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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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COUNTRY USSR (Tatar ASSR)

DATE DISTR. 15 April 1955  
50X1SUBJECT Tyulyachinskiy Machine Tractor Station  
(MTS) and Kolkhozy in Tatar ASSR

NO. OF PAGES 5

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The Tyulyachinskiy MTS was located about two kilometers north of a small stream called the Mesha River on the eastern outskirts of the village of Tyulyachi. (N 55-55, E 50-15) Tyulyachinskiy Rayon, Tatar ASSR. In March 1951 this MTS employed about 200 people and, together with another MTS located just south of the Mesha River, serviced 62 kolkhozy in the rayon. Prior to 1949 the Tyulyachinskiy MTS was the only one in the entire rayon, but in the spring of that year it was decided to transfer some of the equipment and set up another MTS on the south bank of the Mesha River. This was done because each spring the stream overflowed its banks and washed out wooden bridges, which necessitated making long detours to cross the stream and reach the kolkhozy in the southern sector of the rayon. Source could supply no information concerning the second MTS located on the southern bank of the Mesha River, other than the fact that it was approximately half the size of the Tyulyachinskiy MTS.
2. The Tyulyachinskiy MTS was comprised of the following buildings:
  - a. Workshop - This was a one-story structure, 25 x 35 meters, which included a lathe shop with three old lathes, a fitter shop (slesarnyy tsekh), a forge, a large room where maintenance and repair work on tractors and combines was carried out, and a small room which housed a one-cylinder diesel motor for running the lathes. Only small items such as nuts, bolts, etc. were made in the lathe shop. All other spare parts for tractors and combines were obtained from the warehouse. Tractor and combine operators carried out maintenance work on their own machines while repair work was done by workshop employees. All together, 13 people were employed here, including three mechanics, four blacksmiths, three fitters, two lathe operators, and one machinist.
  - b. Warehouse - A one-story, stone building, about 10 x 20 meters, which contained various spare parts, including tires, radiators, various tractor-motor parts, etc. Only one worker was employed here. He was also in charge of three fuel tanks maintained at the station. These were approximately nine meters long and three meters in diameter, mounted above the ground on concrete bases. Two of the tanks contained kerosene for tractors, and the third contained gasoline for trucks belonging to the MTS.

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- c. Office building - This was a small, one-story, frame structure, which contained the office of the MTS director, the office of the Deputy Director for Political Affairs, and a third room for other office personnel, which included the secretary to the director, the senior agronomist, two assistant agronomists, and four accountants.
- d. Sheds - There were two wooden sheds about 20 x 15 meters, both of which were used for storing headers during the winter. Tractors and combines remained outside all year round.
- e. Houses - There were two houses located at the station. These were one-story, frame buildings, about 15 x 10 meters. The MTS director and his family lived in one of these houses and the other was occupied by the senior agronomist.

1. In March 1951, in addition to the station personnel listed above, this MTS also employed about 150 tractor operators, 17 combine operators, and four truck drivers, and it had about 75 tractors, 17 combines, and five trucks. Assistant combine operators received their entire pay, both money and grain, from the kolkhoz where they worked and were not strictly considered employees of the MTS. Of the 17 combines maintained by the MTS, ten were Kommunar types, fairly old models but in good operating condition; the other seven were relatively new self-propelled S-4 combines. [redacted] breakdown on tractors.

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- a. Approximately 98, 30-h.p., three-wheel, KhtZ tractors utilizing kerosene fuel.
- b. Approximately 30, 50-h.p., Caterpillar NATI-type STZ or KhtZ tractors, utilizing kerosene fuel.
- c. Five 54-h.p. Caterpillar DT-54, STZ diesel tractors.
- d. Two 80-h.p., Caterpillar S-80, ChTZ diesel tractors.

2. The MTS received new models of the latter two types of tractors for the first time in 1950. [redacted]

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[redacted] the MTS had obtained several more DT-54 tractors and self-propelled S-4 combines. [redacted] the MTS had received a tank which [redacted] was an old model and which supposedly was to be used in training combine and tractor operators during winter months. Of the five trucks which the MTS maintained, three were one and one-half-ton open GAZ-MM-A types, one was a fuel truck of about five tons which source could not identify, and one was a closed GAZ-MM-A which contained tools and spare parts and was used as a mobile workshop in the field.

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3. [redacted] there was sufficient mechanization to properly operate the kolkhozy located in Tyulyachinskiy Rayon. Prior to 1951, for example, on the Kolkhoz i/a Kalina in Kovali, which was about 2,500 hectares in size, there were five tractors and one combine. In the fall of 1951, three more tractors and two more combines were added to this kolkhoz. In all, there were five 50-h.p. NATI Caterpillar-type tractors, three 30-h.p., KhtZ three-wheel tractors, one self-propelled S-4 type combine, and two Kommunar combines assigned to operate on this kolkhoz.

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4. In fall 1950, [redacted] the work norm for a combine operator harvesting grain was 10 hectares per day; for clover the norm was considerably less. [redacted] this norm was the same for all kolkhozy in Tatar ASSR. While individual combine operators varied greatly in their productive capabilities, on the average the norm was fulfilled. [redacted] in parts of the Ukraine where the land was more level the work norm was considerably higher, while in other parts of the country norms were lower.

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[redacted] Combine operators worked normally

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from sunrise to sunset. Operators of self-propelled combines were paid at the rate of five rubles per hectare for every hectare of grain harvested up to ten hectares. They received double this amount if the daily norm was exceeded. Thus, an operator of a self-propelled combine would receive 50 rubles for harvesting 10 hectares, 110 rubles for harvesting 11 hectares, 120 rubles for harvesting 12 hectares, etc. Other combine operators received approximately 25 percent less than this since they worked in conjunction with a tractor. In general, the pay was five times higher per hectare for clover. In addition to money, combine operators received 200 grams of mixed grain for every 100 kilograms harvested, up to 3,000 kilograms. If more than 3,000 kilograms was harvested, they were paid at the rate of 300 grams for every 100 kilograms. Above 5,000 kilograms, the rate of pay per kilogram was still higher. If an operator succeeded in harvesting more than 220 hectares in one season, he received an additional bonus of 25 poods of grain and an additional sum of money. Tractor operators usually worked 24 hours a day in two 12-hour shifts, and were paid in grain and money on a work-day basis.

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for an equal time period, it was considerably less than what combine operators received. Other MTS workers were paid only in money.

Prior to Stalin's death, except for grain grown in special sectors of the kolkhoz for use as seeds for next year's crop, 15 percent of the grain grown on kolkhozy was given directly to the MTS for services rendered, 70 percent went to the State, and 15 percent remained for the kolkhoz. The kolkhoz also paid the grain wages for MTS combine operators, assistant combine operators, and tractor operators. the State made an enormous profit on the grain, i.e., the 70 percent allotted to the State. It was purchased from the kolkhoz at the rate of three to six rubles per 100 kilograms and sold at the rate of about two rubles per kilogram. In 1953, after Stalin's death,

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the following three principal changes were instituted, two of them apparently designed to better the economic conditions of the kolkhoznik:

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- a. The kolkhozy no longer turned over 15 percent of the grain directly to the MTS and 70 percent to the State but instead turned the entire 85 percent over to the State, which in turn paid the MTS.
- b. Kolkhozy no longer had to pay the grain portion of combine and tractor operator wages.
- c. The grain which was turned over to the State was based on 85 percent of the actual harvest rather than on 85 percent of the calculated harvest.

The Kolkhoz i/a Kalinia, which was approximately 2,500 hectares in size, was primarily devoted to grain culture. No vegetables other than potatoes and peas were grown except in the private garden plots of kolkhoz workers. In 1949 the following crops were grown on the Kolkhoz i/a Kalinia: rye, spring wheat, oats, barley, vetch, millet, buckwheat, lentil, clover, potatoes, peas, sun flowers, and flax. rye took up 30 percent of the sown area while oats and spring wheat together occupied another 15 percent. All crops were planted in spring except rye, which was sown in September and harvested the following July. Only one hectare was devoted to sunflowers. Flax had been grown on this kolkhoz prior to World War II but not in postwar years until 1949 when one hectare was planted for seeds. No chemical fertilizers were used on this kolkhoz or on the Kolkhoz i/a Stalina in Kibich. Manure was spread only on about two percent of the entire field area. Furthermore, it was usually carted out to the same nearby fields year after year. Crop rotation was employed on the kolkhoz, the kolkhoz was divided into ten sectors and that something different was usually planted in each sector every year. A small percentage of the land was allowed to remain fallow each year.

