CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Economic - Construction materials

HOW PUBLISHED Monthly periodical; daily and semiweekly newspapers

WHERE PUBLISHED USSR

DATE PUBLISHED Feb - 21 Dec 1952

LANGUAGE Russian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949-1952

DATE DIST. 24 Aug 1953

NO. OF PAGES 4

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Periodical and newspapers as indicated.

SOME USSR BRICK PLANTS OPERATE EFFICIENTLY IN 1952; OTHERS CRITICIZED FOR POOR WORK

MOSCOW OBLAST PLANT ALMOST DOUBLES PREWAR DAILY OUTPUT -- Moscow, Za Ekonomiyu Materialov, No 2, 1952

Prior to the war, the Nizhnekotel' Brick Plant produced about 50,000 bricks during 24 hours, and this was considered good at that time. At the beginning of 1951, the plant increased its output to 75,000 bricks during 24 hours. During the same year, the plant averaged 82,000 bricks during the 24-hour period.

KOSTROMSKAYA OBLAST PLANT ACCELERATES DRYING OF RAW BRICK -- Moscow, Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, 28 Jun 52

All brick plants in the Kostromskaya Oblast are seasonal enterprises. Oblast brick workers have been striving to build up a sufficient reserve stock of raw brick to permit the annular kilns to work the year round.

During the summer of 1952, the Armenki Brick Plant expects to double its brick output over 1951. Drying time has been reduced, on an average, by 3-4 days. The plant's six drying sheds have increased their turnover of brick considerably. Six hundred thousand bricks are now dried as compared to the 450,000 dried previously, and brick-formers now form 6,000-7,000 more bricks per shift than previously. Both the use of artificial drying sheds and an acceleration of drying time have made it possible for the presses to be converted to around-the-clock operations.

By building up a reserve stock of raw brick and converting its kilns to year round operations, the plant expects to fire at least 7-7.5 million bricks during 1952.

SOUTHERN RSFSR BRICK PLANTS BUILD RESERVE FOR FUTURE FIRING -- Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, 19 Jul 52

Enterprises subordinate to Glavyug (Main Administration of Construction Materials Industry for the Southern RSFSR), Ministry of Construction Materials Industry RSFSR have started building up reserve stocks of raw bricks for fall and winter firing.

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION													
ARMY	X	AIR	X	FBI															

The Chkalov No 2 Brick Plant has started to build a reserve supply sufficient to last until the start of next season's operations. The enterprise has already stocked more than 1.5 million raw bricks. It has been drying the bricks in open air areas preliminary to firing.

The Kerch Brick and Tile Plant and the "Kommayak" Brick Plant in Severnaya Osetiya are both following the example of the Chkalov plant. These two plants have fulfilled their quota for the first 6 months of 1952 for brick-forming ahead of schedule.

KHAR'KOV PLANT FIRES BRICK OF HIGHER HUMIDITY -- Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, 2 Aug 52

In 1952, the Khar'kov No 12 Brick Plant, a seasonal enterprise, is faced with the problem of supplying Khar'kov builders with 30 percent more bricks than in 1951.

The plant was faced with the problem that the brick was drying too slowly. Despite this, the plant fulfilled its quota for the first 6 months of 1952 109.2 percent for volume and 111.1 percent for firing. It pledged to produce 2 million bricks above quota during 1952.

During 1952 the plant made some basic changes in brick manufacturing. Prior to 1950, the plant fired brick with a 7-8 percent moisture content. To reach this percentage before the brick could be fired, the pressed raw brick, containing 23-25 percent moisture, had to be dried in the drying sheds 10-14 days. In 1951 the plant changed its process and began to fire brick containing 14-16 percent moisture. Half of the brick fired during the 1952 season had a moisture content of 19-20, and sometimes 21 percent.

The change to firing brick in a wetter state has accelerated the turnover of the drying sheds and will make it possible for the plant to form an additional one million bricks per month and to manufacture in the 1952 season an additional 8 million bricks over the 1951 output.

The plant uses the up-draft method for firing brick and has installed more powerful blowers in its kilns.

To prevent the brick from cracking after being set, because of the intense heat, the temperature is raised gradually. The temperature is raised 10 degrees every hour up to 120 degrees; from that point, the temperature is raised 50-100 degrees every hour.

Although the brick manufactured by the new process completely meets state specifications, the process has not been adopted extensively by other Ukranian SSR brick plants, the plants maintaining that the new method for firing at increased moisture content lowers the quality of brick.

KHABAROVSK PLANT SOLE FAR EASTERN BRICK PLANT TO USE SEMI-DRY PROCESS -- Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, 2 Aug 52

The Khabarovsk No 1 Brick Plant is the sole brick plant in the Far East which makes brick by the semi-dry process. The plant was designed for an annual capacity of 14 million bricks. Dump trucks are used to haul the raw material from the quarry.

