

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Wismut A.G., Object 1, Johanngeorgenstadt	DATE DISTR.	24 February 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. In July 1954, Object 1 at Johanngeorgenstadt included among others Mines No. 54, 18, 1 (central mine), 31, 31 bis, 51, 126, 80, and 164 near Johanngeorgenstadt, in addition to Mines No. 236 and 98 near Antonsthal. New mines had not been sunk.
2. Mines No. 126, 80, and 164 had a total labor force of about 1,800 including 250 women. The women worked exclusively above ground. The output of the mines was decreasing. Mine 31 had a labor force of about 2,000, and Mine 54 one of about 2,600 including 300 women who worked above ground.
3. The average output per shift at each of the eight sections in operation at Mine 54 was as follows:

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STATE	X	ARMY	Ev	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI	AEC	X	OSI	Ev	X
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Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#"

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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50X1-HUM

- 2 -

grade 1 ore: $\frac{1}{2}$ box
 grade 2 ore: 12 or 13 boxes
 grade 3 ore: 3 mine carloads,

grade 3 ore was shipped to the sorting plants at Erlabrunn and Johanngeorgenstadt. Waste material was dropped on a dump.

4. Mine 1 (central mine) had a labor force of about 1,000 men. Work was done at five different levels. The maximum depth reached was about 240 meters. The production target per shift was fixed at about 20 boxes of grade 1 ore. This production target has always been fulfilled. The ore mined was black and greenish.
5. The work force of Mine 18 was estimated at 1,100 to 1,200 men. The mine had four levels, the greatest depth was about 280 meters. The output of the mine was rather low, and only so-called Muellerz was obtained. No grade 1 ore was ever seen at the mine. A bonus of 50 eastmarks was paid for one box of ore. The ore mined was black and blue. Although the ore found at the mine was of poor quality, blasting operations were prohibited. In June 1954, no new miners were hired. On the contrary, many miners were transferred from Johanngeorgenstadt to other Wismut installations. On 15 May 1954, a group of 400 men was transferred, presumably to Schlema and Auerbach.
6. Mines 18 and 53 were merged in 1950. Descent into the mine was made only through Mine 53, while the elevator tower of Mine 18 was used only for the hauling of ore. There were three mine levels, i.e., level 66 which was deactivated and was being filled up, level 78 which was 10 percent in operation, and level 95 which was worked at full capacity. The ore yield was very poor. Mining operations were hampered by a layer of granite which extended from Eibenstock toward Czechoslovakia. About 50 boxes of grade 1 ore were produced at Mine 18/53; but it was believed that this ore did not really meet the specifications for grade 1 ore. A bonus of up to 3 eastmarks was paid for one box of ore. In addition to grade 1 ore, about 100 mine carloads of other type ore were produced. The ore mined was black, yellow, green, and red.
7. Mine 18/53 was to be merged with Mine 54. All mines in Johanngeorgenstadt were expected to be closed soon except for Mines 1, 54, and 31. Mine 31/bis was to be deactivated in June 1954. It was learned that granite layers were struck near Eibenstock, near Schwarzenberg, and near Lanke in the Aue district.
8. The labor force of Mine 31 was estimated to be 2,500 men, who worked in 9 sections. The mine had five levels, the so-called 16-Lachter, 78-Lachter, 95-Lachter, 140-Lachter, and 160-Lachter levels. (A Lachter is an obsolete measurement equal in length to two meters.) The greatest depth reached was about 320 meters. The production target was fixed at 10-15 boxes of grade 1 ore per shift and mine section. Since mining operations were conducted in seven mine sections, 240-250 boxes of grade 1 ore were to be produced within a 24-hour period. These production targets were reached or even exceeded. The ore mined looked black, red, and green.
9. The labor force of Object 1, the largest object in the entire uranium ore mining area, was estimated to be 45,000 persons. Mine 31 was the only installation of Object 1 to have so-called Mundlochbetrieb (a method of mining in which galleries are bored horizontally into the slopes of hills).
10. The payment of bonuses for high-quality ore depended on the mood of the Soviet supervisory personnel who disregarded fixed rules.
11. Prior to June 1954, the labor force of Mine 31 was estimated to be 800 - 1,000 men. The mine had three levels, the deepest level was at 78 meters. On 1 June 1954, the labor force of the mine was decreased by about 30 percent, and only two shifts were worked. The output of the mine was rather poor. The production target was fixed at 5 or 6 boxes of high-quality ore per shift. On the average, only 2 boxes of high-quality ore were obtained. On Sundays, no high-quality ore was mined at all. Since 1954, a bonus of only 3 eastmarks has been paid per box of high-quality ore.

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50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM

- 3 -

12. Mine 253 and Mine 336 were merged. The labor force of Mine 253 was estimated to be 800 men, the labor force of Mine 336 at about 1,500 men. The deepest level was at about 250 meters. On the second level, ore was mined at a depth of about 90 meters. In March 1954, about 20 boxes of grade 1 ore were produced per shift.

50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM