

[REDACTED]

DIST: 26 AUGUST 82

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DOMESTIC COLLECTION DIVISION

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.
REPORT CLASS: [REDACTED]

COUNTRY: USSR [REDACTED]
SUBJECT: USE OF FORCED LABOR ON CENTRAL ASIAN GAS PIPELINE
(OOI: 1976-1978)

REF : [REDACTED]
SOURCE : [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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1. FORCED LABOR CONSISTING OF PAROLED COMMON PRISONERS AS WELL AS SOME PRISONERS WHOSE ORIGINAL SENTENCES INCLUDED A PERIOD OF FORCED LABOR WERE USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR OF ALL GAS COMPRESSOR STATIONS ALONG THE CENTRAL ASIAN PIPELINE IN THE KAZAKH SSR AND AT THE ALEKSANDROVKA COMPRESSOR STATION ALONG THE ORENBURG PIPELINE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THERE WERE RUMORS THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS ALSO WERE USED, BUT NONE EVER WAS OBSERVED. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT SUCH PRISONERS WERE USED AS SOVIET AUTHORITIES USUALLY ATTEMPTED TO SEGREGATE POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM THE REST OF THE POPULATION. NO FOREIGN FORCED LABORERS EVER WERE OBSERVED.) THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS USED ON A CONSTRUCTION OR REPAIR PROJECT VARIED, BUT COULD GO AS HIGH AS 50 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL WORK FORCE, DEPENDING ON THE PROJECT. IN SOME CASES WHERE HEAVY CONSTRUCTION WORK WAS INVOLVED, THE NUMBER OF PRISON LABORERS EXCEEDED 50 PERCENT.

2. THE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR FORCED LABORERS AND ORDINARY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ALIKE WERE HARSH. THE PRIMARY DIFFERENCE IN LIVING CONDITIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS WAS THE FACT THAT FORCED LABORERS NORMALLY LIVED IN FENCED-IN COMPOUNDS SEPARATED FROM THE VILLAGES WHERE THE ORDINARY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS LIVED. THE LABORERS WERE RESTRICTED TO THE COMPOUND DURING NON-WORKING HOURS. THE COMPOUNDS HAD BARRACKS OR TRAILERS WHICH HOUSED THE WORKERS AS WELL AS SOME TYPE OF DINING FACILITY. THERE ALSO WAS A SHOP WHERE ITEMS SUCH AS CIGARETTES COULD BE PURCHASED. THE GATE TO THE COMPOUND WAS GUARDED BY MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (MVD) MILITIA FORCES. THERE WERE NO SPECIAL GUARDBOXES AT THE GATE, HOWEVER. AT THE END OF EACH WORK DAY, THE LABORERS HAD TO SIGN IN WITH AN MVD REPRESENTATIVE AT THE COMPOUND. IN SOME CASES WHERE FORCED LABORERS WERE NEEDED ONLY FOR SHORT PERIODS OF TIME, THEY LIVED IN TRAILERS IN THE SAME AREAS WHERE THE REGULAR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS LIVED. HOWEVER, THE LABORERS WERE NOT PERMITTED TO WALK AROUND FREELY OUTSIDE OF REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

3. THE FORCED LABORERS WERE PAID FOR THEIR WORK. HOWEVER, RENT AND MONEY TO PAY FOR THE MVD GUARDS WERE DEDUCTED FROM THEIR WAGES. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE AMOUNT OF WAGES PAID TO FORCED LABORERS AND REGULAR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IS UNKNOWN.) THE LABORERS WALKED UNESCORTED TO AND FROM THEIR JOB SITES AND WERE NOT GUARDED DURING THE DAY. VERY FEW EVER TRIED TO ESCAPE, HOWEVER; THOSE WHO DID USUALLY WERE CAUGHT BECAUSE THEY WERE EASILY RECOGNIZED AS PRISON LABORERS. THE LABORERS WORKED IN SEPARATE TEAMS WITH THEIR OWN WORK PLANS TO FULFILL.

4. [REDACTED]

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