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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FULLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE  
REPORT CLASS [REDACTED]

DIST: 30 DECEMBER 1986

COUNTRY: USSR

- SUBJ: 1. IMPRISONMENT IN A PRISON AND CORRECTIVE LABOR CAMP  
IN TASHKENT, UZBEK SSR
2. ATTITUDES AMONG UZBEK NATIONALS

DOI: 1971 - 1979

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

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SUMMARY: THE USSR INCARCERATED SUSPECTS OF VARIOUS CRIMES IN INVESTIGATIVE PRISONS PENDING TRIAL. THESE PRISONS OCCASIONALLY HELD NOTORIOUS AND/OR IMPORTANT INMATES WHO HAD BEEN CONVICTED BUT WHO REQUIRED THE INCREASED SECURITY OF A PRISON AS OPPOSED TO THAT OF A LABOR CAMP, WHICH HELD THE BULK OF CONVICTED INMATES. CAMPS WERE CATEGORIZED BASED ON LEVEL OF SECURITY AND INMATE PRIVILEGE. THESE CAMPS WERE TERMED "GENERAL", "REINFORCED", AND "SEVERE". UZBEKIS INMATES USUALLY KEPT TO THEMSELVES, BUT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF TENSION BETWEEN THE ETHNIC MINORITIES AND THE GREAT RUSSIANS.

TEXT: 1. PERSONS CONVICTED OF CRIMES UNDER ARTICLES OF THE CRIMINAL CODE OF ANY OF THE SOVIET REPUBLICS WERE NORMALLY INCARCERATED IN A CORRECTIVE LABOR CAMP, ALSO KNOWN AS A CORRECTIVE LABOR INSTITUTION. THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE SUCH CAMP IN EACH REPUBLIC, AND IN LARGE REPUBLICS LIKE THE RSFSR THERE WERE A GREAT MANY CAMPS. DURING THE INVESTIGATIVE PHASE OF THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, THE SUSPECT WOULD BE HELD IN AN INVESTIGATIVE PRISON (SIZO, SLEDSTVENNYY IZOLYATOR). CONVICTED INDIVIDUALS, ESPECIALLY IF THEY HAD BEEN IMPORTANT FIGURES OR THERE HAD BEEN MUCH PUBLICITY ABOUT THEIR TRIALS, WOULD SOMETIMES BE COMMITTED FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR SENTENCE TO A PRISON RATHER THAN A CAMP, SINCE IT WAS GENERALLY CONSIDERED THAT THE SECURITY OF PRISONS WAS GREATER. THERE WAS A GREATER RATIO OF GUARDS TO INMATES IN THE PRISON, AND A CLOSER WATCH WAS KEPT OVER THE INMATES.

2. CAMPS WERE CATEGORIZED BY REGIMES (REZHIM), BY LEVEL OF SECURITY AND INMATE PRIVILEGE. THERE WERE THREE CATEGORIES: GENERAL (OBSHCHIY), REINFORCED (USILENNYY), AND SEVERE (STROGIY). CONDITIONS WERE THE EASIEST IN THE GENERAL REGIMEN CAMP AND THE HARSHEST IN THE SEVERE REGIMEN CAMP. THE CONDITIONS REFERRED TO INCLUDED SUCH THINGS AS THE RELATIVE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE CAMP, THE RIGHT TO SEND OR RECEIVE MAIL, THE NUMBER OF PARCELS ONE COULD RECEIVE FROM OUTSIDE, THE NUMBER OF VISITORS ONE COULD HAVE, AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY ONE WAS ALLOWED TO SPEND IN THE CAMP STORE. THE POLICY WHICH DICTATED WHICH INDIVIDUALS WENT TO WHICH TYPE OF CAMP WAS NOT CLEAR. FOR EXAMPLE, AT THE TASHKENT CORRECTIVE LABOR CAMP FOR WOMEN, A GENERAL REGIMEN CAMP, THERE WERE INMATES WHO HAD COMMITTED THE GAMUT OF CRIMES FROM MINOR TO MAJOR, INCLUDING MURDER, ASSAULT, THEFT OF PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT PROPERTY, BRIBERY, HOOLIGANISM, SPECULATION, AND PILFERING OF STATE PROPERTY. THERE APPEARED, HOWEVER, TO BE NO INMATES SERVING VERY LONG OR LIFE SENTENCES AT THE CAMP, AND THIS MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE CRITERIA FOR ASSIGNMENT. ACCORDING TO HEARSAY AMONG INMATES, OTHER CRITERIA THAT DETERMINED THE CAMP'S REGIMEN INCLUDED THE KIND OF FORCED LABOR THAT INMATES WOULD HAVE TO PERFORM AND THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THEY WOULD WORK (I.E., WORK IN GOLD OR URANIUM MINES UNDERGROUND OR IN VERY COLD CLIMATES).

