

Approved For Release 2008/11/14 : CIA-RDP80T00246A000800790001-6

25X1

Page Denied

Approved For Release 2008/11/14 : CIA-RDP80T00246A000800790001-6

INFORMATION REPORT

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY
USSR

SUBJECT
The Volga-Ural Interfluve

DATE DISTRIBUTED
18 Feb 1957 25X1
NO. OF PAGES
1
NO. OF ENCLS.
SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT # 25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

report entitled

"Some Data on the Territory Between the Volga-Ural Rivers (Volga-Ural Interfluve) "

It covers the following subjects: 25X1

- (1) Surface
- (2) Inhabited Areas
- (3) Flora
- (4) Fauna
- (5) Hunting Laws
- (6) Fishery Laws
- (7) Remarks

The report is CONFIDENTIAL.]

25X1

-end-

25X1

79

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

DISTRIBUTION	STATE	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	EV ORR															
--------------	-------	------	------	-----	--------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

25X1

Page Denied

CONFIDENTIAL

Some data on the territory between
the Volga-Ural rivers (Volga-Ural Interfluve).

CONFIDENTIAL

SOME DATA ON THE VOLGA-URAL INTERFLUVE.

The foregoing report aims to provide information on the Volga-Ural Interfluve, which covers the area limited by:

a) The left bank of the Volga River from Stalingrad downstream past Astrakhan to the coast of the Caspian Sea;

b) The coast of the Northern part of the Caspian Sea from the Volga River delta to the delta of the Ural River;

c) The right bank of the Ural River starting from its delta upstream to the NP (inhabited area) of Kalmykovo (proposed location for the confluence of the projected Volga-Ural Canal;

d) The proposed outline of the projected Volga-Ural Canal.

The following data concerning the Volga-Ural Interfluve territory will be discussed in this report:

- 1) Surface,
- 2) Inhabited areas,
- 3) Flora,
- 4) Fauna,
- 5) Hunting laws,
- 6) Fishery laws,
- 7) Additional remarks.

.....

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

1. Surface.

The surface of the Volga-Ural Interfluve forms a part of the Pre-Caspian Lowlands which embrace in a semi-circle the Northern coast of the Caspian Sea from the SULAK River past Volga and Ural River and as far as the Ust' Urt Hills.

The Interfluve ~~constitutes~~ ^{consists of} lowlands which are about 28 meters below sea-level. The surface of the interfluve ~~increases~~ ^{RISES} gradually from the coast of the Caspian Sea to ~~the~~ North*West from 28 to 11 meters below sea-level. There are sand massifs among the low areas in the South. The so-called "Ber" Knolls are located in the vicinity of the Volga Delta. They constitute parallel ridges which extend almost latitudinally. Their height reaches up to 25 meters, length - from 1 to 25 kilometers and width - up to 450 meters. Sea or river water, forming salt lakes or fresh water bayous, penetrate some of the low-lands between the ridges. The "Ber" Knolls are frequently covered with ~~a~~ layers of Loess clay formed ^{On} by sands with deposits of gypsiferous dark-chestnut colored clay. Some of the knolls, ~~have~~ populated areas may be found. Low areas between knolls have frequently been turned into depressions formed as a result of the drying of salt lakes. These depressions are covered with a thin layer of salt under which may be found liquid clay or liquid salt. These depressions are called "sora" or "shora" (salt flats).

The Interfluve is situated mainly in the semi-desert zone, however in the South it ~~is situated~~ ^{EVEN COVERS} even in the desert zone. The Caspian Sea is fringed with a wide strip of ~~sandy areas~~ ^{salt-containing} sandy areas closely intersected with bayous which fill up with water when the wind blows from ~~the direction of~~ the Sea. Locally such a wind is called "Moryana".

There are a great many lakes with thin coatings of salt on the bottom situated in the Interfluve territory. The water of these lakes is salty and bitter-salty. The majority of lakes in the Interfluve are dried up. In my opinion, there are at least 500 dried-out salt lakes in the interfluvial territory. ^{CS} Among the large well-preserved lakes, the

-1- CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

following should be mentioned: Baskunchak^{lake}, the Kamysh-Samarskiye Lakes, the Karchayskoye Lake. The most important^{cooking} salt mines in the country are located at Baskunchak Lake. These mines provide as much as 30% of the total salt production in the country. Such rivers as the big and small Uzen¹ and a few others originating beyond the limits of ~~Kazakhstan~~ and Astrakhan¹ Oblast do not enter the Interfluve territory^{SINCE THEY} getting lost somewhere in the sands North of this area.

