

[REDACTED]

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DOMESTIC COLLECTION DIVISION

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REPORT CLASS [REDACTED]

COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJECT: 1. INVOLVEMENT OF MVD IN THE USE OF FORCED LABOR
2. TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS
(OOI: 1970'S-1981)

REF: [REDACTED]

SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. DURING THE LATE 1970'S AND AS LATE AS 1981, GUARDS OF THE USSR'S MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (MINISTERSTVO Vnutrennykh Del or MVD) CLOSELY GUARDED, BUT ONLY ON RARE OCCASIONS PHYSICALLY ABUSED POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSIGNED TO SOVIET FORCED LABOR CAMPS AND/OR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE USSR. POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE AT TIMES TORTURED, BEATEN, STARVED, AND DENIED WARM CLOTHING FOR VARIOUS

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REASONS INCLUDING NOT WORKING UP TO "STANDARD" BUT GENERALLY SUFFERED SUCH FATE AT THE HANDS OF THE "COMMON CRIMINALS" WHO SERVED AS MIDDLE MEN FOR THE MVD. ORDERS TO PHYSICALLY ABUSE POLITICAL PRISONERS, WHO WERE "ALWAYS" ASSIGNED THE MOST MONOTONOUS, MENIAL, AND DEMANDING WORK AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, THUS MOSTLY ORIGINATED WITH THE MVD, BUT WERE ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION CARRIED OUT BY THE "COMMON CRIMINALS" WHO SERVED AS "OVERSEERS" AND "CREW LEADERS" ON SUCH PROJECTS.

[REDACTED]

2. MVD GUARDS WERE GENERALLY RESPECTED AND FEARED BY POLITICAL PRISONERS IN FORCED LABOR CAMPS. AT ANY ONE CONSTRUCTION SITE, THE MVD WOULD POST MACHINE GUN CARRYING GUARDS IN TOWERS TO WATCH PRISONERS WORK. THESE GUARDS APPARENTLY HAD THE AUTHORITY AND DID SHOOT KILL ANY PRISONER WHO ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE OR EVEN THOSE WHO INADVERTENTLY WANDERED BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES ESTABLISHED BY THE MVD AS THE WORKING AREA FOR THAT PARTICULAR DAY. MVD GUARDS WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, PERSONALLY MISTREAT ANY PRISONER WORKING ON THE PROJECT, BE THAT PRISONER A "COMMON" OR "POLITICAL" PRISONER. SUCH "DIRTY WORK" WAS RESERVED FOR THE CRIMINAL OVERSEER, EVEN THOUGH THAT WORK WAS INDIRECTLY SANCTIONED BY THE MVD. ([REDACTED] COMMENT: ON ONE OCCASION AT THE GARELNIKI SITE OF FORCED LABOR CAMP 231-3 IN THE KI DISTRICT OF THE KIROV REGION, A YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED MVD OFFICER IN THE PRESENCE OF TWO SENIOR MVD GUARDS, KICKED A POLITICAL PRISONER VICIOUSLY IN THE BACK. WITNESSED BY SEVERAL OTHER PRISONERS, THREE OF THE PRISONERS CHARGED THE MVD OFFICER AND BRUTALLY BEAT HIM WHILE THE OTHER TWO MVD SENIOR GUARDS WATCHED PASSIVELY WITH MACHINE GUNS IN HAND. IT WAS OBVIOUS THE SENIOR MVD OFFICERS WERE TEACHING THE MVD RECRUIT A LESSON AS FAR AS TREATMENT OF PRISONERS WAS CONCERNED.)

3. [REDACTED] COMMENT: MVD GUARDS POSTED ON TOWERS TO OBSERVE PRISONERS WERE CALLED "PARROTS" BY THE CRIMINALS BECAUSE THEY WOULD YELL AT EACH OTHER -- TOWER-TO-TOWER -- EVERY FEW MINUTES TO MAKE SURE THEY ALL REMAINED AWAKE. ALTHOUGH THE MVD USED THEIR "MIDDLEMEN" TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR GOALS, THERE WERE OTHER WAYS TO MAKE THEIR POINTS. ON ONE OCCASION, MVD OFFICERS WERE ADVISED BY A TEAM LEADER THAT THE TEMPERATURE ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE WAS MINUS 50 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT (F). UNDER MVD GUIDELINES, PRISONERS COULD NOT BE FORCED TO WORK WHEN THE TEMPERATURE FELL BELOW MINUS 40 DEGREES F. ON THIS OCCASION, HOWEVER, MVD OFFICERS COMPLAINED THEY DID NOT HAVE A THERMOMETER AND EVEN IF IT WERE MINUS 50 DEGREES F, IT WOULD "CERTAINLY WARM UP DURING THE DAY.")

4. AS FOR PROCUREMENT OF PRISONERS FOR SOVIET JAILS OR LABOR CAMPS, THE MVD WAS INSTRUCTED BY THE GULAG TO SUPPLY A DESIGNATED NUMBER TO A PARTICULAR CONSTRUCTION SITE. ALL PRISONS AND LABOR CAMPS HAD "QUOTAS" AS TO THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF PRISONERS ON HAND; THE MVD WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING A LIST OF NAMES AND NUMBERS OF PRISONERS AVAILABLE.

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6.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]