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- 1. The "Uralselmash" Agricultural Machinery Plant in Kurgan consists actually of two plants. The old plant, constructed before World War II, is located in the eastern part of the town, whereas the new one is in the southwestern part. This report describes the new "Uralselmash" plant, which was started in 1946 and whose entire machinery and equipment was brought from Germany, where some German plants were dismantled by the Soviet Occupation Army and taken as reparations to the USSR. I do not know to which German plants this machinery originally belonged. The new "Uralselmash" has probably been in operation since 1948, and is still in the stage of expansion. According to rumors, when completed this is supposed to be the third largest plant of its type in the USSR.

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2. The present area of the plant is approximately 1200 x 1000 m (120 hectares) and has the form of an uneven rectangle extending from east to west. The northern edge of the plant borders and runs parallel to the Chelyabinsk-Kurgan highway. The terrain of the area is flat and bare except for rows of trees planted around individual workshops, serving for camouflage purposes against aerial reconnaissance.
3. At the present time the "Uralselmash" plant manufactures hay presses, grain sorting machines, tree planting machines VIM, horse-drawn threshers, planing machines (Strogal'nye stanki) and artillery shell cases. Until 1950 the plant also manufactured large numbers of threshing machines. I was told that during World War II the parent plant (the old "Uralselmash"), manufactured Maxim machine guns and submachine guns. There are some rumors that in the near future "Uralselmash" will start making tractors and combines, and that it is earmarked to manufacture tanks in case of war. According to the same rumors, the conversion from peacetime to wartime production should not take more than several days. Even now, in peacetime, the "Uralselmash" plant operates on a 24-hour day, in three shifts.
4. The "Uralselmash" plant consists of eight workshops, marked on the enclosed sketch 1 to 8 Enclosure (A)7. All workshops are of the same standard type one-story brick houses, painted red and covered with tar paper. The average size of a workshop is 250 x 50 m. In its eastern portion each workshop is provided with subconstruction of one-two additional stories, giving the necessary space for the shop offices, spare part rooms, supply rooms, etc. The workshops are well lighted and steam heated. The plant workshops are as follows numbers in parenthesis correspond to those of Enclosure (A)7:
- (1) Ordnance Machine Shop. This shop manufactures various tools. The real assignment and function of this shop, however, is unknown. According to rumors it is supposed to manufacture tanks. In this shop are located about 180 machines: boring and turning lathes, grinding, milling, planing and drilling machines.
 - (2) Mechanical Repair Shop. Machines and tools belonging to both "Uralselmash" plants are repaired in this workshop. It is equipped with 80-100 lathes, grinding and planing machines, and several electric presses.
 - (3) Assembly Shop. Parts of machines manufactured in the plant are assembled in this workshop. There is a belt conveyer line and about 70 lathes, milling, drilling, thread-milling machines and broaching lathes.
 - (4) Foundry. The foundry is equipped with two belt conveyer lines, 40 air-pressed molding machines, and two large electrically operated foundry cranes. In this workshop are manufactured all cast-iron parts for machinery produced in the plant.
 - (4a) Non-ferrous Metal Foundry. This shop is under construction and no equipment has arrived yet. It will be 50 x 50 m, a one-story brick building.

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- (5) Finishing (Cleaning) Shop. The cast-iron parts manufactured in the foundry are finished and cleaned in this shop. The shop is provided with approximately 50 drum sanders and drum milling machines and 100 grinding machines.
- (6) Carpenter Shop. Manufactures wooden parts for machinery produced in the plant; equipped with approximately 100 wood-processing machines of various usual types (planing, drilling machines, circular and rip saws, etc.)
- (7) Forge Shop. Equipped with approximately 150 punching machines of various sizes and types. The forge shop hall serves also as a workers' assembly room where meetings and political lectures are held.
- (7a) Smithy. Equipped with nine drop hammers, capacity nine tons each, and four large pneumatic hammers.
- (8) Wood-Drying Shop. Contains wood-drying equipment. There is no machinery in this shop. The shop is used to prepare and to conserve wood needed for production of wooden parts for machinery.

The remaining installations and facilities are as follows:

- (9) Electric Power Plant. Produces electric power for the "Uralselmash" internal needs and for some other smaller plants located in the vicinity. The produced current has tension of 220 and 380 volts.
 - (11 & 11a) Tool, Instrument and Spare Parts Supply Rooms. In this building are stored reserve and replacement tools and machine spare parts for machinery used in the plant.
 - (15) Electrical Equipment Store Room. This is for storage of various electrical equipment for plant's internal needs. In addition to this there is a large number of huge transformers, whose purpose is unknown to me.
 - (16) Transportation Section. This is a large hall where motor vehicles belonging to the plant are kept. There are approximately eight busses, 20 trucks (GAZ), three tractors, and six or seven passenger vehicles.
5. The "Uralselmash" plant employs approximately 4000 workers. Out of this number 1000 are forced labor camp inmates, living in the "4th Colony" camp, adjoining the plant. The rest are mainly women and youngsters. I am not able to give a breakdown on individual shops. Work shifts are of the same strength, i.e. approximately 1300 workers. The shifts' worktimes are as follows: I-0800 - 1700; II-1700 - 0200; III-0200 - 0800. Since the plant, except the foundry, operates on a six-day week basis, the weekly working hours for the 1st and 2nd shifts are 48 hours, and 36 hours for the 3rd shift. (1st and 2nd shifts had one-hour meal periods.) Sunday is the day off. The foundry, however, operates on a seven-day week basis.

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6. Worker's wages are computed on a piece work system so it is rather difficult to give exact figures of wages received by various groups of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers. I am able to give only information on approximate monthly wages, which would be as follows:

- (a) Skilled workers, like foundry-men, forgers, and assembly mechanics are making up to 2000-3000 rubles
- (b) Semi-skilled workers are getting 600-800 rubles
- (c) Women and youngsters, 400-600 rubles

Wages are paid twice a month. I do not know whether the forced labor camp inmates working in the plant receive any wages. If they do, it is probably deposited to their accounts kept in the camp, to be paid after release. The morale of "free" workers is rather low because of the hard work, insufficient wages and poor housing conditions. Large numbers of workers are living in the plant's housing project, close to the plant area. The project consists of several large apartment houses, two-story buildings, where workers with families are assigned single rooms. It is quite normal for a family of four or five to live in one room. Apartments are not provided with bathrooms or shower-rooms, and there is not even running water. Each kitchen is shared by four or five families. The other workers, who could not be accommodated in the housing project, live in Kurgan, where the living conditions are still worse than in the project. Those living in the project walk to the plant and back, and the others living in Kurgan are transported to and from the plant by factory busses. According to the Soviet standards, the workers' health conditions are satisfactory. After pay-days there is always quite heavy drinking among workers, followed by non-attendance at work the next day. In spite of strict regulations and punishments prescribed for loafing, the plant's authorities are unable to eliminate the so-called "blue Mondays". Except for drinking, there is not much entertainment available to workers. Sometimes on Sundays there is a dance in the club building located close to the main gate. The library, which is located in the club building, contains mostly propaganda books and is not frequented by workers. There are also weekly political meetings obligatory for all workers. They are usually held in the forge shop hall during the one-hour lunch period. These lectures are delivered by shop supervisors, and sometimes by the plant's director. The subjects are either such well-known propaganda items as "aggressive intentions of the US towards the Soviet Union" and "the inevitability of the Third World War" or instructions for the fulfillment of assigned production quotas, newsreels, etc. Among workers there is no interest in these lectures, and except for a few individuals, no attention is ever paid to what is discussed.

7. The "Uralselmash" plant is located alongside the Kurgan - Chelyabinsk highway, hardly 50 m to the south of it. It is connected to the above highway by a road through the so-called auxiliary gate on the northern edge of the plant's area. Two main roads on the plant's area lead: a) from the main gate in the east (18) - to the transportation section (16); b) from the auxiliary gate (19) - to the southern gate (21). To the west from the carpenter shop (6) both these roads are connected with a link. In addition to these

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two main roads, there are many secondary roads on the plant's area connecting all individual workshops and installations. Through the so-called railroad gate (20) a railroad spur connects the plant and Kurgan's freight station. Two local railroad spurs run alongside the southern and northern edges of the plant's area, as indicated on the enclosed sketch. In the northwestern part of the area there is a railroad triangle facilitating the internal railroad shunting.

8. The plant area is surrounded by a wooden board fence 2½ m high, provided with several rows of barbed wire on the top. Eleven watchtowers with permanent guards are located in spaces indicated on the enclosed sketch. The towers are equipped with searchlights illuminating fence spans between the adjoining towers. In addition to this, at nights the entire fence is lighted. At the time when the forced labor camp convicts are not working in the plant, the guard and security service in the plant's area is performed by the plant's guard detachment which has approximately 50 men. When the convicts are in, this detachment is reinforced by a detail of MVD men who take over the tower and gate guard duty. There is also a permanent 24-hour day gate guard service, and the posts are located as follows: main gate (18); check point (12); auxiliary gate (19), and the south gate (21).
9. I have no information on the kind and quantity of raw materials and semi-finished products used by the plant, destination and consumers of manufactured goods, and no information on the names of administrative and supervisory personnel.

