

CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL**

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT 50X1-HUM
 CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR
 SUBJECT Scientific; Military - Atomic energy
 HOW PUBLISHED Semimonthly periodical
 WHERE PUBLISHED Stockholm
 DATE PUBLISHED 18 Jan 1950
 LANGUAGE Swedish

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950
 DATE DIST. *20* Jun 1950
 NO. OF PAGES 2
 SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U.S.C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Obs!, No 2, 1950.

ATOM BOMB PLANT IN SOVIET ARMENIA

According to many reports, the production of atomic bombs in the Soviet Union is under the supervision of the chief of the secret police, Lavrentiy Beriya, who is also the chairman of the "Secret Committee for the Production of Atomic Weapons." Stalin has given him unlimited freedom of action, ordering that all of Beriya's demands for labor, money, machinery, etc., are to be met immediately.

The Politburo originally intended to produce atomic weapons serially by 1947, utilizing captured German specialists and secret information from the US and Canada. Molotov confirmed this in a speech in Moscow on 6 November 1945.

The Soviet experts required, first, many powerful electric plants for the various production processes. All of the "atomic cities" built in great haste in the Urals near Chelyabinsk and in Western Siberia, southeast of Omsk ("New Germany"), and in Tuva Autonomous Oblast (the upper course of the Yenisey) proved unsatisfactory because of the topography which was very unsuitable for hydroelectric power plants. Beriya's final choice was Armenia.

On the northern side of Mount Ararat is Lake Gokcha (Lake Sevan), 7,300 feet above sea level. It contains 60 billion tons of water and collects the flow from 28 streams and brooks. The lake has only one outlet, the Zanga, a tributary of the Araksen. This river, which flows between high cliffs of basalt and forms several waterfalls, is ideal for hydroelectric power plants. The development of the Zanga system was begun in 1932, and by 1947 there were over ten power plants with a total capacity of 2 million kilowatts.

An enormous area along the river, between the eastern slopes of Mount Alages, Lake Gokcha, and the Kanair Plateau, is now a secret zone, guarded by select MGB troops. All departments of the atomic bomb plant are housed in six caves along the basalt shore of the river. The work was performed by German prisoners of war and Soviet slave labor in conformity with plans drawn up by the German specialists who built Hitler's underground factories in Germany and Austria. The caves are very deep and are absolutely secure against bombs

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL**

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB	DISTRIBUTION						
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI	<i>acc</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

of all types. Part of the machinery was ordered from domestic factories and the rest was imported from Germany. Assembly began in 1947. In addition, Germany delivered a considerable quantity of high-tension equipment, cables, oil current breakers, etc.

In January 1948, transport of uranium ore from Saxony and Czechoslovakia began. The factory was ready for operation in May 1948. Power was drawn from the Dzorages and Yerevan power plants I and II to supplement that from the ten hydroelectric plants of the atomic plant. All other industrial enterprises in Armenia are now forced to get along with a minimum of electrical power. The "Atomgrads" in Chelyabinsk, Western Siberia, and Tannu Tuva are merely auxiliary and experimental factories.

A certain Professor Arakelyan is the technical and scientific director of the atomic plants. He is an Armenian, one of Mikoyan's school comrades, and he enjoys Stalin's confidence.

Besides the plutonium-uranium factories and various experimental stations, the USSR now has two secret centers where the characteristics of cosmic rays and their military applications are being studied. Prof P. Kapitsa directs one of them. This center is located in the Urals, approximately 100 kilometers north of Magnitogorsk. It is an almost completely isolated city, the major part of which is underground. The second center, which is directed by Prof Alexander Zhdanov, is somewhere in the Pamirs. Zhdanov is famous for the observations of the properties of cosmic rays he undertook on top of Mount Alages during the total solar eclipse in 1939. He published the results of his observations in an article, "The Incommensurable Fission of the Atomic Nucleus Under the Influence of Cosmic Radiation." Zhdanov was decorated for this work with the Order of Lenin and won two Stalin prizes.

Wild rumors are circulating that Kapitsa has succeeded in reproducing cosmic rays artificially and that he has already constructed an apparatus which can be used in war.

The first Soviet atomic bomb was completed at the Zanga plant in February 1949, and the first explosion took place on 10 July 1949 in the Eastern Ural wastes near Mangyshlak Peninsula. London and Washington reported this explosion on 23 September. The completed bombs are transported by plane to the Kuznetsk area where they are stored in underground chambers 500 meters deep. It is said that the "Kuzbass" is the center of the Soviet armaments industry and the main citadel to which the government can withdraw with its entire political and military administrative machine.

- E N D -

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL