

370
PRB-~~1000~~
Apr. 2, 1948.

SECRET

0 Nicolas Malaxa

TO : [] []
FROM : [] []
H. H. SUBJECT : Malaxa plant shell loading
(Beha 21)

1. I am cabling you the essence of the attached memorandum in Beha 21. Distribution to Agency head for JANA was made by a copy of the attached.

2. The informant, an acquaintance of several months' standing, is in a position to give news of subsequent developments.

3. Agency chief commented that they have known for some time of the reconversion; that he was not surprised that the tremendous amount of German materiel here is not being let go to waste.

Distrib.

Agency Head - 1 (attachment only)
HQ -2
Beha -1

AJP

SECRET

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2004 2006

REGISTRY COPY

April 2, 1948

RE: ~~XXXXX~~ Reconversion of Malaxa's
Brasov plant to shell-loading.

From an informant reasonably well qualified to know:
(Eval. F-3)

1. The Malaxa management issued orders in mid-March to re-convert its plant near Brasov to a shell-loading plant. This work of reconversion will be finished about April 8.

2. This is a model plant, having German machinery of the most modern type. 1800 are employed there at present; 3,000 were employed when it was working as a shell-loading plant under Antonescu. Orders have been given to increase the number of workers.

3. The work to be done consists solely of artillery shells, no aviation shells. Apparently it is all for German-type weapons, including one that fires 9 or 10 shots automatically. No new types have been ordered. The largest shell ordered is of 155 mm.

4. Malaxa has the casings and fuses on hand already, a great part of it left over from the war. The casings were made in another of Malaxa's three plants, but there is talk of combining the shell-making with the shell-loading at the plant near Brasov.

5. All of the foregoing is for Soviet account. All of the work at present being done at the 3 Malaxa plants is likewise for Soviet account--being the manufacture of freight cars (broad gauge, equipped with 4-wheel trucks), oil-well tubing, chains and other oil-well drilling equipment.) The only products from these factories that have been released for Rumanian consumption were articles rejected by the Soviets on account of non-compliance with specifications.

6. The 3 plants have at present a total of 13,000 employees. Not more than 150 of these are Communists.

(N.B. According to Scantela No. 1089, dated Apr 3, 1948, an official Administrator has just been placed over the Malaxa companies on the ground that the companies misused the credits received from the National Bank.)