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REPORT

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REFERENCES

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1. The synthetic fuel plant (Zaklad Koksii Chemicznego) at Blachownia Slaska (Blechhammer) (N 50-22, E 18-17) is the former German Oberschlesisches Hydrierwerk. The installation, covering an area of 6 x 4 kilometers, includes a tar distillation unit, a benzol distillation unit, and 6 underground gasoline and crude oil storage tanks. Also located within the plant areas are the central workshops for the entire Polish synthetic fuel industry (Centralny Warsztat Koksii Chemicznego).
2. The benzol distillation unit has a capacity of 250 tons per day. The underground storage tanks have a capacity of 10,000 - 15,000 cubic meters each. The synthetic fuel industry workshop has its own foundry and is concerned with the repair of machinery.
3. The underground storage tanks are controlled by the Petroleum Association of Warsaw (Towarzystwo Naftowe) which has its own guard and fire squads on the premises.
4. The Poles are attempting to raise the plant's production capacity to the prewar level but are faced with the lack of capital equipment, most of which was dismantled by the Russians previously. It is planned to repair 12 Lurgi furnaces and a low-temperature tar distillation unit (Schwelteerdistillation). The furnaces can be repaired at low cost because the most important components are still in place. Recently the Poles removed the rust from the furnaces and painted them.
5. In mid-December 1954, when the tar distillation unit was to commence production, the tube furnace exploded causing several injuries and one fatality. As a result, production of this unit could not be started. The entire furnace will have to be rebuilt. The task of rebuilding the furnace will take approximately twelve weeks, provided materials are available.

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