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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In November 1954, Soviet chief of Object No. 9 was one Liyenov who had his headquarters at the former Sachsenwerk Plant (punching and enameling installation) at Aue.

2. Mine No. 186/296 was located near Oberalberoda, near the boundaries of the town of Oberschlema, about 500 meters from the railroad tunnel. Approach to the mine was from Oberalberoda. Chief of the mine was Soviet mining engineer Verinov; specialist for uranium ore mining activities was Soviet engineer Seryev; German mine supervisor was Heinz Frank from Oberschlema; Chief of the Work Norms Department was Kurt Grosch who came from the vicinity of Dresden. The mine had a work force of 1,250 men. The first shift employed 450 men, the two other shifts 400 men each. The difference was due to the fact that administrative personnel worked only during the first shift.

3. Mine No. 186/296 had six levels. The first level had 2 working panels, the third and fourth levels 5 working panels each, the fifth level 4 working panels. The sixth level was still being sunk. This level was to reach a depth of 600 meters. Gallery boring operations were under way at levels 1 through 5. Mining activities were fully mechanized. Four mobile loaders fitted with pneumatic motors were employed at

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the first level, 3 loaders at the second level, 6 loaders at the third level, 4 loaders at the fourth level, and 6 loaders at the fifth level. Two electric locomotives were available at each level for the hauling of mine cars. The mine was also equipped with a modern hauling engine.

4. The output of pitchblende per shift was 80 to 120 boxes which were picked up at the mine. From 15 to 20 x 4-ton trucks loaded with loose ore left Mine No. 296 per shift. Mines No.186 and 296 which were about 1,000 meters apart, were interconnected on the first level at a depth of 160 meters. The latter mine was used as an elevator shaft. The ore storage bunkers for loose material were at Mine No 296.

   Prior to blasting operations, all boreholes were tested with the Soviet type Melonov set. After the borehole charges had been detonated the ore obtained was tested with a Geiger counter. Pitchblende was only to be picked by means of pneumatic hammers. The ore was packed into boxes under Soviet supervision.

5. Mine No.207 belonged to Object No 9 which had its mines in the Schneeberg-Niederschlema-Aue area. The mine was reportedly built between 1948 and 1950. In 1953, the mine was awarded the Stalin banner, a challenge trophy, because of its high ore output. Mine No.207 was located about 700 meters south of the Niederschlema railroad station, 300 to 400 meters west of the Niederschlema-Aue railroad line.

6. Chief of the mine was Soviet mining engineer Krokovny (phonetic spelling) [redacted] the chief work norms clerk was Wolfgang Baier [redacted] lived in Niederschlema; mine foreman was Gottfried Gehmlich, [redacted] 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
   The personnel office of the mine was outside the fenced-in area. The ration card distribution point, the pay office and the shop trade union management were attached to this office.

7. In September 1954, mining activities at the mine were conducted at four levels. The mine had no railroad connection. Its work force was roughly estimated at 3,500 men. From 800 to 900 men were assigned to each of the three shifts worked.

8. The work norms for gallery boring operations were fixed according to the hardness of the rock to be handled. The boring of holes 105 to 120 cm deep took from 10 to 20 minutes. Most of the rock found at Mine No 207 was a quartz material and belonged to hardness category 7 and 8. In rock of category 10, a brigade had to make an advance of 60 meters per month, which represented an advance of 40 to 45 cm per man and shift. The cross section of a gallery was about 180x250 cm. The galleries were timbered only if it were absolutely necessary for the safety of miners.

9. Chiefly ore pockets and so-called Scheren (a series of small ore pockets) were found at the fourth level of Mine No.207. The average thickness of ore veins was three or four cm, but in some cases they reached a thickness of 15 cm. Good ore looked dark blue to black and had a smell like dung water. Low-quality ore looked blue-green and was interlaminated by quartz veins. Only pitchblende was mined.

10. In August 1954, a device designed to facilitate boring operations for gallery advance work was introduced by Hero of Labor Gustav Huebner. The device consisted of an iron plate in the size of the cross section of a gallery and made possible the simultaneous boring of nine boreholes. The device was allegedly invented in the USSR. It was to be used at all mines of the Wismut AG. In September 1954, most of the boring operations at Mine No.207 were performed by hand and usually only one group of shots was fired in one shift. In the spring of 1951, experiments were made to accelerate advance operations by placing metal sheets or tarpaulins at the end of driving shields (advance heading?) before blasting operations. After firing the charges of boreholes, these sheets were pulled away so that boring or picking operations could be continued without delay. This method was discontinued because it did not work. The blasted rock was generally loaded on mine cars by means of mobile loaders called "Eisenner Gustav" by the miners. At the beginning of each shift the advance heading had to be tested. If the rock had a 10 hardness, 16 to 18 boreholes were prescribed. Prior to each blasting operation, each borehole was tested by the radiometrist. No charges were to be used in radioactive ore.

11. While Mine No 207 had only one ore testing station and three old-type storage bunkers for low-grade ore, a modern ore sifting plant was erected near elevator shaft No 66a in July 1954. The sifting plant was in a wooden building 30x40 meters and about 6 meters high. The building had a gable roof and rested on a wooden platform about four meters high. Low-quality ore of grade 1 through 3 was trucked by German drivers escorted by Soviet personnel toward Aue and Niederschlema. Ore boxes carried a slip with undetermined data. The sheet metal boxes measured about 40x60x35 cm and were not locked or sealed. One box filled with grade-1 ore weighed 80 to 90 kg. Numbers were chalked on the side walls of the boxes, which were taken to the ore collecting point of the mine where they were weighed, tested and then trucked to Bruenlasberg by Soviet drivers.