Within the confines of Guryev Oblast, on the boundary with Astrakhan¹ Oblast, there is a huge sand massif which is called "Urdinskiye peski".
~~Based on soil conditions~~
 the interfluvial territory may be divided into the following zones:

1) The zone of plain clayey steppes. It starts approximately ~~from~~ at the village of Tambovka (located on the bank of the Akhtuba River, a distance of about 100 kilometers North ~~from~~ ²⁵ Astrakhan), from Tambovka extends it ~~continues~~ for about 120 kilometers in a North²⁵Eastern direction ~~in~~ where it intersects with the 48th degree Latitude North but not as far as Bazan, ~~except~~ a populated area. Here the boundary of the zone ~~terminates~~ ^{follows:} a North-Western direction and continues, parallel to the Volga, beyond ~~penetrating~~ ^{penetrating} Kazakhstan, ~~entering~~ Stalingrad Oblast territory.

2) The zone of plain sandy desert lands. It starts approximately at the village of Tambovka and runs parallel to the Volga-Akhtubinsk flood plain and Volga Delta (not hitting it closely) as far as the shore of the Black Sea. Then the zone boundary runs parallel to the sea-shore to where it crosses 50° 30 min. Eastern longitude and 47° Northern latitude. There the zone boundary turns North-East and extends for about 120-130 kilometers to ~~where it crosses~~ the intersection with the 48° Northern Latitude and 51° Eastern Longitude. There the zone boundary turns ~~in a North-Western direction~~ West in a latitudinal direction as far as Bazan, a populated area, and from there it runs along the boundary of zone "1" as far as Tambovka, a populated area.

3) The zone of plain clayey deserts. It ~~approximately~~ begins at 50° 30 min. East Longitude and 47° North Latitude ~~North Latitude~~ and runs along the sea-coast to the mouth of the Ural River. Then the boundary

of the zone runs along the right bank of the Ural River approximately as far as the West-Kazakhstan Oblast border. From there the boundary of the zone turns South-West and extends almost straight to 48° North Latitude and 51° East Longitude to where it meets the boundary of zone "2".

4) The zone of plain sandy desert steppes; This zone is limited by zone "1" in the West, South and North-East it is limited by the zones "2" and "3". In the North, the zone boundary runs approximately latitudinally in a ~~Westerly~~ western direction from the Ural River and continues a bit farther to the south of ~~lake~~ the Kamysh-Samarski Lakes, the inhabited area of Novaya Kazanka, the Aral Sor Lake and almost reaches the Stalingrad Oblast boundary line.

In sum, according to the zone in the interfluvial territory, there is a predominance of Loess (alluvial clay), clayey sands, salty sands, solonchak mudbanks, ~~and marshes and inaccessible swamps along the coast~~ of the Black Sea. There are no rock formations in the interfluvial territory. The soil along the sea coast in the area of the Ural River delta and the soil of the Peshnykh and Rakushechnykh Islands are of a special nature. In some areas the coastal terrain consists of solid limestone with penetration to a considerable depth. The majority of ^{25X1} the Peshnykh and Rakushechnykh islands also consist of solid limestone with considerable depth penetration.

The landscape on these islands (if one can go so far as to call it landscape) presents a distressing sight. There is not one bush, not a blade of grass; even moving around over this ground is a difficult matter. Nevertheless, people are forced to work and live on some of the islands.

conservation
Soil ~~conservation~~ in the interfluvial territory is carried out both by means of local resources and under state direction, but progress so far has been on an exceedingly insignificant scale. Soil conservation is undertaken in two directions:

1) Measures are taken to protect fertile areas from flooding during the spring flood period. This applies mainly to the Volga-Akhtubinsk

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

flood plain (local designation of it is "Zaymishche") and the Volga river delta. These measures consist of reinforcing and building up river banks (by increasing the height of river banks in order to keep the water from running over them). However, such projects require the expenditure of much labor and proceed at a slow pace.

