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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION - REPORT

REPORT
CD NO. [Redacted]

COUNTRY Poland/East Germany
SUBJECT Decline of Polish Coal Deliveries to East Germany

620494

DATE DISTR 25 August 1954

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PLACE ACQUIRED

[Redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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[Redacted]

Between 26 March and 14 April 1954, coal shipments from Poland to East Germany decreased by about 33 percent. This decline was caused by a major mine disaster at Chorzow near Katowice, where an entire mine area was affected by a big fire. In the Polish press it was mentioned that 42 miners died in the fire. However, in the population it is rumored that the fire caused several hundred deaths. 1

25X1 [Redacted] Comment: The decline of Polish coal exports to East Germany was also reflected in transportation reports which, however, indicate that coal shipments started to decrease already prior to 26 March 1954. It is, therefore, believed that the mine disaster mentioned is not the main reason for the decline of Polish coal exports to East Germany.

- 1. [Redacted] Comment: Reference is to the fire at the Barbara Wyszolenska mine near Chorzow on March 21 which was played down in the Polish press. 25X1

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