3. THE TASHKENT CORRECTIVE LABOR CAMP FOR WOMEN CONSISTED OF A COMPLEX OF FIVE OR SIX BUILDINGS, INCLUDING THREE THREE-STORY DORMITORIES WHICH HOUSED THE INMATES, ABOUT THIRTY OR FORTY INMATES TO A FLOOR. ROLL-CALL WAS AT 7 A.M., FOLLOWED BY BREAKFAST AND AN ESCORTED WALK SIX DAYS A WEEK TO A SEWING ENTERPRISE THAT WAS CONTIGUOUS WITH THE CAMP, WHERE INMATES PRODUCED BED LINENS.

PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK WAS COMPULSORY. WAGES WERE RECEIVED FOR LABOR AND WERE CREDITED TO A PRISONER'S ACCOUNT, BUT THE COST OF BOARD AND OTHER CAMP SERVICES SUCH AS LAUNDRY WERE DEDUCTED FROM WAGES. DEPENDING ON HOW INDUSTRIOUSLY THE PRISONER FULFILLED HIS WORK, HE COULD FINISH THE PRISON TERM WITH A SAVINGS OF A FEW HUNDRED RUBLES OR, AS FREQUENTLY HAPPENED, HE COULD LEAVE OWING THE CAMP A SIZEABLE DEBT. WAGES WERE PAID ON A PIECE-WORK BASIS.

4. INMATES WERE ALLOWED TO SPEND UP TO SEVEN RUBLES A MONTH AT THE CAMP STORE WHICH SOLD FOOD, CIGARETTES, AND NOTIONS, BUT THE AMOUNT SPENT COULD COME ONLY FROM THE AMOUNT CREDITED FOR WORK PERFORMED AND COULD NOT BE FROM AN INMATE'S PRIVATE FUNDS. ON SUNDAYS AND DURING OTHER FREE TIME INMATES COULD MOVE FREELY ABOUT THE CAMP AND WITHIN THE DORMITORIES, ALTHOUGH THEY TENDED TO REMAIN NEAR THEIR ASSIGNED FLOORS. ONE PARCEL OF UP TO FIVE KILOGRAMS WAS ALLOWED PER MONTH FROM THE OUTSIDE; CONTENTS OF PARCELS WERE LIMITED AS TO KIND AND AMOUNT. ONLY ONE HALF KILOGRAM OF SUGAR WAS ALLOWED PER PARCEL. TEA WAS ALSO LIMITED TO ONE HALF KILOGRAM PER PARCEL TO DISCOURAGE THE UZBEK PRACTICE OF MAKING EXTREMELY STRONG TEA, SOMETIMES USING ONE HUNDRED GRAMS OF TEA PER CUP. VISITING PRIVILEGES WERE GENEROUS AT THE CAMP. SOME INMATES HAD VISITORS EVERY WEEK. THERE WERE NO LIMITS ON THE SENDING OR RECEIVING OF LETTERS.

5. BOTH MALE AND FEMALE GUARDS SERVED AT THE CAMP, WHICH WAS SUBORDINATE TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, UZBEK SSR. THE CAMP FOR WOMEN WAS ENTIRELY SEPARATE; IT WAS NOT MERELY THE FEMALE SECTION OF A CAMP FOR BOTH SEXES. (COMMENT: IT WAS RUMORED AMONG INMATES THAT THERE WAS A CORRECTIVE LABOR CAMP FOR MEN ALSO ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TASHKENT AND THAT SOME OF THE INMATES OF THAT CAMP PERFORMED THEIR COMPULSORY LABOR AT PLANT P.O. 84, AN AIRCRAFT PLANT SOMEWHERE IN TASHKENT.) THERE WERE NO KNOWN POLITICAL PRISONERS OR PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE AT THE CAMP, EXCEPT FOR A NUMBER OF BAPTISTS WHO WERE CONVICTED ON CHARGES OF PROSELYTIZING RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. THE CAMP HAD ITS OWN DISPENSARY, STAFFED BY A PHYSICIAN AND SEVERAL NURSES, BUT AN INMATE WITH A SERIOUS ILLNESS WOULD BE SENT TO A NEARBY HOSPITAL FOR CONVICTS, IN WHICH THERE WAS BOTH A SECTION FOR WOMEN AND A SECTION FOR MEN. THE HOSPITAL, LIKE THE CAMP, HAD A STAFF OF GUARDS AND WAS SURROUNDED BY A GUARDED WALL. PATIENTS WERE KEPT IN WARDS OF ABOUT THIRTY PATIENTS EACH. INMATES REQUIRING PSYCHIATRIC CARE WERE SENT TO A PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL ON SARIKUL'SKAYA ULITSA IN TASHKENT WHICH WAS REACHED VIA TRAM OR BUS NUMBER 23 TO THE BUS STOP PSIKHBOL'NITSA.

