50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Object No 9 had some mines in the Schneeberg area, but most of the mines controlled by it were located between the Oberschlema railroad station and the Mulde River. Minor quantities of uranium ore were still produced by the "Sieben-Schlehen"Mine, the "Beust" Mine and Mine No 76 in Schneeberg. Mines Nos 9 and 25 were deactivated in the spring of 1953. Mines under control of Object No 9 between Oberschlema and the Mulde River included Mines Nos 13, 13a, 38, 64, 136, 186, 217, 312 in addition to two unidentified mines immediately east of Mine No 186.

2. Object No 11 in charge of mine construction work served both Object No 9 and Object No 2 which adjoined the area of Object No 9 to the west. Object No 2 included Mines 6 or 6a, 7, 15, 27, 65, 66, 67, the "Stalin" Mine in addition to five unidentifi d mines. The Mines of Object No 9 and Object No 2 sent their ore to the ore processing plats at the "Blaufarbenwerk" (smalthouse) and Bruenlasberg.

3. Object No 9 had its headquarters in Aue and was directly subordinate to the Wismut AG Administration in Chemnitz. Prior to September 1953, Soviet Engineer Zemikoff (fnu) was chief of Object No 9. Department No 8 in charge of ore production was headed by Soviet Engineer Kushevski (fnu). Kornovallov (fnu) was the Soviet chief geologist. Object No 9 included the following departments:

Work Norms Department,	Soviet chief
Geological Department,	" "
Department No 8	" "
Political Department	" "

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Pay Office	German chief
Safety Department	" "
Mine Ventilation Department	" "
Finance Department	" "
Personnel Department	" "

4. Mine No 13 was located about 150 meters east of the Oberschlema railroad station and about 100 meters south of the Schneeberg-Niederschlema highway. In 1953, a new mine which was allegedly called Mine No 13a was opened some 100 meters southeast of Mine No 13. Mine No 312 was located 600 to 700 meters north of Mine No 13.

In the fall of 1953, the name of the German mine supervisor was Gerhard Opitz, a business clerk by profession. 50X1-HUM The name of the German chief geologist was Hartmut Buder, an assistant civil engineer by profession. A total of 7 geologists were attached to Mine No 13. The German mine surveyer was Helmut Voss, 50X1-HUM Voss attended a course at the Freiberg Academy of Mining. A total of seven German assistant mine surveyers belonged to Mine No 13. In charge of work norms was Hans Sander a business clerk by profession, 50X1-HUM Sander was a nominal SED member. The mine had seven clerks who were in charge of work norms and calculated the performance wages of workers. The German chief of the Department No 8 which was in charge of ore production was one Hamory (fnu) The German mine foreman controlled the seven foremen of mine districts (Reviersteiger) under whom worked 24 to 26 assistant foremen (Steiger) and 14 to 16 auxiliary foremen (Hilfssteiger). Three blasters, three foremen in charge of ventilation, one haulage foremen (Revier-Foerdersteiger) and five assistant haulage foremen worked underground at each shift while three foremen worked above ground. Ore testing was done by Germans under the control of Soviet soldiers. Five so-called radiometrists (ore tester) were assigned to each of the mine districts per shift. One radiometrist had to be present at each working face. After boreholes had been completed, the radiometrist had to check the radioactivity of the ore in the holes bored. The blasting operations had to be conducted in such a way as not to destroy ore veins. In the summer of 1953, the safety inspector of Mine No 13 was Hans Rain. The first SED secretary who also was an SSD confidant was one Krause (fnu), 50X1-HUM formerly a butcher at Zschorlau. The powder magazine was under the control of a German but was continuously guarded by a Soviet soldier. The Soviet soldiers observed at the mine belonged to a unit of the regular occupation troops.

5. 50X1-HUM Mine No 13 had five levels, the fifth level being at a depth of 240 meters below sea level (sic). The individual levels were about 60 meters apart, but an intermediate level existed between them. All galleries of the mine extended from northwest to southeast. The so-called Mark--Semmler Sohle which was at a depth of 30 meters below sea level (sic) interconnected almost all mines in the Schlema-Schneeberg area. Mining operations were conducted by hand and no cutting machinery was available. Mine No 312 which belonged to Mine No 13 was only used as an elevator shaft for

ore. The shaft had skip hoists for Masse and two skip hoists for low-grade ore. Mine No 312 extended down to the fifth level. The two elevator cages of Mine No 13 handled only boxed high-grade ore and low-grade ore in mine cars. The low-grade ore hauled to the surface through Shaft No 312 was shipped to the ore testing plant of Mine No 13, via a narrow-gauge field railroad track.

