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INTELLOFAX 12

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Iron and Steel Works at Zenica

DATE:

INFO.

DIST. 19 August 1947

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

ATTACHMENT 1

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ORIGIN

EVALUATION

EVALUATION OF CONTENT

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1. One of the most important iron and steel works in Yugoslavia is located at Zenica in Bosnia. The iron ore mines at Vares and Ljubija supply most of the iron ore requirements for this firm. About 60 per cent of the iron ore is transported by river craft on the Bosna river.

2. Approximately 800 workers, the majority of whom were Moslems, were formerly employed. Since there is considerable anti-Tito feeling among the Moslems, many of these employees left, and their place has been largely filled by German POWs. The total labor force now numbers about 1,000.

3. Steel production in 1946 reached 68,000 tons, and iron 91,000 tons -- a combined iron and steel output for the year of 159,000 tons. However, total iron production for the first three months of 1947 was only 20,000 tons. This low production figure is attributed to the freezing of the Bosna river during winter, which held up iron deliveries.

4. The general overall production figures are low as compared with the 1 figures. Two of the reasons for lowered production are the difficulty transporting iron ore, and the high proportion of inexperienced and unwilling workers.

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