

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

S-E-C-R-E-T

[Redacted]

25X1

COUNTRY	USSR (Stalingrad Oblast)	REPORT	[Redacted]	25X1
SUBJECT	Operating Conditions at the Azov Machine Tractor Station	DATE DISTR.	17 August 1955	
		NO. OF PAGES	2	
DATE OF INFO.	[Redacted]	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED	[Redacted]	REFERENCES		
DATE ACQUIRED	This is UNEVALUATED Information			

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

[Redacted]

25X1

1. The Azov MTS, which was 25 years old in 1954, was a model of order and well-being. It served eight collective farms with a total area of 43,000 hectares. Some 28,000 hectares were under crop, of which 1,200 were irrigated, which area was expected to be doubled in the next year or two.
2. There were 23 tractor brigades, each brigade consisting of four or five tractors and 20 to 25 men and women. The men lived under a brigade leader at field stations, which were huts and small covered areas for machinery and fuel, while they were working in a particular area, which is never more than five - six kms from their families, although the MTS served a radius of 40 kms.
3. The director was proud of the fact that all the staff had been recruited from the collective farms. Training courses of one-half and one year duration were conducted throughout the year. After such a course, the trainee was employed as a second-class tractor driver. About ten percent of the workers were women. Veterinarians, agronomists, and other specialists were attached to the station and lived in the villages. Two eight-hour shifts were worked per day with one day a week free for each worker. Twelve members of the senior staff turned up voluntarily on the day of the delegation's visit.
4. Of the 160 tractors, about 40 percent were crawlers and although, in his introduction, the director said all were diesels, a proportion of spark ignition engines were seen among the old ones. Eleven of the 44 combines were self-propelled and usually used for opening up a field.
5. Contracts were made between the MTS and collective farms, and subcontracts fixed the details of timing and exact methods. MTSs could be brought to trial for nonfulfillment of contract. The farms paid for services with produce. About 20 percent of all crops was the estimate of what the MTS collected for its services. In extreme cases of failure of crops, the State canceled the farm debt. Examples of farm payment in grain for MTS services follow:

S-E-C-R-E-T

[Redacted]

25X1

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC				
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1
25X1

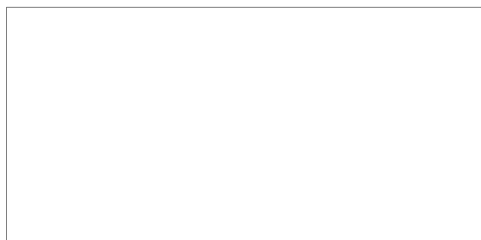
-2-

Plowing:	110 kilos per hectare
Cultivation:	12 kilos per hectare
Harvesting:	70 kilos per hectare
Average yield of grain in the Azov area:	20 centals (1 central = 1.9 cwt.)
Fixed price of wheat:	6 rubles per 100 kilos.

6. Director-General of the Azov MFS, V. I. Pimpkin, said that his son had volunteered to go with a brigade to Siberia where 13 of the 30 million hectares scheduled for reclamation had already come under the plow and yielded this year.
7. A supervisor of 100 MFSs serving approximately 500 collective farms estimated that requirements for 1954 in tractors for his area was 500. The requisition would be made in October and, if approved, the units would be expected in January. It was difficult to reconcile his estimate with the 10 to 20-year-old tractors which were seen, and it could only be concluded that a true appreciation of obsolescence had yet to come. In the large workshops of the station, capable of complete overhauls, tractors were seen in various stages of dismantling. Wear could be easily felt in the cylinders, and performance must have been very poor for a long time before the overhaul.

8.
 It was apparent, however, that only few spare-parts were carried, because the Soviets said that spare-parts could be obtained in Rostov.

25X1
25X1



25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1