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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DOMESTIC COLLECTION DIVISION

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

REPORT CLASS [REDACTED]

COUNTRY: [REDACTED]

SUBJ:

1. PLANNED UTILIZATION OF FORCED LABORERS BY MILITARY UNITS
2. EMPLOYMENT OF FORMER PRISONERS IN OFFSHORE CASPIAN SEA OIL PRODUCTION FIELD

DOI: [REDACTED]

REFS: [REDACTED]

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. SOVIET RESERVE MILITARY PIPELAYING UNITS UNDERSTOOD THAT IF THEY WERE CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF FORCED LABORERS WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO ASSIST WITH HEAVY DUTY UNSKILLED WORK. THE ASSIGNMENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL LABORERS WAS NOT COVERED IN FORMAL MILITARY REGULATIONS BUT WAS A FUNDAMENTAL ASSUMPTION ON THE PART OF RESERVE OFFICERS. THE NUMBER OF FORCED LABOR ASSIGNEES [REDACTED]

Approved for Release
Date

MAR 1997

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WOULD DEPEND ON THE AREA TO BE WORKED BY THE UNIT AND THE AVAILABILITY OF REGULAR TROOPS. IF THE AREA WERE REMOTE AND/OR DIFFICULT MORE FORCED LABORERS WOULD BE EMPLOYED. IT IS DOUBTFUL IF FORCED LABOR WOULD EXCEED 30 PERCENT OF THE WORK FORCE IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN POLITICAL AND CRIMINAL PRISONERS IN FILLING OUT THE RESERVE UNITS WAS CONTEMPLATED. BOTH TYPES COULD BE EMPLOYED. THE SEPARATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM CRIMINAL TYPES WAS BECOMING LESS EXACT IN THE LATE 1970S. SOME POLITICAL DISSIDENTS WERE CHARGED WITH CRIMES AND HANDLED LIKE COMMON PRISONERS. THE RESERVE UNITS MERELY EXPECTED PRISONER SUPPORT NO MATTER HOW THE SYSTEM CATEGORIZED THE INDIVIDUALS.

3. AN ESTIMATED 10 PERCENT OF THE APPROXIMATELY 4,300 WORKERS EMPLOYED IN THE OFFSHORE CASPIAN SEA NEFTIANYE KAMNI OIL FIELD WERE RELEASED PRISONERS RECLASSIFIED AS EXILES WHO WERE RESTRICTED TO THE IMMEDIATE JURISDICTION AND LIMITED TO CERTAIN JOBS. THE EXILES PLAYED AN ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN CONTINUITY BECAUSE THE OTHER WORKERS TENDED TO ARRANGE FOR PROMOTION OR TRANSFERRED TO OTHER LOCATIONS. THE EXILES PERFORMED SKILLED AND UNSKILLED WORK. MANY WERE WELDERS, THE HIGHEST POSITION AVAILABLE TO THEM.

