionally held
with music supplied by a PA system. In a small room next door there
is a buffet where only soft drinks, biscuits, and sweets can be obtained.
The theater is also used for all official functions and meetings.
24. Stadium. This stadium is mainly used for football, volley ball, basket-
ball, and for political rallies. The ground is level and there is a
small stand at one end (A) from which the main speakers give their
speeches on festive occasions, such as May Day. There is another larger
stand (B) for spectators.
25. School. A single-story plastered house; the only school in Nikel
known to source.
26. A mixture of Russian log cabins and Finnish prefabricated wooden bunga-
lows.
27. A suburb of Nikel called Zarechye, consisting of various types of wooden
cabins and bungalows.
- 25X1 28. The Rayon Executive Committee (Raylspolkom) is located on Sovetskaya
25X1 Ulitsa, opposite the hostel. It is a small Finnish prefabricated wooden
25X1 bungalow. [redacted]
- 25X1 29. Editorial offices of the newspaper (Sovetskaya Pechenga). The offices
25X1 are housed in a Finnish prefabricated house.
30. Dom Okhra. [redacted] this house belongs to the civilian
guard employed by the combine. This house is a plastered brick building
of three stories. Besides the guards and their families living there,
it houses the Voyenno-Uchetnyy Stol (military registration desk) for
the whole area.
31. Plastered brick houses used as living quarters.

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PLAN OF NIKEL

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25X1 [redacted] plan of Nikel [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] was one drawn
 25X1 up by the Soviets in 1940 when they took over the nickel mines in Nikel;
 25X1 the plan represented a proposed scheme for laying out the settlement.
 25X1 Many of the buildings shown on the plan were never constructed. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] most of the buildings located on the plan within the block
 25X1 bordered by Sovetskaya Ulitsa, Gvardeyskiy Prospekt, and Ulitsa Mikoyana
 25X1 had not been built by spring 1953. [redacted] those build-
 25X1 ings mentioned in the following list and pinpointed on the plan are the only
 25X1 ones [redacted] in existence in spring 1953. The numbered
 25X1 items in the legend correspond to the numbered places on the sketch on page 9.

25X1 Legend to Plan of Nikel

- 25X1 1. Stadium. Local teams play football here. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 2. Prefabricated buildings (Finnskiye domiki).
- 25X1 3. Small grocery store.
- 25X1 4. Nikelkombinat workers' club. This is a stucco building containing a movie
 25X1 theater, small library, and other facilities.
- 25X1 5. Public bath. This is a two-story stone building.
- 25X1 6. Prefabricated buildings (Finnskiye domiki).
- 25X1 7. School. This is a one-story stucco building. [redacted]
 [redacted] it definitely is not
 a tekhnikum.
8. Nikelkombinat bachelors' dormitory. This single-story wooden building is
 located at Sovetskaya Ulitsa 6. The dormitory is divided into two sections
 with a kitchen in the middle. About ten male workers live in one section
 and about ten female workers in the other section.
9. Rayon Executive Committee (Ravispolkom). This is a large stone building.
 [redacted]
10. Nikelkombinat bachelors' dormitory. This is a three-story stucco building.
 The address here is Ulitsa Mikoyana 5.
11. Nikelkombinat bachelors' dormitory. This is a three-story stucco building.
 The address here is Ulitsa Mikoyana 7.
12. Nikelkombinat apartment house. Workers with families are quartered in this
 three-story stucco building. The address here is Ulitsa Mikoyana 9.
13. Children's library. This stone building is somewhat smaller than the
 ones used for living quarters. The address here is Ulitsa Mikoyana 11.
14. Rayon section of the militia precinct (rayotdel militsii). The passport
 desk (pasportnyy stol) is located here. The address is Ulitsa Mikoyana 13.
- 14a. Children's clinic.
- 14b. Bread shop.
15. Nikelkombinat apartment houses. Eight of these stucco buildings are on
 Ulitsa Pobedy. In the southwesternmost of these eight buildings there
 is a store which sells household goods and other consumer items. East
 of this group of eight buildings, on another street which links Ulitsa
 Mikoyana with Gvardeyskiy Prospekt, there are some smaller and less formally
 arranged stucco apartment houses.

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16. Rayvoyenkomat. The rayvoyenkomat is located in the center building of this group of three 3-story brick buildings.
17. Nikelkombinat hospital. This is a large hospital, situated on a hill. It is a long low building, about two or three stories high, of cream-colored stone or stucco.
- 25X1 18. New building. This building was still under construction in spring 1953. [redacted] it is to be about six stories high [redacted]
- 25X1 18a. New building. This structure was still under construction in spring 1953.
- 25X1 19. Monument. This monument [redacted] is located on the square.
- 25X1 20. Monument. This monument [redacted] is located on the square.
- 25X1 21. Good Morning Buffet (S Dobrym Utrom Bufetka).
- 25X1 22. Nikelkombinat personnel section (otdel kadrov). These are stone buildings [redacted] more than two stories high.
- 25X1 23. Apartment houses. These buildings are similar in construction to the otdel kadrov buildings (# 22 on this plan).
- 25X1 24. Fire station. This building has a tower. The type of construction is similar to that of the hospital (# 17 on this plan). A red fire engine is parked here.
- 25X1 25. Nikelkombinat administrative offices. This building is of similar construction to the hospital (# 17 on this plan).
- 25X1 26. Military registration desk (voyenno-uchetnyy stol). The building in which this office is located is constructed similar to the hospital (# 17 on this plan).
- 25X1 27. Dining hall. This is a large establishment where Nikelkombinat workers eat. [redacted] it is a large number, including most of those workers who do not have families in Nikel.
- 25X1 28. Nikelkombinat buildings. This stone building and the one beside it (28a) are known locally as the Kanadskiy Dome. These buildings were erected by the Canadian company which operated the local nickel mines before the Second World War.
- 25X1 28a. Grocery store. See description above (# 28).
- 25X1 29. Monument. [redacted] it is in the center of the square.
30. Garage. This is a wooden building. [redacted] at least one truck [redacted] is kept in this garage.
31. Garage. This is a small wooden building. [redacted]
32. Nikelkombinat dispatcher's office. This small wooden building houses the office of the dispatcher for the Nikelkombinat motor pool.
33. Nikelkombinat guard building and gate. This is the entrance to the Nikelkombinat factory area. A guard is posted here.
34. Nikelkombinat factory. [redacted] the area is surrounded by a two-meter-high wooden fence.

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