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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

50X1-HUM
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COUNTRY USSR (Byele-Russia)

DATE: _____
INFO. _____

SUBJECT Situation in Minsk:
1. Factories
2. Living Conditions
3. PW Camps

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ORIGIN _____

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- The automobile assembly plant in Minsk is turning out 40-45 Ford and Mack trucks daily. The plant includes a German FRAMO assembly, installed in the spring of 1946, and numerous German lathes. **Comment:** Possibly FAMO, Fahrzeug- und Motorenbau, whose Breslau plant was dismantled by the Russians.) There are seven assembly lines with conveyor belts in operation at the moment and five more are planned. However, there is a shortage of parts, particularly ball bearings, and completed vehicles often have to be dismantled partially later to provide parts for urgent jobs. Three-and-a-half ton trailers are also assembled but they can carry only 1 1/2 tons effectively. They are turned over to the communal farms. **Comment:** A report of September 1946 stated that there is a new motor vehicle and tractor factory in Minsk which is under the same management as the tank factory and produces vehicles solely for military purposes.) 50X1-HUM
- Workers are chiefly Komsomoltsy. Although they grumble at the daily wage of five rubles, they like working in factories, where they can steal metal, out of which they make locks, knives, etc., for private resale at 15 rubles and upwards.
- A small bicycle factory and a textile mill are to be erected at Minsk.
- Food was scarce with the exception of bread, which was plentiful. The October 1946 ration included 1/4 lb. jam per person and 1 kilogram of meat. Household goods, such as glass plates and cooking utensils, can occasionally be bought but generally there is a great lack of metal articles. A spoon costs three rubles and a needle one ruble. Tires, made from Russian synthetic rubber, are the only articles in good supply.
- One-story houses, each with two entrances, are being built rapidly for factory workers. Each entrance opens onto four rooms, with one kitchen for two families. Rooms are 4 m. by 4 m.
- To discount stories told by returning Russian soldiers, posters have been put up in Minsk about the bad conditions in Germany; these are illustrated by pictures of ill-clad and ill-shod Germans. 50X1-HUM
- PW Camp 168/1 at Minsk holds 4,000 men, while in the neighborhood are twelve smaller camps (Nos. 168/2-15), each with 80 to 150 men employed in workshops or on communal farms. **Comment:** _____ Camp No. 168 at Minsk as holding 2,000 men in July-August 1946.) The prisoners are of German, 50X1-HUM

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Austrian, Slovak, Romanian, Bulgarian, and Dutch nationality. Treatment has improved. There is very little political training and such as there is is badly organized. Austrians do not appear to be released according to any particular plan.

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