

INTELLOFAX 32



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Leznice Uranium Mine, Ostrov	DATE DISTR.	9 November 1953
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- About 50 or 60 truckloads of uranium ore are mined each 24 hours at the Leznice mine, near Ostrov (N 51/K 60). Each truck carries three quarters of a cubic meter, or 15 hundredweight, of ore, so the daily total is about 900 hundredweight.
- The ore is of good quality. It is reddish in color and is called Smolka (pitchblende). There are also small veins of gold, silver, tungsten and other metals in the mine. The uranium ore in the Leznice mine is said to be the best of any mine in the district.
- Good-quality ore is stored in a building at the Leznice mine and every day a Tatra 11 truck conveys it to the central plant about 10 kilometers from the Leznice mine for further processing.
- In the central plant the ore is ground into a fine powder and floated in water, where the heavy grains of uranium fall to the bottom.
- An instrument called a Koroktor is used for locating ore. It is an ordinary five-tube radio receiver, working on a battery, which is worn on the operator's chest. The antenna runs straight along the handle or is T-shaped. The operator keeps the end of the antenna near the ground and listens to a buzzing noise in his earphone from which he can ascertain whether the ore is 20% or 100% (sic). The instrument responds even to slight traces of radioactivity, both dry and wet.
- The shifts at the mine are from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., and from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. The most exhausting shift is the night one. Prisoners spend one week on each shift.
- There are two cages running on electricity; they were made by Skoda. There are no passenger elevators anywhere in the Jachymov Mines, and cargo elevators are used to convey personnel. These are primitive but have not been known actually to break down. If the electric power is cut off, the emergency ladders along the wall of the elevator shaft are used, but it is very exhausting to climb up by the ladders.

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8. The mine lies under the camp and has three levels, which are known as the fifty, the hundred and the hundred and fifty. A deeper shaft, to the 200 meter level, is being prepared and is almost completed. The depth of the mine is constantly being increased, and every three months one floor is built on. The galleries are supported by wooden pit props.
9. There are two identical high-voltage transformers, built together. Only one at a time is switched on; the other is in reserve. The voltage is 220,000 V. The power wire for the mine and for the elevator is 20 mm. thick.
10. Six or eight civilians are employed in the administration offices of the mine. They are not in personal contact with the prisoners. They keep a card index of the prisoners working in the mine and also do the accounts. The mining officials have their own office in the same building; there are about nine of these officials.

Comment: Possibly a reference to the Technical Control Department (Oddeleni technicke kontroly), at Jachymov, which is about 10 kilometers from Ostrov.

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