

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Hwanghae Province Iron Works, North Korea 25X1	DATE DISTR.	18 June 1954
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		REFERENCES	

- 25X1 1. In March 1954 the Hwanghae Province Iron Works in Songnim<sup>1</sup> (N 38-45, E 125-37) (VC-2790), under the jurisdiction of the Metals Control Department, Ministry of Heavy Industry, was managed by KWON Chong-hun (2938/2973/0534). [REDACTED]
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
- 25X1 In addition to the manager, there is an assistant manager for supply, an assistant manager for administration, and a chief technician. [REDACTED]
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
- 25X1 2. In September 1950, because of United Nations air strikes, production had been substantially curtailed, the furnaces were not working, and about 70 percent of the iron works equipment had been damaged. From March 1951 to July 1953 the labor force consisted of only about 450 workers who manufactured simple instruments and tools, such as picks, shovels, sickles, and nails, for the North Korean army. The rest of the workers were sent to other factories under control of the Ministry of Heavy Industry in North P'yongan and Chagang Provinces. In mid-January 1953 the Ministry of Heavy Industry ordered that the iron work's undamaged materials and equipment, regardless of size, be temporarily moved to underground shelters and mountain valleys in Huich'on-gun (N 40-10, E 126-17) (BV-6948) and Kanggye-gun (N 40-58, E 126-36) (BA-9837). After the armistice the equipment was returned and reconstruction of the iron works begun. In early August 1953 the recruitment of laborers was given priority, and by the end of the month about 1,500 laborers had been recruited under false pretenses<sup>2</sup> from rural areas in North P'yongan, and North and South Hamgyong Provinces. By December 1953 several of the iron works plants had been partially rebuilt; two cranes had been built at the foundry; and most of the smelting furnace, the power transformer sub-station, and workshops had been rebuilt.

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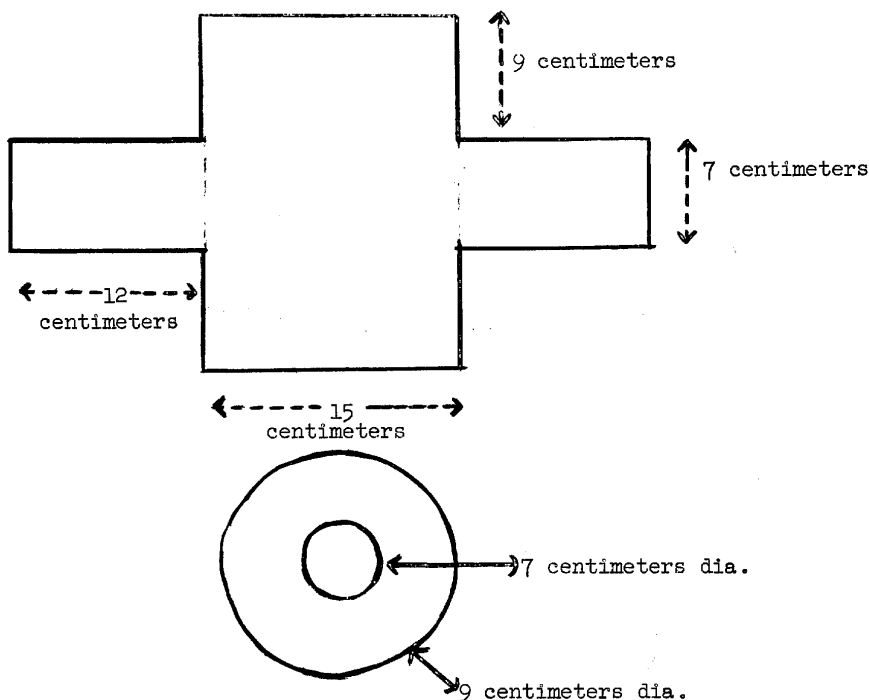
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By early March 1954 the following plants were in operation:

