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CLASSIFICATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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By: *OL*

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. [redacted] the wind-tunnel at Avrieux (Savoie) on the road from Modane to Lanslebourg is to become the most powerful instrument of its kind in the world.
2. At Avrieux there are two projects being carried on; one, the wind-tunnel, and the other, a hydroelectric center capable of furnishing 100,000 horsepower or the current necessary to operate the wind-tunnel without depending upon other power lines.
3. For a distance of ten kilometers from Entre-deux-Eaux the waters of the Doron, a swift-flowing torrent near the Dent-Parrachée, a mountain 3700 meters high, have been channeled since March 1948 through the efforts of 2500 or more workers. The remaining ten kilometers to Avrieux are piped and provide an 880 meter hydraulic head. Although the 2000 meter drop between Entre-deux-Eaux and Avrieux may ultimately be utilized, the final arrangement of dams, piping, and turbine stations is uncertain for financial reasons.
4. It is planned to establish intermediate stations at Entre-deux-Eaux, Termignon, Sardières, Sollières, as well as the main plant at Avrieux. On plateaux overlooking these stations two laboratories will be set up for the purpose of studying speeds from 2500 to 10,000 kilometers per hour. All this work is undertaken by the Office National des Etudes et Recherches Aéronautiques and this bureau has bought a mountain to help provide concrete for the undertaking.
5. The wind-tunnel itself is built in a closed circuit in the middle of which is the power-house. The torrent falls on two thirty-ton turbines each of which develops 55,000 horsepower and operates two blowers, one of fourteen and the other of twelve blades. The high-velocity wind thus released passes into a sheet-iron nozzle 25 meters in diameter and several hundred meters long. This nozzle makes two right angles. The connecting ellipses whose smaller diameter corresponds to that of the piping grows to 35 meters in diameter at the largest dimension. The piping which finally makes the complete circuit narrows to a point eight meters in diameter in order to bring the air to its greatest speed of 332 meters per second at the entrance to the testing chamber.
6. The tunnel is aerodynamic in shape and is placed on fixed bases. The model rests motionless on its supports and the rushing flow of air reproduces the phenomena of speed. Most of the equipment for the wind-tunnel has been taken

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from the Oetzal installation near Innsbruck, Austria, in the French Zone of Occupation. Already 4000 tons of equipment have been transferred to Avrieux from Austria.

7. The workers, most of whom come from surrounding territory, are carefully screened before they are hired. There are no prisoners of war and almost no foreigners except a few negroes from North Africa. Apparently there are no Communists among the workers and there have been no strikes.

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