2) ^{Soil} Irrigation and drainage, preparation of sandy soil for planting of forests. Soil drainage and irrigation is presently carried out by means of local resources; such measures do not reach major proportions and are implemented in areas where fresh water is available. A government decree issued in 1948 called for construction of an automatic-flow main ~~at~~ Volga-Ural canal 600 kilometers long. ~~By~~ Construction of this canal is designed to irrigate an area of about 6 million hektars of land. Construction of the Volga-Ural canal has not been launched yet, however. The intention was to start with the construction of the canal when a dam would be erected over the Volga near Stalingrad and the Stalingrad ~~water reservoir~~ reservoir formed. The preparation of sandy soils is a very important matter because in a number of places they extend ~~direct~~ all the way to the Volga river. Besides, the sands are continuously churned up by roving cattle. The preparation of sandy areas is intended to be accomplished by the planting of forests and sowing of grass. Finally, plans have been developed for soil-preserving forestation along the banks of the Volga and Ural rivers. But ~~the~~ as it is with the preparation of sands, nothing has ~~xxxx~~ happened to this plan so far. Both plans are only on paper. So far the sandy areas have not been prepared and soil preserving forestation has not been carried out. However, in 1949 and 1950 ~~some~~ attempts in forestation were made in some areas but they all ended in a complete failure. There was no man-power and the effort to get people from towns and villages ~~and school children~~ ^{SCHOOL CHILDREN AND} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~HAD NO~~ children to work on forestation projects for no pay ~~practically~~ ^{practically} useless. ^{SUBJECT TO SPEAK OF} The few young saplings which somehow managed to get into the ground died partly as a result of improper planting and those remaining alive were finally destroyed by roving cattle.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

It may be noted that a central station of the All-Union scientific-research institute for reforestation, called "Bogdinskiy oporny punkt", exists in Vladimirsk Rayon of the Astrakhansk Oblast. Soil-preserving forest strips were raised there. As a result a good crop of wheat has been raised, truck farming and fruit growing promoted and grapes cultivated. On the other hand, the Soviet government cannot take much credit for the success of this station. The "Bogdinskiy oporny punkt" was established way back in 1925 with the help of scientists and the local population. No other oasis has been created in the interfluvial territory so far. There ~~is~~ ^{are} no all-year around pastures for cattle grazing in the interfluvial territory. For that reason rearing of cattle on the range predominates. Pastureland in this area can be found mainly in spring-time when the snow melts (as a matter of fact very little snow falls there and in some areas there is none at all) and spring rains fall. There are winter pastures as well. Beginning of summer, when the grass becomes parched, cattle moves to other areas. Mainly sheep and two-hump camels are driven out to wilted pasture land. Large horned cattle graze on flooded meadows. Cattle on wilted pastures ~~often and heavily suffer~~ are frequently and severely exposed to sheet ice which is generally accompanied by strong North-East winds. In Kazakhstan this phenomenon is called "Dzhut", but in Astrakhansk Oblast it is called "Zhugan". Dzhut or "Zhugan" come up suddenly. After ~~thaw~~ a thaw and sometimes after a rainfall, when the air temperature is around 0 degree Celsius and even higher, the wind direction changes suddenly and sharply and the air temperature drops severely reaching down to 20 and even 30 degree below zero in ^{CELSIUS} Celsius. In 1950 ~~the~~ Zhugan created terrible havoc among herds of thin-fleeced sheep in the "Chernyye zemlya".

-.-.-.-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~2. Populated Places.A) General data.

There are two Oblast centers - Astrakhan' and Gur'yev and at least 150 populated places - Rayon centers, settlements, large and small villages located in the Volga-Ural interfluvial territory described here. I have attempted to list practically all more or less important populated places, beginning from the left bank of the main branch of the Volga as far as the right bank of the Ural river.

Rayon centers

The following ~~populated places~~ are located ~~in~~ within the confines of the Astrakhansk sector of the interfluvial territory:

- 1) Krasnyy Yar,
- 2) Marfino,
- 3) Narimanovo,
- 4) Kamyzyak,
- 5) Zelenga,
- 6) Obratsovo-Travino (normally it is called Travino),
- 7) Kapustin-Yar,
- 8) Vladimirovka,
- 9) Kharabali,
- 10) Sasykoli.

The following Rayon centers are located within the confines of the Gur'yevsk sector of the interfluvial territory (their number is approximate only):

- 1) Ganyushkino,
- 2) Novobogatinskoye,
- 3) Yamankhalinka,
- 4) Topoli,

based on rough figures
~~based on reliable sources~~, the

25X1

population of the interfluvial territory amounts to about 600-620,000 persons. The predominant majority of the population lives in towns, Rayon centers, along river-banks and in delta areas.

Over half of the population of the interfluvial territory consists of Russians and Ukrainians, about 60%, then come the Kzaks, about 20%,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

(they are, by the way, somewhat disdainfully called "korsaki"), Astrakhansk
Tatars (they should not be confused with the Kazansk Tatars), about 12%,
Armenians, Grusines, Jews, about 8%. The number of Jewish people living
in the interfluvial territory is quite negligible. A very small percentage
is
of the Jewish minority mainly ~~settled~~ concentrated in Astrakhan'.
Almost half of the interfluvial inhabitants (about 45%) are engaged in
(about 35%)
the fishing industry, a part is engaged in industry, transportation and
administrative work and the rest of the population (about 20-25%) works
on farms. 25X1

Remark: The statistics given above are a rough estimate.

B. Location of populated places and number of population. 25X1

1) The Astrakhansk sector of the interfluvial territory.

~~The~~ By far the greater majority of populated places is to be found
in the Astrakhansk sector of the interfluvial territory. Populated centers
are mainly concentrated along the Volga-Akhtubinsk flood plain, along
railroad lines and in the Volga river delta. These populated centers
are as follows (starting from the North and going down to the sea-coast):

a) Along the Stalingrad-Astrakhan' and Saratov-Astrakhan' railroad.

Leninskiy,
Kapustin Yar (Rayon center),
Verkhniy Baskunchak,
Verblyuzh'ya,
Chapchachi,
Kharabali (Rayon center),
Vol'noye,
Akhtubinka,
Khosheutovo,
Dasang,
Astra khan' 2-ya (tovarnaya).

b) Along the bank of the Akhtuba and Volga rivers.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Krasnaya Sloboda,

Gorbanyev,

Saykhin,

Urda,

Lapin,

Zhungay,

Pologoye Zaymishche,

Vladimirovka (Rayon center),

Petropavlovskiy,

Batayevka,

Novonikolayevka,

Bolkhuny,

Sokrutovka,

Pirogovka,

Zolotukha,

Ydachnoye,

Sasykoli (Rayon center),

Tambovka,

Basta,

Karausok,

Selitrennoye,

Novo-Urusovka,

Petropavlovka, Baranovka,

Sovkhoz,

Yasyn-Sakan,

Dzhanau.

c) In the Volga river delta.

Krasnyy Yar (Rayon center)

Volodarovka,

Myasokombinat,

Shaga Kondakovka,

Novo-Krasnoye,

Sennoy,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Nekrasovka,
Marfino (Rayon center),
Kalinino,
Nachalovo,
Bol'shoy Mogoy,
Zatsarevo,
Bashmakovka,
Kilinchy,
Komarda,
Novo-Vasil'yevo,
Tsvetnoye,
Zelenga,
Semibugornyy,
Chagan,
Bulgary,
Yaksatovo,
Nikol'skoye,
Novyy Tuzukley,
Kamyzyak (Rayon center),
Biryuch'ya,
Nizhnyeye Treizbyanoye,
Khmelevka,
Bol'shoy Belinskiy,
Uvary,
Mayachnoye,
Samosdel'skoye,
Tishkovo,
Trudfront,
Obrastsovo-Travino (Rayon center),
Karalat,
Chulpan,
Zhitnoye,

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mumra,
Kirovskiy,
Narimanovo (Rayon center).

d) In the steppes.

Kara Khuduk,
Khosheutovskiy Kordon,
Kazovskiy.

25X1

Therefore, the above record includes 82 populated places, which comprise Rayon centers, settlements, villages and ~~farm centers~~ and smaller farm centers. [redacted] in the Astrakhansk sector of the interfluvial territory the population numbers 520-530,000 persons, which ~~figure includes~~ ^{does not include} the population of the city of Astrakhan' (a report on this town will be made separately). The city of Astrakhan' has a population of ~~526,000~~ ^{276,000} persons (according to ~~account~~ April 1956 figures). Therefore, about 250,000 persons - on the average about 3000 persons for each populated place listed [redacted] - live in the remaining populated places. Actually however, the population in each of these inhabited places will be smaller,

25X1

25X1

[redacted]

because of the following circumstances:

- a) A certain number of people live on islands and dispersed among sheep-folds (assembly areas for sheep flocks);
- b) A considerable number of people occupy permanent quarters on vessels: barges, landing-stages, lighters, floating plants and other floating equipment.

SHIPMENTS SHOPS

As far as ~~the~~ national groups are concerned, the population of the Astrakhansk sector of the interfluvial territory is roughly distributed as follows:

- Russians - about 70-72% (Ukrainians are included here)
- Tatars - about 10-12%,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Kazakhs - about 10% (mainly in steppe animal husbandry areas),
Gruzines, Armenians, Jews - about 6-8%.

The population of Astrakhan' is engaged in fishing industry and other industrial branches (shipbuilding, ship-repair, machine-building, petroleum, woodworking, tanning, food and others). The population of the ~~steppe and delta~~ Rayons located in the flood plains (mainly ~~the~~ of the Kharabalinsk, Kapustinoysarsk, Vladimirovsk, Sasykol'sk and a few other delta rayons - especially the Narimanovsk rayon) ^{is} ~~are~~ mainly engaged in truck-gardening and ~~orchard cultivation~~ ^{mellon-growing} as well as cultivation of rice, cotton, grape, but it also engages in fishing industry. The population of ~~the~~ most of the delta rayons (~~Marfinsk~~ ^{Marfinskiy} rayon, Kamyzyakskiy, Zelenginskiy, Travinskiy) ^{and} Western delta rayons, whose centers are located on the right bank of the Volga, ^{is} engaged in the fishing industry. But in addition to that it engages in truck-gardening and mellon-growing. The population of the extreme Eastern rayons of the flood-plain and delta, as well as steppe rayons engages in animal husbandry (sheep and and an Astrakhansk strain of large horned cattle).

A private sector of the economy is practically non-existent. Almost the entire population works in State, cooperative and kolkhose-managed systems. The private sector forms an insignificant minority and consists mainly of speculators and profiteers.

2) The Gur'yev and West-Kazakhstan rayons of the interfluvial territory.

The greater part of the population lives along the banks of the Ural river and the Eastern part of the Volga delta. The relative density of populated places in part of ~~the~~ West-Kazakhstansk Oblast is explained ^{stretches} by the fact that this territory ~~is~~ already beyond the desert and is to a larger extent supplied with fresh water.

Among the populated places in the Kazakhstansk sector of the interfluvial-territory are the following:

a) Gur'yevskaya Oblast.

Along the Ural river and along the sea-coast.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Gory,
Kulagino,
Zelenovskiy,
Topoli,
Karmanovo,
Baksay,
Yamankhalinka,
Sorochinka,
Redutskaya,
Kandaurovo,
Chernaya Rechka,
Rakushinskaya,
Sazdy,
Zhangaly,
Trekhratinskiy (on Trekhratinskaya Island),
~~Zakharovskiy~~ Zaburun'ye.

In the Volga delta.

Kalmak Aral,
Karak,
Mikhaylovskiy,
Bukash,
Kamalshagyt,
Atakb,
Kayzak,
Kara-Kuduk,
Opondry,
Kunchugur,
Sugach,
Sary-Kuz,
Katar-Kul',
Karakul'.

Above 53 populated places which are located in the 25X1
Kazakhstansk sector of the interfluvial^{Tern} territory. The city of Gur'yev
has not been listed among them. the population of the 25X1

25X1

25X1

Kazakhstansk sector of the interfluvial territory numbers 80-85,000 town persons including the population of the ~~city~~ of Gur'yev. [redacted]

[redacted] Gur'yev has a population of 60-65,000 persons. Consequently about 20,000 persons make up the quota for the remaining populated places - on the average about 400 persons to each populated place. determining some inaccuracies may In ~~determining~~ the approximate population count, ~~some inaccuracies may~~ have arisen due to the same circumstances described before as applying to the number of people living in the Astrakhansk sector of the interfluvial territory.

The population of the Kazakhstansk sector of the interfluvial territory, when broken down into national groups, is roughly distributed as follows:

Russians and Ukrainians - about 45%,

Kazakhs - about 45%,

25X1

Tatars and others - about 10%.

[redacted] never encountered Jewish people in Gur'yev. Most likely none live there.

