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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 22 Sept. 1950

SUBJECT The Solvay Caustic Soda
Factory at Uioara

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED] 25X1A

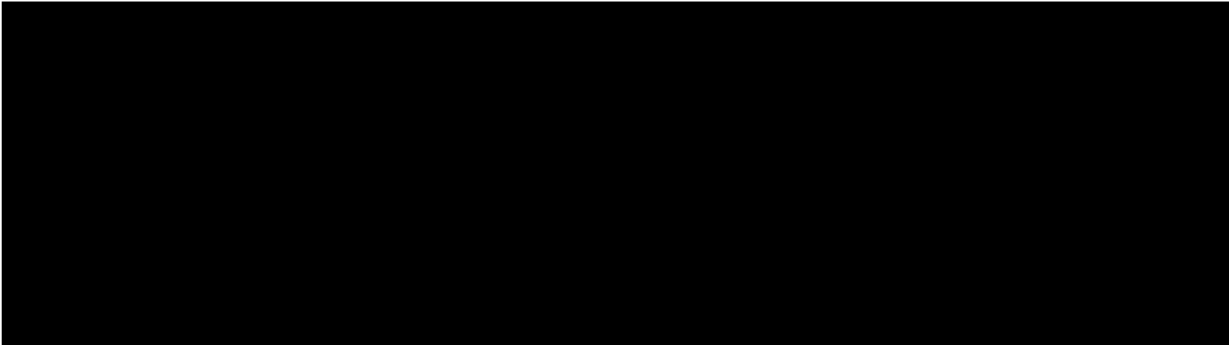
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NO. OF ENCLS. 1 sketch (LISTED BELOW)

25X1A

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]



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1. This plant, formerly Belgian-owned, is now controlled by the Central administration for the chemical industry. The general manager is Engineer Weinberger, a chemical expert; he is both technical and administrative manager. The following administrative and technical chiefs are also employed: Chief clerk Berger; chief engineer Erdely; chief mechanic and head of the trade union Rosca, a Communist. The number of workmen is approximately 300, of whom 15 percent are women. There are approximately 50 clerical and other administrative employees.
2. Uioara is situated in Transylvania, in the valley of the river Mures, on the south bank of the river; on the north bank of the river is the main railroad line between Bucharest, Teius, Cluj and Oradea. On the north the plant area borders directly on the Mures River from which it is separated by an embankment which is 10 feet high and 16 feet wide. This embankment was built in 1916, at the same time as the factory, and begins in the east at Teloky castle and extends westward to a point 660 feet on the other side of the bridge. To the east of the plant area is a brickyard; behind it rises the steep Uioara hill, on which the smaller portion of the town of Uioara is situated. Southeast of the factory are the municipal baths and behind them, about 1,300 feet distant from the premises of the plant, is the Uioara salt factory, the products of which are the basis for the production of the soda factory. On its other sides the factory is surrounded by the buildings of the town of Uioara. Uioara is connected to the main railroad line by a branch line starting from the Feldioara-Razboieni railroad station on the Teius-Cluj line. The legend of the attached sketch is as follows:
 - a. Pressure-regulator house for the natural gas line. This is a concrete building, 13 feet by 13 feet, with two pressure regulators, one for high pressure of over 85 pounds per square inch above atmospheric, one for low pressure less than 85 pounds per square inch above atmospheric, and the counter.
 - b. Porter's house, a concrete building, 16 feet by 13 feet.
 - c. Fire station and garages, a concrete building, 66 feet by 33 feet.

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25X1A

- 2 -

- d. Mechanical workshops, a concrete building, 130 feet by 33 feet. The workshop is well equipped with modern machine tools, such as automatic lathes, milling machines, drilling machines, et cetera.
 - e. Administration building, a two-story concrete building, 100 feet by 33 feet. On the ground floor are the management offices, the pay office, and the bookkeeping office, while on the second floor are the technical offices and the drafting offices.
 - f. Storehouse, a concrete building, 82 feet by 33 feet. In this building machine parts, replacement parts, and tools are stored, as well as gasoline and various chemical materials.
 - g. Boiler house, a concrete building, 115 feet by 40 feet by 33 feet. It houses six high pressure boilers (340 pounds per square inch), fired by natural gas.
 - h,i,k. Factory buildings; three concrete buildings, of a single story each, 100 feet by 40 feet by 33 feet, which house the installations for the production of caustic soda.
 - l. Lime depot, a concrete building, 500 feet by 26 feet by 26 feet.
 - m. Open-air lime store.
 - n. Six lime kilns for burning the lime required for the production of soda. Each kiln is made of refractory bricks and is 100 feet in diameter, and 100 feet high. The distance between the kilns is 16 feet. The kilns are fired by natural gas. West of the kilns is a metal bridge 102 feet high with two narrow-gage tracks along which run small trucks; on each end is an elevator and a turntable for charging the kilns with lime. The burnt lime is tapped on a level with the ground.
 - o. Open-air depot for burnt lime and caustic soda in barrels.
 - p. Porter's house, a concrete building 16 feet by 13 feet.
 - q. Bathing establishment.
 - r. Brick works.
 - s. Salt works.
 - t. Teleky castle.
 - u. Gas line.
 - v. River embankment.
 - w. Mount Uicara.
3. Natural gas for heating the boilers and kilns comes from the Transylvanian natural gas wells. The natural gas comes through a twin pipe line, each pipe of which is 95 mm. in diameter, over the railroad and street bridge near the pressure-regulator house (a. on sketch). A tap-line leads to the Solvay Works, but the pipe line goes on through the premises of the Cloura plant as far as the aforementioned brick works. The factory produces soda after the solvay method. In 1947-1948, the daily production, at full capacity, was approximately 250 tons. The finished product is shipped by rail. For organic purposes the plant has 10 large trucks and three passenger cars plus a small steam shunting locomotive. A large part of the production is exported to the Soviet Union.
4. The plant area is surrounded by a wall, 8.2 feet high and has its own fire brigade. A number of the plant's own night-watchmen perform the patrol duty within the ring fence of the plant, four other watchmen patrol outside the fence.

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