



DOMESTIC COLLECTION DIVISION  
Foreign Intelligence Information Report

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COUNTRY	USSR	DATE DISTR.	2 November 1981
SUBJECT	Colony Settlement, Arkhangelsk Oblast (DOI: 1973-1975)	REFERENCES	[REDACTED]
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1. During the period 1973 to 1975, a colony settlement (koloniya poseleniye) involved in lumber processing was in operation in the Arkhangelsk oblast. The colony was located approximately a kilometer from the Puksa railroad station and was collocated with the village of Popovazimny. The colony consisted of approximately 700 prisoners divided into five detachments. The population of the adjoining village of Popovazimny numbered in total from 400 to 500 people. Virtually all of the men living in the village were former prisoners and worked in the colony's lumber operation.

2. The colony consisted of five barracks for the five detachments of prisoners and an administrative building and quarters for the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) guard personnel. The chief of the colony settlement was a MVD major and he had two deputies; a deputy for political matters and a deputy for colony operations. Both of these deputies were also MVD officers. Other MVD officers also occupied other colony administrative positions such as chief of the labor force and chief of the supply section. The five colony detachments were led by either MVD captains or lieutenants. There were a number of other colony administrative positions which were occupied either by civilians or MVD personnel and these included the chief of production, the forest master, the chief of the section and the senior dispatcher. The colony's guard force consisted of 25 to 30 MVD non-commissioned officers and enlisted men.

3. The five prisoner detachments were further divided into brigades according to function. The brigades were led by prisoners who were elected to the position of brigadiers by the other members of the brigade. Brigades shared common quarters and went to and from work in groups. For those prisoners who lived in the colony, prisoner counts were conducted

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twice daily and prisoners were by and large restricted in their movements to the colony, the village and their work areas. Legally married prisoners were permitted to have their wives and children join them. In such cases the prisoners were allowed to live in the village and only had to report in to the camp administration twice a week. In the case of this colony settlement the primary determining factor in whether or not a prisoner was allowed to have his family join him was the availability of housing in the village. Prisoners in the colony settlement had all previously served a part of their sentence in a labor camp. The majority of the prisoners had served two thirds of their sentences in camp before being sent to the colony, but some of the prisoners had served only one half of their sentence. The length of time served in a camp was determined by the individual's sentence and the crime of which he was convicted.

4. Though the settlement was not surrounded by barbed wire and the prisoners were not subject to intense watch by the guards, living conditions in the colony, as well as the village, were hardly pleasant. In addition to the harsh climate of the Arkhangelsk area and the primitive surroundings, the biggest problem was the availability of foodstuffs. Prisoners who lived in the colony were fed in the colony's kitchen, but the meals were of generally poor quality and not sufficiently nourishing in view of the climate and working conditions. Prisoners were charged for their meals, as well as for their living quarters. Though prisoners were allowed to buy food in the village, the village was equally poorly supplied and very little was available. Prisoners had to live by fairly strict rules governing their behavior and the punishment for breaking the rules was a return to a labor camp. If a prisoner was returned to a labor camp, the time that he had served in a colony settlement was not counted against his original sentence and he was thus confined for a longer period of time. During the period 1973-1975, approximately 100 prisoners in the colony settlement were returned to a labor camp for rule violations. The most common violations were public drunkenness and rowdiness.

5. The structure of wages paid to prisoners was based on a piece rate basis and was calculated according to the prisoner's productivity. In the case of lumber truck drivers, wages were calculated on the basis of the type of wood transported and how far it had to be hauled. It was not uncommon for a prisoner's gross monthly wage to be approximately 900 rubles. However, from this sum 40 percent was automatically deducted as part of a prisoner's sentence and numerous other deductions were made. Thus on the average a prisoner truck driver ended up with approximately 150 rubles a month. The free hire truck drivers, however, were not subject to the various deductions and were eligible for premiums which prisoners did not receive. The average free hire truck driver earned from 500 to 600 rubles a month.

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