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After the harvest, the grain, potatoes, and peas were put into bags and hauled in horse-drawn wagons and trucks to Arsk (N 56-06, E 49-50), which was the main State storage depot in this area. Grain was brought here from all collective farms within a radius of about 50 kilometers and weighed before storage.

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three places in Arsk where the grain was stored. One of these was a church near the center of town and the other two were specially constructed State grain storage bases which were located along the railway line on the outskirts of town. These areas consisted of many long one-story wooden buildings surrounded by a high wooden fence. Several hired civilian guards, who wore no uniforms, were posted to guard these areas.

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10. The kolkhoz also had livestock and possessed about 30 cows, 50 horses, 40 pigs, hundreds of sheep, and about 100 beehives. Some individual families also possessed their own animals, which consisted of cows, pigs, chickens, geese, and ducks. Each kolkhoz family was allotted a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -hectare garden plot. Potatoes were the basic item grown in these plots with relatively small spaces devoted to onions, carrots, and beets. Individual families also owned livestock.

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about 25 percent of the families had one cow; 30 percent had pigs; 80 percent owned sheep, up to five per family; more than 90 percent had geese, one to three per family; all had chickens, five to ten per family; and about 5 percent had bee hives.

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11. The administration of the kolkhoz included a chairman, an agricultural technician (agrotekhnik), an accountant, an assistant accountant, and six brigadiers. The chairman of this collective farm was always a native of the village and usually held this position for several years in a row. Although he was officially elected in an electoral meeting at the kolkhoz, the chairman was actually appointed to his job and was merely an agent of the rayon or some higher authority.

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12. the Kolkhoz i/n Stalin at Kibich

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was about 3,000 hectares in size and was very similar to the Kolkhoz i/n Kalinin in almost every way except that neither flax nor any other technical crop was grown. In 1950 the average yield of rye on this kolkhoz was about 10 centners per hectare, while the yield of wheat was only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 centners per hectare.

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Although this was a poor year, it was a rather typical postwar year. The poor postwar yields were generally due to heavy droughts which affected the entire region.

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13. 1953 was roughly twice as bountiful as the average postwar year. this had been the best year since World War II and the

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first in which kolkhoz workers had received money as part of their payment. In general, kolkhoz workers were paid on the average for 150 to 200 work-days but in rare instances for as much as 500 work-days per year, depending on their jobs. In 1953 a work-day was paid at the rate of 20 kopeks, two kilograms of grain, four grams of butter, and five grams of honey. The reason kolkhoz workers received money for the first time this year was due to the fact that it was a good harvest year and not because of the previously-mentioned changes instituted by the government after Stalin's death.

14. Kolkhoz workers could barely eke out a living from their wages and from what they managed to grow on the  $\frac{1}{4}$ -hectare plots allotted each family. They only received a small portion of the grain after the harvest since most of that which was allotted to the kolkhoz each year was used to purchase tools, lumber, livestock, etc. Prior to 1946 peasants frequently resorted to stealing grain which had been set aside for seeds at the kolkhoz. In 1946, however, the penalty for this crime was increased from two or three years in a corrective labor camp to ten years, 25 years, or even longer in some instances. As a result, grain stealing became much less prevalent.

15. Various taxes and the necessity to subscribe to the State loan were a further heavy burden on kolkhoz workers. In Kovali, the average family contributed 100 rubles, or more of their yearly earnings to the State loan and was subject to the following taxes:

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a. Bachelor tax - this amounted to 150 rubles per year for each unmarried person over the age of 19, or 300 rubles for every married couple with no children. The tax diminished proportionately as the number of children in the family increased. Parents with three or more children did not have to pay anything.

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b. Property tax - there was a ten percent tax on all livestock owned by individual families other than geese, ducks, chickens, cats, and dogs. This was based on the set value of the animals. Garden plots were also taxed



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c. Income tax - anyone who happened to own a camera or sewing machine and attempted to make use of such possessions to earn money on the side was forced to give the government a large portion of such earnings in the form of income tax.



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