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DOMESTIC COLLECTION DIVISION
Foreign Intelligence Information Report

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REPORT CLASS

COUNTRY

USSR

DATE DISTR.

11 March 1981

SUBJECT

Organization of the Penal System REFERENCES
(DOI: 1959-1979)

SOURCE

SUMMARY: The Soviet penal system, in part, is comprised of two separate subsystems. The system of forced labor with confinement consists of four categories or regimes of labor camps. These are the camps of the general regime, camps of the intensified regime, camps of the strict regime, and camps of the special regime. The second subsystem is the system of forced labor without confinement. Groups from both systems may be co-located at work sites but are not permitted to co-mingle. Laborers in these systems do not work with military construction battalions. The prisons and labor camps are patterned after military camps but are poorly organized. The Soviets avoid mixing youthful with adult offenders, consequently, those offenders between 14 and 18 years of age are channeled through a youth camp system. Due to the increasing and alarming crime rate among the juvenile and adult population, the Soviets compile statistics for public consumption exclusively on a percent basis.
END SUMMARY.

1. General Regime camps in the forced labor with confinement system are comprised primarily of individuals who have committed a first offense. The majority of women convicted of criminal offenses are sent to these camps. In general regime camps, the inmates are permitted to receive parcels once a month and visitors, including conjugal, every third month.

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The average length of sentence is three to five years with eligibility for early release after one third of the sentence is served. Eight to 12 percent of all those convicted are sent to these camps.

2. Intensified Regime camps are comprised of inmates convicted of recidivist hooliganism, theft, and less serious robbery. Inmates are permitted receipt of parcels and visitors every third month. Individuals are usually sent to camps located considerable distances from their area of previous residence. Under armed guard they are conveyed, for example, to lumber or heavy construction work sites. Workers from these camps have been involved in such projects as KAMAZ and the BAYKAL-AMUR rail line. The average sentence is usually longer than three years. Twenty five percent of all those convicted are sent to these camps.

3. Strict Regime camps are comprised of those convicted of repeating major offenses, large-scale theft from the government, rape, or causing serious injury in the commission of a crime. Visitation and receipt of parcels is permitted on an annual or semi-annual basis. Workers are often conveyed to heavy labor sites in the extreme northern regions. The average sentence is considerably longer than three years. Twenty to 25 percent of all those convicted are sent to these facilities.

4. Special Regime camps are reserved for those convicted of such crimes as espionage, treason, or murder. Also, individuals who receive commutation of a death sentence are sent to these facilities. The average length of a term at these camps is 12 to 15 years. No additional information is available on these camps but it is believed that inmates have been subjected to labor at such facilities as uranium mines. Three to 5 percent of all convicted individuals are sent to these camps. Three locations of such facilities are Krasnoyarskiy Kray, Norilsk, and Vorkuta, USSR. Comment: It is also believed that visitation and receipt of parcels is permitted after 50 percent of the sentence is served, but this cannot be substantiated because of the lack of survivors at these facilities.)

5. The provision for forced labor without confinement was organized in accordance with Article 24, sub-articles 10 and 11 of the Soviet Criminal Code. Two reasons for this provision were the need for labor in the Soviet construction industry, particularly the chemical industry, and the high cost of conveying and guarding those confined prisoners who were ordered to distant industrial sites. Individuals sent to these settlements comprised 35 percent of those charged with crimes which would traditionally result in their being sent to the confinement system. Although individuals charged with a crime do not have a choice as to the type of program to which they

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will be sentenced, those selected for forced labor without confinement do not have their convictions entered into public record. Except in filling out questionnaires when applying for party membership or travel visas, these individuals are permitted to delete all reference to criminal conviction. These individuals also receive a salary which is 50 percent less than that of a comparable worker in the free labor sector. Comment: Decisions as to which charged individuals will go to confined facilities and which will go to non-confined labor settlements is purely arbitrary but it appears that individual skills or attributes might be a partially determining factor. The trend will be for ever increasing numbers of individuals charged with a crime to be sent to these labor without confinement settlements.)

6. Juvenile offenders, those between 14 and 18 years of age, are processed through a system specifically established to insure against contact with adult offenders. Within this juvenile system there are three levels of camps to which an individual can be directed. There are general, intensified, and strict camps; all of which are patterned after their counterpart adult camps. Charges of drunkenness or petty theft are the most common reasons for sentencing to these facilities.

7. As a result of the continually increasing and alarming rate of crime in the Soviet Union, percentages are used exclusively when crime figures are released to the public. No unclassified raw data is made available. In an attempt to decrease the rising crime rate, the Soviet Union is beginning to dismiss greater numbers of cases dealing with drunkenness and domestic quarrels. It is estimated that 70 percent of all crimes committed in the country are committed by individuals between the ages of 18 and 30.

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