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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Automobile Assembly Plant in Kharkov

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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[redacted]

1. The Auto-Assembly Plant (Avto-Zborochni Zavod) was located just south of Kharkov [redacted]. The plant was named after some prominent Communist, but I do not recall the name. The term "Avto", or automobile, did not refer only to passenger cars but also to trucks. The factory came under the jurisdiction of the People's Commissariat of Heavy Industry (Narodnii Kommissariat Chezholi Promishlenisti), Section of Tractor-Automobile Industry (Otdel Traktorno-Avtomobilni Promishlenisti). 25X1

2. This plant manufactured freight trailers from three to five tons. It did not produce over 15 - 20 such trailers per month. Preparations were in progress as of 1941 for the plant to begin to assemble automobiles, with parts coming from Avto-Zavod in Gorki or from Avto Zavod imeni Stalina in Moscow. However, the factory did not actually begin to assemble cars prior to World War II. It did major overhauls on old vehicles, such as the GAZ 1½-ton truck and the ZIS three-ton truck. It repaired at the most 100 trucks per month. It did not repair passenger cars. 25X1

3. The Auto-Assembly Plant was not large. It covered an area of about one kilometer by one-half kilometer. Of this only about 15% was roofed over. The factory was not fully completed as of 1941 and it did not yet have closed storage space. Construction on it was begun in 1936, but it progressed fairly slowly as the plant did not have priority. The assembly building was already finished, being a large structure of one story. It was planned to have a conveyor belt, but it had not yet been obtained as of 1941. There was also a paint shop. Repair work was done in the assembly building. [redacted] 25X1

4. All the production of the plant was destined for Soviet industry. The factory had only about 400 employees and operated only during one shift of eight hours, as the plant was still under construction.

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