

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Dalstroy Personalities

1. The first exploratory group went to the Kolyma region around 1932. The first chief of the area was Beregin (fnu), a very good man who was liquidated after two or three years. He was succeeded by a Garanin (fnu), during the early part of World War II. Enroute, his ship was captured by the Japanese, who killed him and sent a Japanese who resembled him in his place (sic). After two or three years, Garanin's sister came from Moscow to visit her brother. When she arrived in Magadan, she was shown a picture of the false Garanin and realized that he was an impostor. The false Garanin tried to escape and drove to the airfield at Susman where two of his assistants were killed. He was captured alive.
2. Soon after World War II, the chief of Dalstroy was Lt. General Ivan Nikishov. It was a very difficult time, because the Americans had stopped sending Lend-Lease food when the Soviets refused to pay for it. There were terrible famines and about ten million prisoners died, some four million in the winter of 1946-1947, and another six million in the following year. The situation was so desperate that people were crawling on all fours from starvation. Only 700 of the 4,000 men working on the Kulu-Neksikan road survived.<sup>1</sup> The situation improved when food which had been taken from the Japanese, was made available. Nikishov was blamed for the famine and removed.
3. Nikishov was succeeded, for three or four months, by his assistant, Derevyanko (fnu). Then came Lt. Polkovnik Petrenko (fnu) who was very kind

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to prisoners. In 1949 or 1950, the papers announced his death, but the common rumor was that he had been poisoned. [redacted]

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#### Administration

4. The Kolyma region was subdivided into directorates (upravleniye), normally headed by a colonel (polkovnik). The directorates were subdivided into individual mines (priisk), normally headed by a major. The mines consisted of a headquarters section (OLP - otdeleniye lagernogo punkta) and mine pit sections (uchastok) which had both numbers and names. These sections were normally headed by a man with the equivalent rank of a captain or a senior lieutenant. Under the OLP there might also be smaller subdivisions, called komandirovka. These sections often worked in the woods. [redacted]
5. There was a total of nine directorates under Dalstroy. Following are the names and headquarters' location where known:
- Indigirka Directorate: Headquarters in Ust Nera. In 1951, the head of the directorate was Lt. Col. Smulov. (fnu), who was promoted and left.
  - Neksikan Directorate: The directorate was very large. The towns of Kurunakhsala and Adagalakh were in the Neksikan Directorate.<sup>3</sup>
  - Levyi Bereg or Usvitl Directorate: Usvitl is a suburb of Levyi Bereg (N 62-21, E 150-40); both names were used. [redacted]
  - Seymchan Directorate: Headquarters in Seymchan.
  - Tenkin Directorate: Centered around Kulu. It extended south of Kulu and west of Palatka (N 60-05, E 150-55). The headquarters was at Sevmdesvat Vtoroy or 72nd km. [redacted]
  - Yagodnyy: A directorate or an otdeleniye.<sup>5</sup>
  - Palatka: A directorate, rayon, or other division. The most southern mine of Neksikan Directorate, Gardeyets, forms the northern limit of the Palatka area.
  - The Sugum Uranium Mine also formed a separate upravleniye or otdeleniye. The Uliskit Wolfram Mine was a separate otdeleniye.<sup>6</sup>

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6. [redacted] the total number of forced laborers in the Kolyma region was about three million. There were only a few free people in that area; [redacted]

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7. The address for a person in the Kolyma region varied according to the location. One example is as follows: Dalstroy, gorod Magadan (abbreviated "gor."), Tenkinskiy Upravleniye, Priisk Nr. (Dalstroy, Town of Magadan, Tenkin Directorate, Mine No. —). In other cases, the directorate would be omitted, and the address would be written: Dalstroy, Gor. Magadan, Posélok Ust Nera, Priisk Nr. (Dalstroy, Town of Magadan, Village of Ust Nera, Mine No. —). This was done because Ust Nera was a well-known place.

#### Wolfram Mine

8. A wolfram mine was located at Uliskit<sup>9</sup> The work was extremely hard, and many people died. [redacted] the majority of the prisoners in Uliskit were Vlassovites and Bandera Ukrainians. In 1949 or 1950, there was a revolt in the mine, and some 500 prisoners were killed. A Japanese major escaped with a Russian toward Yakutsk. They were recaptured and returned to the Kolyma region.

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Possible Uranium Mine at Sugum

- 9. Source heard about a uranium mine in Sugum from two prisoners who had worked at Sugum, between the Delyankyr and the Artyk Rivers. The mine had another name until about 1948, [Redacted].  
[Redacted] The only basis for the prisoners' believing that the ore actually contained uranium was that workers employed there were never told what they were doing. In other mines they knew that they were getting gold, cobalt, or cassiterite. At Sugum, when a worker asked what the ore contained, he was told that this was none of his business.

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Hospitals

- 10. There was a rayon hospital in Ust Nera with about 500 beds. [Redacted] the largest hospital of the area was at Levy Bereg and that there was another larger hospital at 72nd km (Seymdeyat Vtoroy km).<sup>7</sup>

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Sovkhoz

- 11. There was a reindeer sovkhov nine km from the western bank of the Indigirka River, across the river from the Kinersala Gold mine.<sup>8</sup> There were about 1,000 reindeer there. [Redacted] near Omyakon there were some 8,000 reindeer in several sovkhov. There were usually about 800 to 1,000 head in each sovkhov. [Redacted] there were reindeer sovkhovy near Susman, at Berelyaki (N 62-47, E 148-07). Some prospecting groups were also supplied with food by reindeer transportation.

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Temperatures

- 12. [Redacted] the minimum temperature along the Indigirka River was minus 70 degrees centigrade. In Magadan, the minimum temperature was 46 degrees (sic).

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- 1. [Redacted]
- 2. [Redacted] Comment: [Redacted] the town of Neksikan is the headquarters of the Chay Urinskoye Directorate.
- 3. [Redacted] points 25 and 47 for locations of these towns [Redacted]
- 4. Washington Comment: According to previous reports, 72 Km Camp is 72 km north of Magadan.
- 5. Washington Comment: [Redacted] Yagodny is the headquarters of the Northwestern Directorate.
- 6. [Redacted] points 3 and 41b.
- 7. [Redacted] point 4 for further details of the hospital at Ust Nera and [Redacted] for a report on the hospital at Levy Bereg.
- 8. [Redacted] point 10.
- 9. [Redacted] Comment: Uliskit is possibly the same as Alyaskitovy (approximately N 64-50, E 141-35), on the Arangas River.

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