

[REDACTED] SEPTEMBER 18, 1982 [REDACTED]

USSR: Forced Labor on Pipeline

Recent allegations in the Western press and by the International Society of Human Rights about large-scale Soviet use of forced labor in the construction of the Siberian gas export pipeline are not supported by reliable evidence. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] some of the estimated 2 million unconfined parolees and probationers have been forced to work on large construction projects in the past, including pipelines. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] past use of parolees for compressor station construction on major pipelines. [REDACTED] and could not confirm recent allegations of use of prisoners from specific forced-labor camps on the export pipeline. [REDACTED]

Nearly 2 million additional prisoners confined to 1,100 heavily secured forced-labor camps work at secured worksites near their camps. Preliminary analysis indicates that charges concerning new forced-labor camps at seven locations along the export pipeline route lack credibility:

[REDACTED] none of the forced-labor camps alleged to be at Urengoy, Ust'-Ishim, or Irbit--the last two are not near any pipeline.

--Old forced-labor camps exist at Lys'va, near the proposed pipeline route, but prisoners are engaged in logging.

--Old forced-labor camps exist at Tyumen', Tavda, and Surgut, but these are far from the pipeline route. [REDACTED]

Vietnamese laborers in the USSR number about 7,000 and will increase during the next five years. Evidence indicates that they are volunteers engaged in low-skill jobs or in training programs. [REDACTED]

Comment: Some forced labor--parolees and probationers--will probably be used on selected tasks of the export pipeline construction, in view of their use in the past on similar pipelines and because of the current labor shortage in the USSR. They are likely to be used in isolated areas constructing compressor stations and associated housing and support structures. Heavily guarded prisoners and forced laborers from Vietnam are not likely to be employed on the pipeline. [REDACTED]

Approved for Release
Date [REDACTED] MAR 1997

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