6. PRISONS WERE ALSO CATEGORIZED ACCORDING TO REGIMEN, THERE BEING THREE REGIMENS: "GENERAL", "SEVERE", AND "SPECIAL" (OSOBYI). THE WORST OF THESE, FROM THE INMATES' POINT OF VIEW, WAS THE SEVERE REGIMEN PRISON. INMATES OF PRISONS WERE HOUSED IN LOCKED CELLS, RANGING FROM ONE-PERSON CELLS TO CELLS OF EIGHT OR TEN PRISONERS. FOOD PORTIONS AT THE SEVERE REGIMEN PRISONS WERE SAID TO BE SMALLER THAN AT THE OTHER TYPES OF PRISON, AND DAILY EXERCISES PERIODS WERE LIMITED TO ONE HALF HOUR AS OPPOSED TO ONE HOUR IN THE OTHER TWO TYPES. THE POLICY DICTATING ASSIGNMENT TO THE VARIOUS TYPES OF

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PRISON WAS NOT KNOWN, BUT IT WAS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT PERSONS ACCUSED OF ANTIGOVERNMENT ACTIVITY OR CRIMES INVOLVING CRIMINAL CODE ARTICLES DEALING WITH NATIONAL SECURITY WOULD BE HELD IN SEVERE REGIMEN PRISONS. IF CONVICTED, THESE INDIVIDUALS MIGHT SERVE THEIR TERMS IN THOSE SAME PRISONS. CONDITIONS IN SPECIAL PRISONS WERE UNDERSTOOD TO BE AS GOOD AS OR BETTER THAN THOSE IN GENERAL REGIMENT PRISONS AND WERE SAID TO BE USED FOR IMPORTANT CASES OR THOSE INVOLVING FOREIGNERS. THE KGB PRISON "LEFORTOVO" IN MOSCOW WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A SPECIAL REGIMEN PRISON.

7. THE TASHKENT PRISON WAS LOCATED ABOUT ONE HALF HOUR DRIVE BY AUTOMOBILE FROM THE TOWN CENTER AND WAS AN INVESTIGATIVE PRISON (SIZO) OF A GENERAL REGIMEN. INMATES WERE HELD IN LOCKED CELLS CONTAINING FROM EIGHT TO TWELVE PERSONS. WEEKLY VISITS FROM A DEFENSE COUNSEL WERE PERMITTED FOR DURATIONS OF UP TO TWO OR THREE HOURS AT A TIME. FAMILY VISITORS WERE PERMITTED TWICE A MONTH. THE RECEIPT OF PARCELS WAS NOT PERMITTED, BUT DURING VISITS WITH FAMILY TRANSFERS OF PERSONAL ITEMS SUCH AS CLOTHING WERE ALLOWED. PRISON INMATES AWAITING TRIAL DID NOT PERFORM COMPULSORY LABOR BUT COULD SPEND UP TO SEVEN RUBLES A MONTH FROM PERSONAL FUNDS AT THE PRISON STORE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A DAILY ONE HOUR RECREATION PERIOD IN THE PRISON COURTYARD AND ESCORTED TRIPS TO VISITING ROOMS OR THE PRISON DINING HALL, INMATES SPENT ALL THEIR TIME IN THEIR ASSIGNED CELLS.

8. THE MAJORITY OF THE GUARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL AT BOTH THE TASHKENT PRISON AND CORRECTIVE LABOR CAMP FOR WOMEN WERE UZBEK; THE REMAINING PERSONNEL WERE OF OTHER NATIONALITIES, INCLUDING RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN. ANALOGOUS PROPORTIONS EXISTED AMONG THE INMATES OF THE PRISON AND CAMP, REFLECTING SOCIAL PRACTICES OUTSIDE PRISON OR CAMP WALLS. UZBEK INMATES TENDED TO KEEP TO THEIR OWN KIND, BUT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF TENSION BETWEEN ETHNIC MINORITIES AND WESTERN SOVIET NATIONALS. THERE WAS A SOLID FOUNDATION OF ADMIRATION, ESPECIALLY AMONG OLDER UZBEKIS, FOR THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF RUSSIAN CULTURE AND LEARNING WHICH RAISED THE CULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL OF THE UZBEK REPUBLIC IN THE YEARS BEFORE WORLD WAR II.

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