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SECURITY INFORMATION

A 17456

25X1A2g

Country: Austria

25X1A9a

Subject: Mining Developments/Austria's Output of Iron Ores

Place Acquired:

25X1A6a

Date Acquired:

Date of Info: 1937 - Apr 53

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1. AUSTRIA OPENS SECOND STEEL REFINING PLANT PRODUCING OXYGEN STEEL

(a) After the VOeST [United Austrian Iron and Steel Works] 90-ton oxygen steel refining plant went into operation on 5 Jan 53, the Donawitz Plant of the Alpine Montan Society of Austria is to resume production operation during second half of April 1953.

(b) The Donawitz plant, working along with the VOeST in the research for the new refining method, has finished the three and one half year phase of studies to go into production of SK [Sauerstoff Oxygen-Konverter Stahl] steel. Its production will close the gap between the demands for raw steel and the present production rate. During 1953 Austria's nationalized iron and steel industry hopes to produce between 1,100,000 and 1,400,000 metric tons of steel, and about 1,200,000 metric tons of raw iron.

2. NICKEL FOR AUSTRIA

Austria is to receive 207.9 metric tons of nickel (first smelting Schmelzung and oxides) during the second quarter of 1953, as against 221.9 metric tons during 1953's first quarter, [April 1953].

3. ALUMINUM PRODUCTION

(a) The final data [1952] on Austrian aluminum production were released. The United Aluminum Works of Ranshofen, Upper Austria province, produced 30,500 metric tons of raw aluminum during 1952. The increased power supply (boosted to 750 kw-h millions) will permit a 1953 production total of 36 thousand metric tons, or 5,500 metric tons more than in 1952.

(b) The Salzburger Aluminum Gesellschaft of Lend, Salzburg province, recorded an output of 5,500 metric tons during 1952. After the benefits of raised power supply to this Alpine factory come into effect during early May 1953 the total 1953 production will reach about seven thousand metric tons of raw aluminum.

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Austria's nationalized aluminum industry thus will produce at least 43 thousand metric tons of raw aluminum during 1953.

4. STYRIAN MONTAN PRODUCTION

Most concentrated of Austria's mining and iron industry, the northern part of Styria province, recorded increases and setbacks during 1953's first month, when the following data were released last week in Vienna:

<u>Item</u>	<u>January 1953</u>	<u>Average month 1952</u>
Iron Ore	211,820 mt	207,325 mt
Magnesite	35,683	34,133
Talcum	2,750	3,685
Graphite	952	1,316
Quarzite	2,850	1,549

In production:

Raw Iron	27,986	30,106
Steel	58,454	61,625

The lower production in some of the mining enterprises was ascribed to the very bad weather conditions in the Alpine mining regions, especially at all open pit installations.

5. NEWS FROM THE COMPANIES:

The copper ore enterprise of PRAEGARTEN (East Tyrol) has been ordered to have the former Public Administrator removed. Reason for the removal is the decision of the Austrian court that the former owner, the West German "GERERKSCHAFT GLUECK" is entitled to have a manager of their own choice as their representative there. The Praegarten copper mine is a former German asset, handed over to Austrian trusteeship pending the signing of a state treaty, April 1953.

6. DANUBE RIVER SERVES AS MAJOR MEANS OF TRANSPORT

The following data describes the importance of the Danube River for the transport of ore and iron. The rate could be higher, experts in Vienna said, if political tensions (Soviet demarcation lines, etc) did not hinder free travel.

<u>Item</u>		<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Iron Ore	tons:	5,618	9,197	93,244
Pig Iron	tons:	65,937	166,408	307,885

Iron ore comes in the third place of all river transports, after coal and coke, while pig iron occupies the second spot.

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7. AUSTRIA'S OUTPUT OF IRON ORES

(a) In the list below, the first one covering the years of German operation, connecting the pre-World War II period and the post World War II output, shows a very uneven production level. This is due to the fact that the German Government, in disregard of production cost and by use of forced (slave) labor increased the output of ore far beyond the level Austria would have mined for its own processing industry and for its export business.

(b) The drop in production after World War II (see table: 1945 to 1947) was mainly caused by the removal of mining machinery by Soviet Red Army units who temporarily occupied northern Styria, the center of the iron ore business of Austria. It is estimated that mining machinery and field equipment of at least US\$ 25 million was removed, leaving only the outdated and inoperative equipment for Austrian use. After the four months stay of the Red Army there, the Zone was cleared for British Occupation, under which control Styria and Carinthia still are [April 1953].

Year	Output Iron Ores in Metric Tons
1937	1,884,694
1938	2,669,823
1939	2,997,524
1940	3,186,139
1941	2,895,025
1942	2,996,912
1943	3,188,459
1944	3,014,909
1945	323,775
1946	462,106
1947	884,936
1948	1,197,251
1949	1,487,616
1950	1,859,643
1951	2,369,708
1952	2,652,611

(c) Of the figures listed above, 87% have been mined at the Erzberg (Ore Mountain) of northern Styria. The dependence of Austrian ore production on conditions on the Erzberg, for that reason, is clearly visible.

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