The population of Gur'yev is engaged in the fish industry, in transportation and other branches of industry (petroleum, machine-building, ship-repair, wood-working, food). The population in areas adjacent to the Ural river is mainly engaged in farming and animal-husbandry. The population of the coastal regions, the Volga delta, islands, is mainly engaged in the fish industry. The island inhabitants of Bol'shoy Peshnoy work in the petroleum industry. The population of steppe areas is mainly occupied with animal husbandry.

3. Flora of the interfluvial territory.

A) Wild plant-life.

The flora of the interfluvial territory is of a semi-desert nature. In areas where the soil is salty to a minor extent, white wormwood abounds (in Kazakh language it is called "akdzhustan"), black wormwood (in Kazakh language "karadzhustan") grows in areas where the soil

perch, lampery, white salmon, carp, Caspian salmon, Caspian sprat.

~~Besides, grey mullet and flounder~~ Besides, fisheries along the shore of the Caspian Sea stocked the sea with grey mullet and flounder at the end of WW II. All these types of fish have industrial importance. Marine animals present there are, among others, the Caspian seals, which also have industrial value. Practically ~~all~~ the entire supply of seal (almost 100%) is obtained from the prikazhstansk sector of the Caspian Sea. During the fall, the seal travels to the Gur'yev area ~~for~~ in order to give birth.

D. Insects, molluscs, reptiles.

Agriculture is plagued by a huge variety of vermin - locusts, owlets, apple-tree-moths, among others. A real scourge in the interfluvial territory are the mosquitoes, especially the Malaria-carrying variety. It is true that public health agencies carry out a vigorous campaign in their fight with mosquitoes but so far ~~they~~ the latter continue to terrorize the population there. The majority of the domestic population suffers from Malaria in one form or another. In addition to Malaria, mosquitoes contribute to the spread of rabbit fever by carrying disease germs from water-rat to the person. The fight against mosquitoes is carried on with chemical agents and by breeding "gambuzii", a special type of fish. A great many ticks may be found also in the interfluvial territory. A real animal - scourge in this area is the horse-fly. In particular, horse-flies infect animals with anthrax (Siberian ~~rabbit fever~~ ^{tumors}) and rabbit fever. Some variety (the golden-eye horse-fly) even infects human beings with rabbit-fever. In the Volga delta one encounters molluscs, in the Caspian Sea sea-beetles. In the Volga- and Ural-delta huge numbers of frogs are present and the stagnant waters are full of leeches. Snakes are encountered in the steppes - mainly the steppe viper, the yellow-pants runner as well as small lizards.

Members of the game family serving ~~among the game which serves~~ as a source of food for the population are: hare, antelope, gazelle, wild boar, swan, duck, all types of edible fish. People also consume seal oil (regarded as a remedy against

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

anemia and tuberculosis). Insects, reptiles and frogs are not used as a source of food by the people of this area. It even happens rarely that people would eat birds feeding on fish.

D. Domestic animals.

The following domestic animals are bred in the interfluvial territory:

- 1) Large-horned cattle, among them Astrakhansk stock, which ~~are~~ provide an abundance of meat but little milk.
- 2) Sheep, mainly fat-tailed sheep.
- 3) Horses.
- 4) Twin-hump camels.
- 5) Two types of pigs. One type feeds on bran and other cereals. Such pigs are much in demand and their meat is of excellent quality. The other type feeds on fish. These pigs and their meat ~~are~~ are in poor demand because the meat has a strong fishy ~~flavor~~ taste.
- 6) She-goats.

In Astrakhansk Oblast as well as in Kazakhstan' camels ~~are used~~ are harnessed to ~~transport~~ vehicles and thus are able to pull loads.

Central-Asian and South-Russian sheep-dogs are used to guard cattle. These are very large, unpredictable and mean dogs, especially the South-Russian variety of sheep-dog.

5. Hunting laws in the interfluvial territory.

Basically there are two forms of hunting which are admitted in the interfluvial territory, namely:

- a) Professional,
- b) Sport-& Hobby.

Rodents and wolves, especially the latter, are the objects of an all-out extermination drive. Hunting rodents and wolves is not confined to hunting seasons. As an incentive for extermination of wolves, ~~prizes~~ offered ~~for~~ hunters are ~~awarded~~ money prizes and additional supplies of ammunition and other hunting equipment.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Objects of sport-amateur hunting in the interfluvial territory are water-fowl, hare, wild-boar. Hunting antelope and gazelle is strictly prohibited. Professional hunting (on an industrial basis) does not exist in the interfluvial territory. Attempts were made ^{once} ~~to~~ to organize professional hunts of water fowl, but nothing came of the attempt and it was not repeated thereafter.

