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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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Nikola Tesla Industrial School

1. The School, which comprises three two-story buildings, inter-connected by a corridor, is located at 66 Bastijanova Street in Zagreb. The classrooms are situated on the first floor, while the dormitories are on the upper floors. The requirement for admission is completion of four lower grades of the gymnasium. In 1950 the Nikola Tesla School had a total of approximately 600 students, divided into three classes.

2. The subjects taught at the School are electricity, electric machinery, low voltage instruments, transmission of electric current, electrical installations, general machinery, mathematics, engineering draftsmanship, and the Serbo-Croatian language. During the first year, general science subjects are taught, and students acquire practical experience in the workshop of the School. In the second year, students are divided into specialized groups, such as electricians, machinists, and mechanics, according to the specific desire of the student. The third year offers to the students practical experience in the Rade Koncar Factory in Zagreb.

"Radio" School in Belgrade

3. The School is thus termed in order to camouflage its actual purpose, and students are thoroughly briefed in maintaining it a secrecy. The building is located at 43 Timocka Street, and provides a course in research on radioactive ores. The course, which covers a period of six months, includes theory and practical training. In 1950 the School had two classes, each containing from fifty to sixty students. Upon completion of the course, students are given the title of "prospector" in order to conceal their real professional work.

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4. The various instructors and subjects taught are listed as follows:

a. Eng. Gjorgjevic . . . . . Geiger-Mueller Counters

b. Prof. Surutka . . . . . Electricity

c. Prof. Rakovic . . . . . Radio

d. Eng. Dusan Radosimovic . . . . . Mineralogy

e. Eng. Nada Vunjak. . . . . Petrography

f. Eng. Milan Ristic . . . . . Regional Mineralogy

g. Bela Kovac. . . . . Radio Construction-Laboratory work

5. The students live and board at the School, and their food, quarters, and tuition are free. Occasionally persons other than those assigned as instructors, visit the School and give lectures on mathematics, physics, and map reading. For practical work Geiger-Mueller counters D-1 and D-2 are used, as well as a certain number of scintilliscopes. The latter instruments are used for a detailed examination of radioactive substances after the preliminary work has been done with Geiger-Mueller counters. In 1950-1951, only two or three students received training with scintilliscopes.

Explorations for Radioactive Ores

6. Upon completion of the course at the "Radio" School in Belgrade the class of May 1951 comprising sixty students was sent for exploration work to Macedonia. The "base" for exploratory work in Macedonia was at the village of Miravce. Engineer Milan Ristic was in charge of the base, and a certain Filipovic was the technical director. The assistant engineers were Dusan Radosimovic and Nada Vunjak. When the class first arrived, the base at Miravce had only 25 to 30 Geiger-Mueller counters. the section had about sixty 50X1-HUM Geiger-Mueller counters, one for each "prospector". The means of transportation at the Miravce base included two Ford trucks, one Dodge truck, four jeeps, and two Chevrolet trucks to transport the instruments and the laboratory.

7. Within each area selected for exploratory work, a base equipped with instruments, laboratory and living quarters was established. The bases were located largely in small villages. The propectors were divided into groups, the number of groups depending upon the number of Geiger-Mueller counters available. Each group was supplied with a detailed map on which was marked the area to be examined. Every morning the groups would leave the base in jeeps, proceeding to the mountains where most of the exploratory work was done. The group worked in the mountains along the Greek, Albanian, and Bulgarian borders, which included the Belasica, Marijanska Planina (mountain), Golesnica, Babuna, Perister, and Galicica Planina. Apart from Miravce, there were other bases at Demir Kapija, Izovor at Veles, and Resan. In areas where the counter showed radioactivity, the earth surface was explored carefully, and all the spots (mostly stones) were touched with the counter. The location, quantity, and quality of the readings were then marked on the map. In the evening the groups returned to the base to report their findings, and to deliver samples of radicactive substances for examination. After the laboratory at the base had finished its tests, interesting samples were sent to Belgrade where the Directorate of Mineral Surveys and Mine Studies made more detailed tests and decided whether exploitation of the area in question was worth while.

8. After two months, [redacted] class was divided and small groups were sent to Serbia, Slovenia, Bosnia, and Dalmatia. [redacted]

9. All of the "prospectors" were strictly forbidden to reveal the real purpose of their work, which was carried on under the guise of general exploration for minerals. [redacted] group had little success. Practically the only worthwhile discoveries were made in the villages of Janja and Mezrea in the Knjazevac area. Some exploitation as a result has begun in Macedonia and Bosnia.

10. The Geiger-Mueller counter used by the prospectors weighs four kilograms. It is assembled in Yugoslavia, and it is known as the Durmitor counter D-1 and D-2. It consists of the following parts:

a. Four 1.5-volt Pertrix dry-cell batteries [redacted]

b. One 75-volt dry battery [redacted]

c. Four Phillips DAF-91 tubes [redacted]

d. One Ducati electrolyte (sic) [redacted] (8 plus 8 microfarads);

e. One C-7 tube [redacted] for ionization. (This tube was at the end of the cord attached to the case and was used for touching objects to test radioactivity);

f. One 1.5-meter cord to connect the case with the C-7 tube;

g. One case of Yugoslav manufacture with a scale from 1 to 100;

h. One leather cover; and

i. Two black cubes which were kept with the set for tests. Before the set was taken into the field for use, the cubes were touched with the C-7 tube to see if there was any reading.

11. In October 1951 [redacted] mines for the extraction of radioactive ores at the following three locations:

a. Aldina Reka (River) in northeast Serbia, in the Knjazevac area near the Bulgarian border. This mine is considered to be the most important of the three. To date five shafts have been dug, and 1,000 forced laborers, in addition to local village laborers, are employed at the site. The workers are housed in ten barracks. Additional barracks are being constructed. Electricity is provided temporarily by four big generators. The ore which is extracted is stored nearby, since a processing plant has not as yet been built. A recently constructed road stretches from Aldina Reka to the village of Janja. An old road leads from Janja to Knjezevac, where the nearest railroad station is located;

b. Mezrea, where excavating is carried on in ten places. The work is on a much smaller scale than at Aldina Reka; and

c. Janja, where excavating is going on in four places. The work here is likewise on a much smaller scale than at Aldina Reka. At all three places the workers and administrative personnel are not informed of the actual nature of the ore mined.

12. An office for atomic energy research is located in Belgrade, and is known as the Directorate for Geological Exploration and Mine Studies (Uprava za Rudarsko Istrazivanje i Rudarske Studije). Installations to examine radioactive ores and substances are located in the basement of the building. The leading Yugoslav experts in atomic energy employed in this Directorate are Dusan Radosimovic and Nada Vunjak.