

TOT: 101414Z MAR 83

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DOMESTIC COLLECTION DIVISION

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE
REPORT CLASS

COUNTRY: USSR
SUBJ: FORCED CONVICT LABOR
DOI: LATE FEBRUARY 1983
REF:
SOURCE:

TEXT: 1. IN LATE FEBRUARY 1983, AN [REDACTED] MECHANICAL ENGINEER WHO IS A [REDACTED] SOVIET CITIZEN ASSIGNED TO WORK AT THE TYRNYAUZ MINING COMPLEX IN THE KAGBARDIND-BALKARSKAYA ASSR, SAID THAT FORCED CONVICT LABOR IS UTILIZED AT THE SITE. ACCORDING TO THE ENGINEER, THERE ARE BETWEEN 3,000 AND 4,000 CONVICTED SOVIET FELONS CURRENTLY WORKING AT THE MINES THERE. THE COMPLEX IS LOCATED IN THE NORTHERN CAUCASUS NEAR MT. ELBRUS. IT IS A 2-1/2 HOUR AUTOMOBILE DRIVE FROM THE NEAREST AIRPORT WHICH IS LOCATED AT MINERALVODY.

2. ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE COMPLEX K.T.H. ((BLAEV)), THE SOVIETS MINE PRIMARILY MOLYBDENUM AT TYRNYAUZ. NEITHER BLAEV OR HIS CHIEF ENGINEER GEORGE ((DANILENKO)) WOULD DISCUSS MINERALS OTHER THAN MOLYBDENUM MINED AT THE COMPLEX OR DISCLOSE LEVELS OF PRODUCTION AT TYRNYAUZ. BOTH MEN AVOIDED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WORK FORCE AT THE COMPLEX. COMMENT: THERE IS STRONG INDICATION THAT URANIUM IS MINED AT TYRNYAUZ, SPECIFICALLY ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE COMPLEX. NO FOREIGN ACCESS HAS PERMITTED TO THIS AREA. ALSO, ALL FOREIGN VISITORS TO TYRNYAUZ WERE UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE, FORCED TO SLEEP UNDER LOCK AND KEY.)

Approved for Release
Date 15 MAR 1997

23

[REDACTED]

SHAFTS AT THE SITE HAVE BEEN EXCAVATED 18 METERS DEEP WITH THE USE OF EXPLOSIVES. ALL MINERAL PROCESSING AND PELLETIZING IS DONE ON SITE. A NUMBER OF EXCAVATIONS AT THE SITE ARE ACTIVELY PROGRESSING AND BLAEV INDICATED THAT FUNDING IS NOT A PROBLEM DUE TO THE COMPLEX'S HIGH PRIORITY.

3. BY WORKING AT THE LOCATION, SOVIET CONVICTS ARE ABLE TO REDUCE THE LENGTH OF THE SENTENCES AS MUCH AS 50 PERCENT. THE CONVICTS SPEND THE ENTIRE WORK DAY UNDERGROUND AND ARE TRANSPORTED OUT OF THE MINES BY TRAM CARS EVERY EVENING AT 4:30 P.M. WITH LITTLE FANFAIR. [REDACTED] COMMENT: DURING ONE EVENING THE TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONNEL FROM THE MINES WAS OBSERVED BY FOREIGN VISITORS MUCH TO THE CHAGRIN OF THE SOVIET GUARDS CHARGED WITH PREVENTING SUCH OBSERVATIONS.) ALL OF THE PERSONNEL ARE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE AND GUARD BY THE SOVIETS. ACCORDING TO THE [REDACTED] ENGINEER ALL OF THE PERSONNEL ARE CONVICTED SOVIET FELONS AND THERE ARE PROBABLY NO POLITICAL PRISONERS AT THE LOCATION. DUE TO THE REMOTE LOCATION OF THE COMPLEX, FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARE OFTEN IN SHORT SUPPLY. [REDACTED] COMMENT: GIVEN THE HARSH WORKING CONDITIONS AND REGULAR SHORTAGES OF NECESSITIES, THE MORTALITY RATE OF THE FORCED LABOR AT TYRNYAUZ IS PROBABLY VERY HIGH.)

4. WHILE FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES MAY BE IN SHORT SUPPLY AT TYRNYAUZ, HEAVY MACHINERY EQUIPMENT IS NOT. IN ADDITION TO A 1100 HORSEPOWER U.S. MANUFACTURED RUBBER TIRE LOADER, THE SOVIETS EMPLOY THE SITE SIX KOMATSU MINING TRUCKS EACH WITH 120 TON CAPACITY, 20 SOVIET BUILT TRUCKS EACH WITH 50 TON CAPACITY AND AT LEAST 35 SOVIET MANUFACTURED MINING SHOVELS EACH WITH LIFTING CAPACITIES OF BETWEEN FOUR AND EIGHT CUBIC METERS.)

[REDACTED]

8300812497

[REDACTED]