- a. Brick plant in the vicinity of YC-287896. The plant has about 20 kilns, and produces 280,000 fireproof bricks monthly, averaging 40,000 bricks every four days. The four grades of fireproof bricks which are produced are capable of withstanding temperatures of 2,800, 3,000, 3,500, and 4,000 degrees centigrade. They are used for electric and smelting furnaces. Two small locomotives drawing ore cars are used to transport the limestone and earth dug from the hills near Chuktae-ri (YC-296896) directly into the plant.
- b. Foundry at YC-285899. Equipment at the foundry includes one electric furnace, two air (sic) furnaces, one 20-ton crane, and one 15-ton crane. The average daily smelting capacity of the electric furnace is about 15 tons of iron, using 1,200 V electricity.<sup>3</sup> The capacity of each air furnace is slightly more than that of the electric furnace. Daily average production at the foundry is:
- (1) About 15 standard iron pipes, each 12 centimeters in diameter, 3 centimeters thick, and 3.5 meters long.
  - (2) About 15 standard iron pipes, each 20 centimeters in diameter, 5 centimeters thick, and 3.5 meters long.
  - (3) Two pigs, each 2.5 meters long, .5 meter high, 1 meter wide, and 5 centimeters thick.
  - (4) An unknown number of stoves for use in homes.
  - (5) About eight each of two types of parts (use and name unknown) as shown below.

(Measurements given are approximate.)



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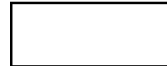
- c. Iron-plate plant at YC-275907. Equipment includes one 30-ton crane and one 20-ton crane. The plant produces iron plate and rails.<sup>4</sup> The plates are 3 centimeters thick, 3 meters long, and 1.5 meters wide.
  - d. Lathe plant at YC-279904. Equipment includes 14 lathes, 8 of which are Soviet-made and 6 are Japanese. The plant produces such items as ovens (sic), shafts, and nuts.
  - e. Smelting furnace<sup>5</sup> at YC-281906. About 100 tons of pig-iron are smelted during a 24-hour period. Iron ore is brought by train from the Chaeryong Iron Mine (YC-3253), the Hasong Iron Mine (YC-4234), and the Nakyong Iron Mine (XC-8937).
  - f. Coke plant at YC-280906. About 40 tons of coke are produced daily. Coal for the plant is brought in from the Aoji Coal Mine (FC-1108) and from the Kaech'on Coal Mine near Kaech'on (YD-4898).<sup>6</sup>
  - g. Power transformer sub-station at YC-266922. The total amount of electric power used daily by the iron works is about 6,600 V.<sup>3</sup> About 60 percent of the sub-station workers are engaged in installation and repair of power lines for the various departments of the iron works; the rest maintain the sub-station.
3. The iron works operates on a 24-hour basis, working in three shifts. About 2,700 people are employed, in the following departments:

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>
Brick plant (exclusive of inspectors)	50	400
Foundry	200	80
Iron-plate plant	300	
Lathe plant	30	70
Smelting furnace	250	
Coke plant	350	
Power transformer sub-station	450	120
Miscellaneous laborers	250	50
Staff and office workers	70	30
	<u>1,950</u>	<u>750</u>

4. For the welfare of the workers, the Supply Bureau established two workshop sales stores, two barber shops, and two dining rooms. Prices in these establishments are 10 percent lower than on the open market. There are also three baths which the workers may use free of charge. In Taehung-ni (YC-287905)<sup>7</sup> prior to June 1950 iron works personnel resided in 400 buildings, each of which contained four households. By March 1954 about 250 of these buildings had been rebuilt or repaired. About 100 more residences, in which 350 families were living, were being repaired. A total of about 1,350 families were living in the company houses in Taehung-ni. In Sukt'an-ni (YC-278911) there had been about 100 buildings, each accommodating two households. In March 1954, 70 of these had been rebuilt and 140 families were living in them. During the Korean war at the foot of the hills in Songsan-dong (YC-273918) about 50 families lived in half-underground shelters. In March 1954 there were still about 30 families in these shelters.
5. Transportation for the iron works was provided by one Japanese-made Toyota truck, two Hungarian-made trucks, eight Soviet-made ZIS trucks, two small locomotives (see paragraph 2a), and four other locomotives.
6. Soviet aid in the reconstruction of the iron works included both advisers and equipment. Six Soviet technicians, who arrived in early August 1953, give instruction on the installation of the main machines and equipment and supervise the technical operations of the works. The major heavy equipment imported from the USSR by March 1954 includes 14 lathes,<sup>8</sup> 2 cranes, and 4 locomotives. Other imports include coal,<sup>9</sup> Soviet and Chinese-made cotton clothing, and parts and

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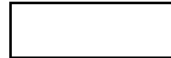
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accessories, such as wire. The works exports iron pipe, iron plate, rails, and pig-iron. Imports and exports are transported on Soviet ships operated by Russian crews. About 15 February 1954 a ship loaded with coal docked at Songnim.<sup>10</sup> The ship was similar in appearance to a United States LST, but was shorter and narrower. Its base was at Dairen, Manchuria.