Sport-amateur hunting is subject to certain regulations and seasons. Amateur-hunters are members of a hunting club. A single standard hunting license is issued which authorizes a person to hunt for the period of one year. A state tax ~~was~~ is collected when the hunting license is issued. The procedure of issuing hunting licenses is established by the USSR Ministry of Agriculture in coordination with the Ministry of Finance USSR. Hunting without a license or hunting with a license no longer valid is illegal and subject to a ~~financial~~ fine in a case of first offense. The amount of the fine depends on the nature of the offense. Hunting licenses are issued to hunting societies.

Regulations governing hunting itself are ~~not~~ set up by the Councils of Ministers of the Union- and Autonomous Republics and Kray and Oblast Councils of Workers' Representatives.

The hunting season in the Astrakhansk and Gur'yevsk Oblasts starts on 1 September and runs till the end of November. Special government decrees on the subject of hunting periods have not come to my attention. In the Astrakhansk and Gur'yevsk Oblasts, hunting periods ^{ARE} established by the Oblast Councils of Workers' Representatives. Notices to that effect can be found by hunters in the local Oblast newspapers. The Astrakhansk Oblast paper "Volga" used to carry, on page 4 in the last column, a notice which read as follows:

"To the attention of hunters/

Hunting for water-fowl opens on 1 ~~September~~ ^{remains} September and ~~continues~~ ¹⁴ until 30 November and may be carried out in the following Rayons of the Oblast: Kamysyansk, Kaspiysk, Ilimansk.

Astrakhansk Oblast Council of Workers' Representatives".

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Hunting is forbidden outside those Public areas indicated in the notice.

There are a great many amateur hunters in the Astrakhansk and Gur'yevsk Oblasts. However, at least 25% of the total number ^{engage} in hunting in order to sell their game on the open market. ~~The majority of hunters hunt for the purpose of selling their game on the market.~~ Many ~~of~~ amateur-hunters hunt because they love the sport and find relaxation in it. Such hunters do not sell their game but instead eat it themselves or give it to friends. Amateur-hunters are usually more or less well-to-do persons who are in a position to purchase hunting weapons and obtain ammunition and other hunting paraphernalia. Ammunition, particularly shot and copper cartridges are rationed items in Astrakhansk and Gur'yevsk Oblasts. A great many people are forced to roll their own shot from old lead cables and other leaden scrap.

A. ~~The~~ usual target for hunters are mainly the various types of ducks, geese, swan (hunting swans is not forbidden), teal, kachkaldaks (?), hare. A special permit is required for hunting wild boar. A first offense involving the killing of wild-boar without permission draws a fine up to 2,000 Rubles and confiscation of the boar killed. Besides this offense is punished by cancelling of the hunting license. However, unlawful killing of wild-boar takes place nevertheless.

A special fee need ~~to~~ not be paid when the hunting season opens. The ~~a~~ fee for authorization to hunt is already included in the ^{PRICE} ~~cost~~ of a hunting license.

Amateur hunters use a number of hunting rifles for hunting purposes. The most common caliber is No. 12, after that comes 16 and then 20, which is used very rarely, however (20 is used sometimes by a select number of sportsmen and especially good shots).

The greater majority of hunting rifles are of domestic make, that is, from the Tula and Izhevsk rifle factory. After the war, a lot of foreign-make

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

hunting-rifles came into appearance.

~~The mass-produced~~ ^{mass-produced} The price charged for a standard double-barreled gun of 12 caliber sold by the Tula and Izhevsk rifle factories amounted to about 275-300 Rubles in 1951. A custom made gun ordered at these same plants cost 900-1200 Rubles depending on the type and caliber of the gun. A foreign-made gun (for instance "Sauer 3 rings") cost 1,000-1,200 Rubles.

Hunting as a sport is extremely popular among leading party- and government officials. As a rule however, their hunting leads up to sizeable drinking bouts ~~conducted~~ in the open air.

