

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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Malapanew Works at Ozimek (N50-41, E18-13)

1. Since about May 1954 the following developments have taken place at the Malapanew Works:
 - a. Two new Martin furnaces have been installed which together can produce some 150,000 tons of steel per year.
 - b. The rolling mill which when in German hands produced seamless pipes, and which after the war was completely dismantled by the Russians and taken to the USSR, is now being rebuilt. It should have been completed before the end of 1953, but due to delayed deliveries and non-arrival of machinery from the USSR and the West, it is behind schedule. Equipment is at present being brought partly from the Polish factories in Czestochowa, and Labedy in Silesia, and partly from East Germany. These mills are now expected to be completed at least before the end of the present Six Year Plan, i.e. probably some time in 1955.
2. Future production will include gun barrels. The sections that are already in operation are making tanks; the tracks come from other factories, chiefly from a factory in Warsaw. It is not known where the completed tanks are sent.
3. Since the end of 1953 there have been at least seven to nine Russian advisors and technicians at the factory.
4. The iron ore used by the plant comes by rail, and is of Soviet origin. In addition to the Martin furnaces, there are other large installations which process the steel from the furnaces; details are unknown.
5. The factory works in three shifts, employs about 4,000 workers, and is constantly seeking additional manpower.
6. The power station, already rebuilt, works at full pressure and supplies all the necessary current for the factory and the neighborhood.

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Andrzej Works at Ozimek ¹

7. The Andrzej Works were not rebuilt as an independant unit but as a factory forming part of the Malapanew Works. Tanks are assembled here, and steel is brought from the Bobrek Foundry in Opole (Oppeln). Parts of the Andrzej Works are still under construction.

Iron Works at Labedy (Laband) near Gliwice (Gleiwitz) ²

8. After the war the well known Goering Works were thoroughly plundered by the Russians, especially the huge mechanical works of the foundry. After various attempts, rebuilding began in earnest in 1949, and by the end of 1952 or beginning of 1953 the following sections and installations were partly in use or expected shortly to be completed:
- a. Martin furnaces, each capable of taking 70 tons of iron ore at a time.
 - b. One new rolling mill.
 - c. Workshops for the production of gear boxes.
 - d. Workshops for heavy steel construction.
 - e. Several shops for armor plate assembly.
9. The plant is now working under constant pressure. It produces:
- a. Tanks, probably larger than T34s.
 - b. Guns for the above tanks, caliber unknown.
 - c. Other steel construction parts shipped in plate form.
10. A Polish-Soviet military group in the factory receives the completed tanks, and every day, including Sundays, new tanks are tested in the neighborhood and their guns tried out.
11. The director general is Ludwig Blaska, and there are approximately 5,000 workers employed, among them many German experts some of whom were held in Poland after the war, and some sent from East Germany, and last year from Russia, in order to speed up tank production.
12. The entire area, containing many buildings, is surrounded by a fence with a number of watchtowers manned by the Industrial Guard during the day and by men of a KBW regiment from Katowice at night, with heavy machine guns and searchlights.
13. These works, which for some years have been called the Jozef Stalin Works, are among the most closely guarded plants of the Polish armaments industry. There are many UB (Security Police) agents among the employees, who have special factory passes issued by the KBW, and may not move from one part of the works to another without written permission. All entrances are guarded and passes checked. Numerous meetings are held for all employees to impress upon them the need for the utmost secrecy, and breaches of security are punishable by anything from 15 years imprisonment to the death penalty.
14. The atmosphere among the workers is one of gloom. In May 1953, after Stalin's death, the norms were raised to an extent which meant that work which previously paid about 1,200 zlotys now pays only 700 zlotys. News of the riots in East Germany reached the workers but was suppressed by the politruks as long as possible. As the stiffened attitude of the workers made itself felt events were discussed at meetings and explained as having been instigated and led by American agents. As a precaution, about 60 of the employees least trusted by the UB were imprisoned and the MD (Citizens' Militia) and part of the local garrison was in a state of preparedness for at least two to three weeks. Some of those arrested returned to the plant after a few weeks; others were not heard of again.

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