- 25X1 1.  Comment. After the liberation from Japan, the city of Kyomip'o was renamed Songnim, and the Japan Iron Works renamed Hwanghae Province Iron Works.
- 25X1 2.  Comment. The laborers were told by their local government officials that if they would go to Songnim to work in the iron works, the government would provide homes, clothing, and food, and would give them land to farm in addition to working in the factory. In reality, it was difficult for them to support their families on their pay, nor were they given any land.
- 25X1 3.  Comment. The informant did not know what the symbol "V" meant as an electric unit, however it may refer to kilowatts.
- 25X1 4.  Comment. Possibly iron bars are meant. The informant made no reference to a rolling mill at the iron works in which rails would be manufactured.
- 25X1 5.  Comment. Probably blast furnace is meant.
- 25X1  Comment. According to Section 63 of National Intelligence Survey 41, Kyomip'o was in 1945 one of the two largest steel mills in North Korea. It produced pig iron, ingot steel, rolled steel products, and coke and coke by-products. It was the only steel plant in North Korea with open hearth steel furnaces and accounted for most of Korean steel ingot production. It was the only completely integrated plant in Korea.
- 25X1 6.  Comment. It is doubtful that Aoji or Kaech'on coal is used in the coke plant. According to the Survey mentioned above, there are no coking coals in Korea.
- 25X1 7.  Comment. This may be Taehong-ni (N 8-31, E 125-38) (YC-3066).
- 25X1 8.  Comment. According to paragraph 2d, eight of the lathes were Soviet-made, six were Japanese. Either these six lathes were a part of the old Japan Iron Works, or the Japanese lathes were procured by the Soviets for use in North Korea.
- 25X1 9.  Comment. The imported coal is believed to have come from the Fu-shun Mine (N 41-53, E 123-54) in Manchuria.
- 25X1 10.  Comment. According to another American agency, the Taedong-River is closed to navigation due to ice from the beginning of January to the middle of March. As the winter of 1953-1954 was relatively mild,   the Songnim port was open to navigation.

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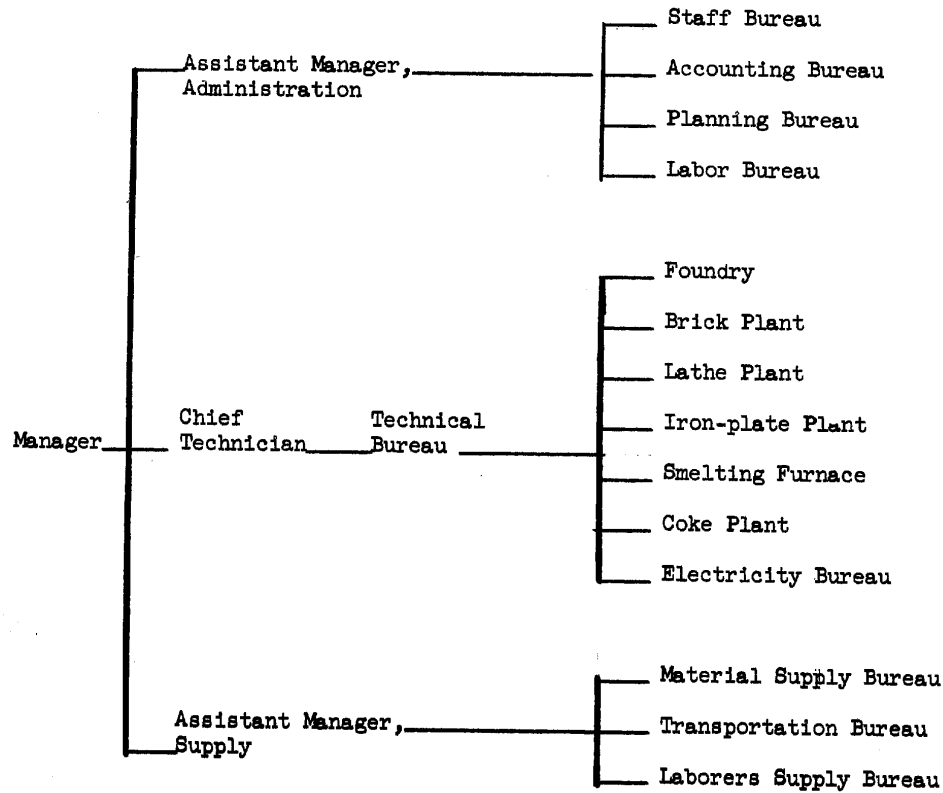
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ATTACHMENT

Organization of the Hwanghae Province Iron Works



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