6. Most of the ore veins in Mine No 13 were inclined at an angle of 60 to 70 degrees and normally were from 1 to 4 cm thick. At some places, ore veins were found which were three meters long and up to 30 cm thick. In February or March 1953, such an ore vein which was found in the so-called "Sieggang" (victory vein) yielded 350 to 400 boxes of grade 1 ore.
Most of the uranium mines in the Schneeberg-Schlema area had to be built through a layer of schist. Only pitchblende was mined. At Mine No 13, this pitchblende looked black like anthracite. Occasionally also a dark grey uranium ore of a lesser quality was found. During gallery boring operations in the so-called "Sieggang", veins of galena and nickel up to 30 cm thick were found, but both galena and nickel were dumped unheeded.

7. Mine No 13 had a total work force of about 2,000 men. Work was done in three shifts and 380 to 400 men worked underground in each of these shifts. Because Soviet controls were inadequate, the following procedure was followed by the German miners: The first shift removed the waste. The second shift, the night shift, loosened the uranium ore by blasting operations, a procedure which was strictly forbidden, and the third shift packed the high-grade ore into boxes and hauled it to the surface. The standing Soviet order was that uranium ore lodes were to be picked by hand because too much valuable uranium ore was wasted by the blasting process.

8. From 70 to 80 boxes of grade 1 ore, 90 to 100 boxes of grade 2 ore, and 20 boxes of grade 3 ore were produced at Mine No 13 per day. From 90 to 100 tons of low-grade ore were produced per shift in addition to approximately 250 carloads of low-grade ore hoisted to the surface through Mine No 312. Waste was only hauled to the surface through Mine No 312. An estimated 1,200 to 1,300 mine carloads were removed per shift. The output of the mine was about the same between the fall of 1952 and the fall of 1953. After 1 September 1953, Mines Nos 13, 321, and 64 were formed into one unit for hoisting purposes. All the Masse produced at Mines Nos 13 and 64 were hauled to the surface through Mine No 312; and all low-grade ore of the two mines was hauled to the surface through Mine No 13. The boxes of high-grade ore produced at the two mines continued to be handled separately. In May 1953, the supervisor of Mine No 13 stated that the mine would be exhausted in about 15 years.

9. The ore which was packed in boxes was classified into grade 1, 2, and 3, grade 1 ore being the best material. Low-grade ore was classified into grades 3, 2, and 1, the best quality being grade 3 ore. High-grade ore was packed in boxes below ground. Grade 3 ore which was hoisted to the surface on mine trucks was sifted out above ground and subsequently packed in boxes. The ore shipped in boxes was also called "Stuff" ore by the Soviets. Bonuses were paid for every box or ore. The bonuses varied from 100 to 1.50 marks depending on the percentage of pitchblende. Grade 2 ore had a 20 to 50 percentage of pitchblende.

10. A radiometrist was assigned to each working face. The ore mined was coarsely sifted by the hewers themselves. In cases of doubt, the radiometrist tested the ore by his ore testing equipment. High-grade ore was packed in sheet metal containers measuring 60 x 30 x 30 cm. Full boxes weighed at least 60 kg. The containers were locked. A slip indicating the numerical designation of the working face and the mine district involved were put into the containers. The slip was marked by a four-digit number; the first number indicated the mine district and the subsequent three numbers the working face. In some cases, the level or the gallery where the ore was obtained was also indicated. All the containers were numbered consecutively. The radiometrists were assigned specific numbering sequences for the boxes filled with uranium ore at their respective working face. The control slips put into the ore containers were returned to the mine from the Bruenlasberg ore crushing plant after the special bonus due on each container had been recorded on the reverse side of the slip. About 85 percent of the bonus was paid to the brigade of hewers, the remainder to the radiometrist. The radioactivity of the materials packed in each box was entered by the radiometrist on special lists. Mine No 13 sent all its high-grade ore to the Bruenlasberg ore crushing plant after it had been checked at the ore testing plant of the mine.

11. Low-grade ore was loaded by hand on mine cars. An ore testing point for this type of ore was available at each level. The ore testing point was served by two Soviet soldiers. At Mine No 13 records were kept of the quantities of low-grade ore hauled to the surface from each mine district through Mine No 312. Low-grade ore was classified into grades 3 to 1 at an ore testing point above ground. Each mine carload was tested 25 to 30 seconds by Soviet soldiers. Low quality ore of grade 3 was sorted from waste material by means of a T-shaped ore testing device operated by German radiometrists. Ore of a higher quality than grade 3 was packed into boxes, the remaining ore went to the ore storage bunker.

