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Foreign Intelligence Information Report

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REPORT CLASS. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY: USSR DATE DISTR. 9 September 1983

SUBJECT: 1. Use of Forced Labor on BAM Railroad and Sakhalin Island
 2. Organization, Activities and Apparent Lack of Active Civil Defense Program at RSPSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry

DOI: 1974-1981

REFERENCES: [REDACTED]

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. RSPSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry patent specialists who travelled extensively in the eastern sectors of the USSR during 1974-1981 were aware of heavy utilization of forced labor on the Baikal-Amur Mainline (BAM) construction project and on several construction materials enterprises on Sakhalin Island. Although specific statistical information was not made available to them, ministry patent specialists who visited the BAM construction project areas were aware that the percentage of forced labor to regular labor was extremely high on that project. There were about 12 construction materials enterprises on Sakhalin Island that were subordinate to the RSPSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry, each employing an average of about 60 workers. Approximately 80 percent of these workers were forced laborers serving sentences for violent crimes or white collar crimes such as embezzlement.

2. Ministry patent specialists and other official travellers were aware that forced labor was a common phenomenon in the USSR, particularly in the eastern sections of the country. While forced labor was rare or non-existent in the western part of the USSR it became more and more prevalent as one travelled east. Generally, labor-intensive activities such as mining and production of construction materials drew the highest percentage of forced laborers. The Soviet media described work crews on the BAM project as Komsomol volunteer shock workers, a point of some amusement among ministry patent workers, who were aware that most were prisoners.

[REDACTED]

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Mod-Response

3. [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED]

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