-end-

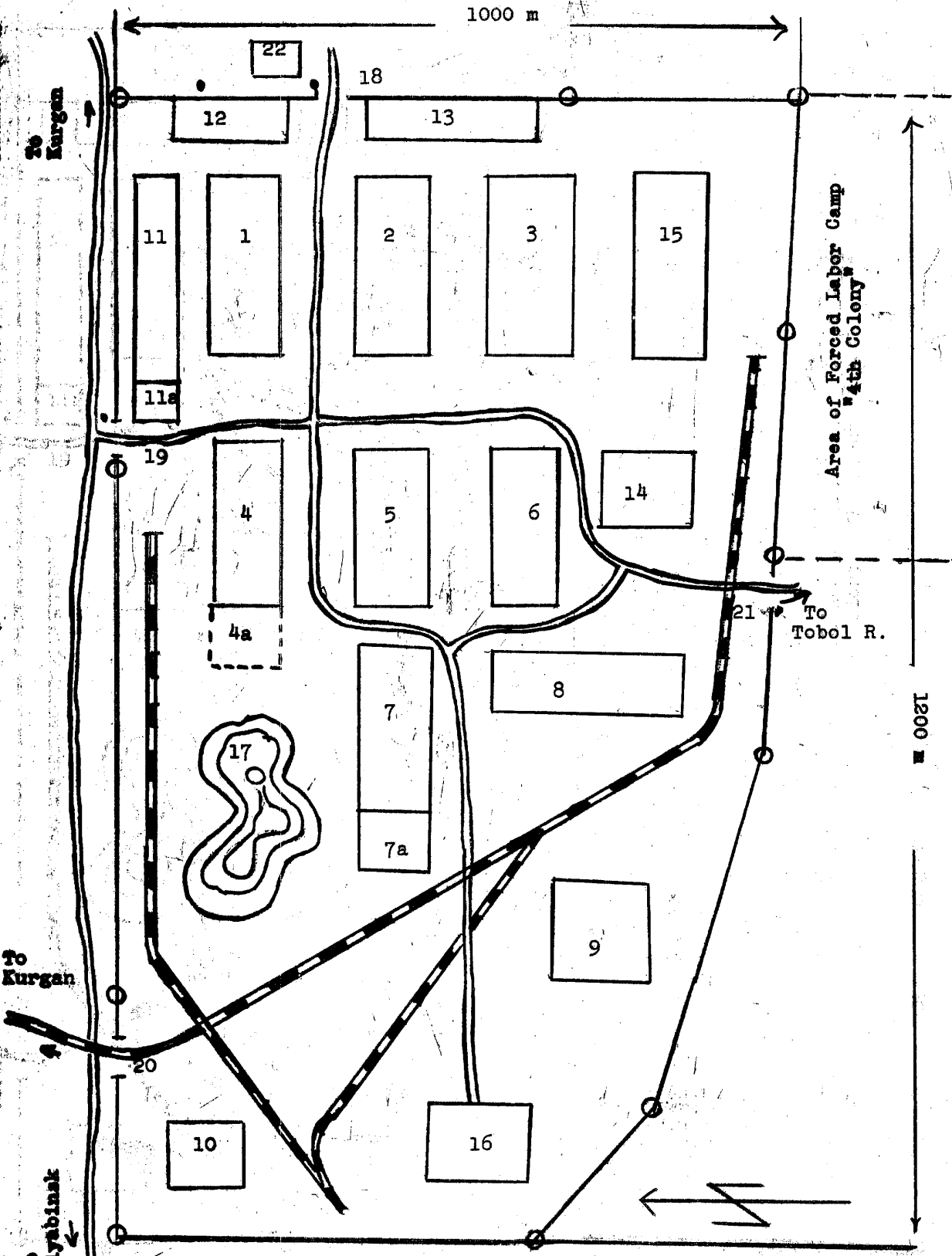
Enclosure (A): Location Sketch of the "Uralselmash" plant, with legend.

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Location Sketch "Uralselmash" Agricultural Machinery Plant in Kurgan
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Enclosure (A)

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Legend to the Location Sketch "Uralselmash" Agricultural
Machinery Plant in Kurgan

1. Ordnance Machine Shop
2. Mechanical Repair Shop
3. Assembly Shop
4. Foundry
- 4a. Non-ferrous Metal Foundry
5. Finishing (Cleaning) Shop
6. Carpenter Shop
7. Forge Shop
- 7a. Smithy
8. Wood-Drying Shop
9. Electric Power Plant
10. Guard House
- 11 & 11a. Tool, Instrument and Spare Parts Supply Room
12. Punch-clock Room and Dispensary
13. Administration Building
14. Boiler Room
15. Electrical Equipment Store Room
16. Transportation Section
17. Lake
18. Main Gate
19. Auxiliary Gate
20. Railroad Gate
21. Southern Gate
22. Club and Library Building

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