12. Radiometrists working below ground used a portable uranium ore tester fitted with a rod-like cylinder of light metal which was about 45 cm long and 3 cm in diameter. This cylinder housed four tubes which resembled radio tubes. This ore tester which was also called "Sonde" was connected by a 1.5 meter rubber cable to a portable wooden box which housed the battery, the various switches, and the measuring scales. The medium switch made possible the adjustment of three different stages. The decimeter scale covered a range from 0 to 1,00. Since early 1952, the boxes and the tubes of the ore testing equipment have been sealed by lead. An ore testing device which used the same box, but was connected to a different type of Sonde, was used for control measurements and the sifting out of low-quality ore of grade 3 above ground. This Sonde consisted of a light-metal cylinder, 50 to 60 cm long and about 3.5 cm in diameter. A cross tube of the same shape as the light-metal cylinder of the first mentioned type of ore tester was fitted at the end of this tube. The longitudinal tube housed three large eliptical tubes, about 15 cm long and 2 to 2.5 cm in diameter. The tubes in the longitudinal cylinder were about twice as large as those in the cross cylinder.

13. The measuring plates used in connection with the ore testing equipment were of the same design at all ore testing stations. These measuring plates were fitted with radio tubes and measured 60 x 40 cm. Measuring plates used for the checking of mine cars measured about 120 c 180 cm.

14. Soviet Engineer Kushevski stated that the uranium ore mines in the Aue-Schlema area produced the best uranium ore in the world except for Australia. The pitchblende obtained in this area had 17 or 18 percent of U 238. The boxes of ore were sent to Department No 8 on ZIS-trucks to the Bruenlasberg ore crushing plant. Only Soviet drivers handled this ore and each truck was escorted by an MVD soldier. The ore crushing plant had no railroad connection. The installation was guarded by MVD personnel. On watch towers erected in the four corners of the fence surrounding the plant searchlights were mounted. The ore crushed at Bruenlasberg was packed into grey-brown cardboard containers, 20 to 25 cm in diameter and 40 cm high. The crushed ore was shipped toward Aue by details which consisted exclusively of MVD personnel. It was learned that this ore was not shipped to the Aue railroad station. The low-grade ore was shipped out from Mine No 13 on trucks. These shipments were handled by German personnel. Low quality ore of grade 3 was sent to the ore processing plant at the Blaufarbenwerk. Low quality ore of grades 2 and 1 was dispatched by rail to Crossen near Zwickau via the ore loading points at Aue and Niederschlema. This information was obtained from the loading foreman at the Aue railroad station. Before the low-quality ore of grades 2 and 1 left Mine No 13, it was weighed on special scales fitted with an ore testing device. This testing device was fitted with two sliding measuring plates, which were pressed on the uranium ore for each measuring operation. A scale of this type was available near Mine No 6 of Object No 2 and near the entrance of the ore washing plant at the Blaufarbenwerk which belonged to Object No 99. The trucks which handled low-quality ore of grade 3 were also weighed before they were dispatched to the Blaufarbenwerk ore washing plant. Low-quality ore of grade 3 produced by Objects Nos 2 and 9 were subject to wet-mill concentration at the Blaufarbenwerk ore washing plant.

15. A prospecting point was located at the third level of Mine No 13. When the borehole had reached a depth of about 70 meters, a layer of granite was reached which extended to a depth of 360 meters. Below this layer of granite there was a layer of uranium ore. The prospecting point was off limits to German personnel. Prospecting operations which were started in the summer of 1951, were supervised by Soviet geologists. In early 1952, a depth of at least 510 meters had been reached in these drilling operations. Another prospecting point of Mine No 13 was 150 to 200 meters south of this mine. At this point, the so-called "Sieggang" appeared to approach the surface. An effort was made to determine, by exploratory trenches 25 to 30 meters long and 150 to 200 cm deep, if the "Sieggang" could not be exploited more easily from the surface. Information on such prospecting activities was first obtained about the fall of 1952. About early 1952, the casino at Oberschlema was dismantled because five exploratory shafts were scheduled to be sunk on the site of this building. Prospecting work there continued until September 1953 when source left this area. Mine No 7 or Object No 2 located southeast of the Oberschlema casino, was said to be the most productive installation of Object No 2 in the spring of 1953.

16. Ore loading installations were available at Aue and Niederschlema. The installation at Aue was bigger than that at Niederschlema. Ore trucks arriving at the two installations discharged their load tinto storage bunkers. The different grades of ore were stored separately. Drag belts extended from the storage bunkers to the ore bins at the railroad station. At Niederschlema, four or five gondola cars with side walls 50 to 60 cm high, could be loaded simultaneously. Three discharge funnels were over each railroad car. The loading operation was performed rather efficiently. Ernst Gaessner from Zschorlau,

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was in charge of ore loading operations at Aue.

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