12. In mine district No 4 of Mine No.207, 20 to 25 boxes of high-quality ore of grade 1 and 60 to 70 boxes of grade 2 and 3 ore were produced per shift. No information was available on the output of low-quality ore.

13. In the summer of 1954, [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted] plans have been made to reroute the village brook coming from the direction of Schneeberg toward the East Settlement near Oberschlema because the water of the brook was seeping into some mines located between Schneeberg and Niederschlema. A concrete bed was to be built for the brook.

14. In October 1954, Mine No. 207 had a work force of 3,200 men who worked three shifts. One specific brigade produced up to 10 boxes of ore per shift. The ore was taken by air hoist from the central working shaft to a gallery below where it was loaded on mine cars. One mine car could be loaded with nine boxes of ore. For one box of grade I ore 25 to 200 DME were paid; for one box of grade II ore 12 to 25 DME, and for one box of grade III ore 3 to 12 DME. Low-grade ore was carried away on the ore chute and then loaded into mine cars which were hoisted to the surface. Radioactive ore and waste material were separated at an ore testing point above ground. Low-grade ore was trucked to the ore washing plant at Aue.

15. Mine No. 207 had five mine districts and six levels. The first district had four levels, the fourth level being at a depth of about 500 meters. Gallery 207/B extended to the fifth level. Closed shaft No.76 gave access to the second district. The second district was on an intermediate level between the fourth and fifth levels. The third district was on the fourth level, and the fourth and fifth districts were on the fifth level.

16. The individual hewers who picked ore at Mine No 250 were informed by radiometrists of the quality of the ore obtained. They put a slip stating the grade of ore, the gallery involved, the brigade and the hewer responsible into each box of ore. Ore was classified as pitchblende, grade 1 through 3 ore, low-grade ore and active ore. Only grade 1 through 3 ore was boxed under ground. A bonus of from 100 to 3 DME was granted per box of ore, but very often only part of the money was actually paid.

17. Ore boxed under ground included pitchblende which was packed into lead-lined wooden boxes and grade-1 and 2 ore which was packed into sheet metal boxes. The quality of the ore was determined by German or Soviet radiometrists. The boxed ore was hauled to the surface by mine cars. At the elevator tower, Soviet personnel directed the boxed ore to the ore storage shed which was off-limits to Germans. Grade-3 ore was loaded into special mine cars. At the surface the ore was checked again by Soviet radiometrists and then taken to the storage bunker for grade-3 ore. Low-quality ore was treated like grade-3 ore. Ore of a quality inferior to Armerz (low-quality ore) was taken to a special storage bunker from where it was mechanically dropped on a special conveyor belt called "Rasband" by the Germans.[1] This conveyor belt was fitted with an ore testing device and an automatic sorting device separating radioactive material from waste. Waste material was taken by a second conveyer belt to a storage bunker for Masse, from where it was taken on an inclined hoist, the so-called Terrakonik, to a distribution point on the dump. Since the summer of 1954, two electric locomotives and eight dump cars have been employed at the dump of Mine No.250.

18. At mine No 250, a 4.5-ton ZIS-150 truck made three or four runs per shift to the ore storage shed. In December 1954, about 115 truckloads of grade-3 ore, low-quality ore and active ore were produced per shift. The trucks used for hauling operations were 3.5-ton ZIS-150 and 2.5-ton Molotov trucks. From 12 to 15 truckloads of grade-3 ore were produced per shift.

19. Boxed ore produced at the mine was probably shipped to the ore washing plant at Bruenlasberg. All grade-2 ore, low-quality ore and active ore was shipped to the "Graessler" Erzhof (ore storage plant) at Aue, which was enlarged in the summer of 1954. From the "Erzhof" the ore was shipped on shuttle trains consisting of flatcars to the ore washing plants at Crossen on the Mulde River and Freiberg. The scale of the Erzhof at Aue was fitted with an ore testing device operated by Soviet personnel. Depending on the quality of the ore, it was sent either to storage bunker I or II. The driver of the truck which had brought ore to the storage plant at Aue was given a stamped slip on which the quality and the weight of the ore on his truck was stated.

20. Most of the ore which left the mine was wet. For this reason the ore was trucked to the "Graessler" Erzhof as soon as possible. If the storage bunkers of the Graessler installation at Aue were full, low-quality ore and active ore was dumped. Quality-3 ore was always sent to Aue. Before ore was dumped on the low-quality ore dump, it was again checked by a Soviet radiometrist. This precautionary measure was taken by the Soviets in order to prevent sabotage acts by the Germans who might be inclined to drop quality-3 ore on the dump for low-grade ore. The dumps for waste material were also re-checked by Soviet radiometrists.

21. In 1954, Mine No 250 had a work force of more then 2,000 men who worked three shifts. The mine was guarded by Soviet soldiers. About 25 soldiers were stationed at the guard room in the so-called "Garderobengebaeude"; and a sergeant and four privates were detached for guard duties on the four watch towers every four hours from the barracks installation on Niederschlemaer Weg at Aue. Every worker entering the mine turned in his identity paper and received a special mine pass. The procedure was reversed when the workers left the mine. All workers were then checked for radioactive ore which they might carry on them.

1. [redacted] Comment. RAS may stand for the initials of "Radioaktive Sammelstelle" (collective point for radioactive ore). 50X1-HUM

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