The plant has recently installed a new press and converted two of its old presses to a beltless drive (bezremennyy privod). All the cars used for loading bricks are equipped with ball bearings. The plant adds screened coal dust to the raw clay in forming brick and this has aided firing considerably.

In the first 7 months of 1952, the plant manufactured more than 14 million bricks, or 2.4 million above quota. Present volume per cubic meter of kiln is 1,342 bricks.

UKRANIAN PLANT CONVERTS FROM ANNULAR TO TUNNEL TYPE KILN -- Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 16 Aug 52

The Korchevatskiy No 11 Brick Plant (near Kiev) has put into operation a mechanized tunnel kiln. Volume of production per cubic meter of kiln has doubled compared to the annular type of kiln. All operations, from charging of the kiln to delivery of the finished product to the stock room, are mechanized and the firing process takes only 36-48 hours instead of the 5 days required in the case of annular kilns. Common brick, as well as facing brick, will be fired in the new tunnel kiln.

ALMA-ATA PLANT AHEAD OF 1951 PRODUCTION -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 26 Nov 52

Up to the present time, the Alma-Ata No 3 Brick Plant, the largest brick plant in the Kazakhstan SSR, has produced 8 million more bricks than in 1951.

NIZHNEDNEPROVSK BRICK PLANT PRODUCES NEW TYPE BRICK -- Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 21 Dec 52

The Nizhnedneprovsk Brick Plant has produced its first lot of silico-ferrite brick, a new product in which clay is not used. Instead, the brick is made from tailings obtained from the treatment of iron ore by the processing plants of Krivoy Rog. The large supplies of tailings have made it possible to develop the production of the new brick on a large scale. It is formed easily and is almost 20 percent cheaper than common brick.

Experiments have shown that it is very durable and has normal resistance to heat, frost, and water.

BRICK PLANTS CRITICIZED FOR POOR WORK -- Moscow, Moskovskaya Pravda, 7 Jun 52

Despite the urgent demand for brick needed to build shelters for the increasing number of cattle in the Taldom Rayon (Moscow Oblast), the kolkhoz brick plants in the rayon have not been reaching their full productive capacity.

Nineteen of the kolkhozes in the rayon have their own brick plants; 12 of these are not in operation, and the remaining seven are not working at full capacity. Despite the fact that the plants have a combined capacity of about 2 million bricks, the plants have produced 290,000 bricks, 170,000 of which have been fired.

Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, 2 Aug 52

During the first 6 months of 1952, the "Krasnaya Zvezda," Kuznetsk, and Serdobsk brick plants, all subordinate to the Penza Oblast Administration of Construction Materials Industry of Glavyug, failed to deliver 552,000 bricks and 1,434 tons of lime. The plants have not even started to manufacture tile.

The oblast brick plants can overcome their lag, but need the cooperation of the main and oblast administrations. This they have been unable to obtain.

Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 11 Jun 52

In 1951, the Stalinir Brick Plant has operated poorly. Clay preparation has been poorly timed, brick firing has been delayed, and the plant's management has failed to make provisions for drying brick in proper sequence. As a result, instead of the 10 percent normally allowed for waste, the figure rose to 34 percent.

Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, 2 Aug 52

Despite the fact that the Ufa No 1 Brick Plant, subordinate to Glavvostok (Main Administration of Construction Materials Industry in Siberia and the Far East, Ministry of Construction Materials Industry RSFSR), has received new machinery in 1949-52, it has failed to put the machinery into operation and has not mechanized its operations.

In 1951, it failed to deliver 900,000 bricks. During the first 6 months of 1952, it failed to deliver one million bricks. The plant has not mechanized its operations in the quarry, but has been allowing its machinery to stand idle. The narrow-gauge railroad running from the quarry to the plant is loose in many places; in many places the rails are actually bent. The raw clay is hauled in cars pushed by workers. The quarry has no foreman and hence the director of the plant must look after all operations of the quarry in addition to his responsibilities in the plant.

The lag in the plant's operations is due mainly to the fact that the plant has not been building up a stock of raw brick. The number of raw brick to be removed from the brick press has been set at 16,000 bricks per shift, but even this volume is not achieved. Sometimes 20,000-23,000 bricks are formed per shift, but this is quite infrequent. The average output per shift during July 1952 was 14,000 bricks. More frequently, output has dropped to 9,000-10,000 bricks per shift, mainly because of numerous emergencies and press breakdowns. Presses are used until worn out; there is no maintenance; there is a lack of spare parts. The plant's various shops are located far apart and have no telephone communications.

Quite frequently, the drying sheds are empty because of the lack of raw brick from the presses. Despite the fact that roofs on the sheds have rotted away, they have not been replaced. In 1951, the plant attempted to fire brick by an accelerated method but soon had to abandon the idea because of an insufficient supply of dried-out brick to load into the kiln.

- E N D -