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May 53

Country: Czechoslovakia

Subject: Conditions in Kutna Hora/Nearby Kank Uranium Pit/Airfield Construction.

Place Acquired: [redacted] 25X1A6a

Date Acquired: late May 1953

Date of Info: to April 1953

Source:

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1. [redacted]

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Construction Enterprise

2. "The branch of the Building Plants (Stavebni Zavody) national enterprise at Kutna Hora, is the largest of four branches with head offices at Kolin. The other branches are at Nymburk, Podebrady and Mestec Kralove. The director at Kolin is (fnu) Baron, a former unskilled worker who has no qualifications for his present post. He has a reputation as a heavy drinker.

3. "The plant at Kutna Hora employs about 150 persons. The director is Vaclav Rezabek. The chairman for the TU Council (zavodni rada) for the whole enterprise is Jan Povolny, whose office is in Kolin. Each branch of the enterprise has its own CP organization. The chairman of the CP organization in the plant at Kutna Hora is Jaroslav Kudrna. The average monthly pay for a mason in March 1953 / prior to currency reform/ was 3,500 cr. There were no shockworkers because morale was as low as the pay. To reduce absenteeism, a new regulation was introduced in March: additional ration cards would be withdrawn from every worker who missed two hours of work without good reason.

Uranium Mining

4. "Uranium ore was discovered at the Kank mine near Kutna Hora about January 1953. Some 800 people-- miners and administrative personnel -- were hired. In March the pit was flooded and shut down. During this shut-down the employees received small allowances and were not allowed to find other jobs.

Local Officials

5. "The chairman of the Local National Council at Kutna Hora is Ladislav Juva, formerly caretaker of the local school. The security referent is (fnu) Prochazka, a Communist of long standing.

Security

6. "The STB offices at Kutna Hora are located opposite the Hotel Vlasky Dvur. I knew personally:

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- (fnu) Bares, who lives in Nove Dvory, and reports each day at the STB offices.
- (fnu) Domalip, who worked for the criminal police before World War II, for the Gestapo during the war, and in 1945 joined the STB.

7. "A motorized infantry unit is stationed at Kutna Hora. The main car park is located in the old garrison.

Airfield Construction

8. "About two km from the center of Caslav, a large airfield was under construction (initial stages) in spring 1953. The runways are being built on land that was formerly the cemetery of the village of Chatusice.

Domovni Knihy

9. "The domovni knihy (house books) were introduced in Kutna Hora in autumn 1952. Every person who enters a house [apartment building?] must report to the superintendent and sign in a book: name, purpose of visit, tenant to be visited. If the person comes from another town he must indicate date of arrival and proposed length of stay. The domovni knihy all have grey covers."

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