In conclusion it should be noted that it is difficult to buy prepared charges in Astrakhan' and Gur'yev, as well as in other towns in the USSR. Ordinarily, what is sold to hunters are powder, shpt (provided it is in supply), wad, less frequently cartridges, and hunters make their own rounds. This frequently leads to hunting accidents ~~since the charges in many cases~~ due to incorrect setting of the charge. There is a special store ~~and a special hunting rifle shop~~ in Astrakhan.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5. Laws regulating fishing in the interfluvial territory.

Two types of fishing are practiced in the Astrakhansk and Gur'yevsk Oblasts:

- a) Industrial fishing,
- b) Sports-fishing.

For industrial fishing, definite periods have been established:

- 1) The spring fishing season which usually begins end of March - early in April and is in effect until end of June.
- 2) The fall fishing season, which begins end of August - early in September and is in effect until end of November.
- 3) Winter fishing under the ice.

Trawls, cast seines, stake nets, stake seines, fishing nets with electric lighting, venters (?) (for winter fishing under the ice) are used by the fishing industry to catch fish.

Sports-fishing is not confined to definite seasons. As the case may be in one location or another, limitations extend only to the use of one or another fishing tool or tackle. Fishing tackle and tools authorized in the interfluvial territory for use of sports fishermen are the following:

- 1) spinner (American type).
- 2) fishing-rods for various kinds of fishing (bottom, hook, spoon bait, for winter fishing under the ice).
- 3) German nets (widely used in Astrakhan' Oblast).

Sports-fishermen are forbidden to use nets, seines, trawls, automatic hooked ~~tackles~~ tackle (seines), hit the fish with a harpoon, shoot and stun them (with explosives). This kind of fishing is legally considered to be poaching.

Sports-fishermen are allowed to fish from the shore, from boats, bridges. Fishing tackle are by no means critical commodities in Astrakhan' and Gur'yev. Hooks are usually made in local artels and specialty shops of net-weaving factories. The hooks are of good quality. Not everybody can afford to buy spinners because they are quite expensive. Fishing rods most frequently consist of bamboo -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

or ordinary reed, ~~lines consist of~~ horse-hair or nylon lines, cork floats, lead plummet and, where called for, metal spoons. In Astrakhan' earth worms are used for bait. ~~There was difficulty encountered by~~

~~Gur'yev~~ sports-fishermen in Astrakhan' and Gur'yev to find proper

25X1

equipment People usually use German nets when ~~is~~ fishing from Astrakhan' municipal ~~river~~ bridges and from boats.

Theoretically it is entire possible for private persons to fish with industrial fishing equipment in Astrakhan' and Gur'yev, but in order to do so they have to get a fishing license from the fish conservation agencies of the Ministry of the Fishing Industry. The fishing owner of a ~~fishing~~ license can go out and fish with industrial fishing equipment, but he may do so only in public places. However, private persons hardly manage to get benefits from the ownership of a fishing license. The owner of a fishing license is compelled to fulfill the plan for state fish deliveries on equal terms with fishery kolkhozes. It occurs quite often that the owner of a fishing license is not only unable to provide himself with fish but he ~~is even~~ cannot even fulfill the state fish delivery quota and as a result he is forced to surrender his fishing license.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

6. Oblast centers in the interfluvial territory.A. Astrakhan'.1) General data.

The city is situated 48 degrees 21 minutes latitude North, 48 degrees 2 minutes longitude East. It was founded in ~~1395~~ the year 1395 by Tamerlan, conquered by Ivan IV in 1557.

In April 1956 its population numbered 276,000 persons. It is the Oblast center of Astrakhan' Oblast. The town is a railroad communication ~~center~~ center with connections to the central areas of the country and the Caucasus. It has a sea, river and air-port. Astrakhan' is the most important oil cargo transshipment center in the Soviet Union. The sea-port connects Astrakhan' with Baku, Makhachkala, Krasnovodsk and possibly again with Gur'yev. Besides, small-tonnage seagoing vessels can ~~reach~~ reach the Sea of Azov via the Volga-Don canal.

The river port connects Astrakhan' with towns along the Volga-Kama and Volga-Don basins.

Astrakhan' is connected by air routes with Moscow, Baku, Stalingrad, Voronezh, Gur'yev.

The city is divided into 5 municipal districts, the district Stalinskiy, Kirovskiy, Leninskiy, Mikoyanovskiy, Trusovskiy (right bank of Volga River).

The city is crisscrossed with ~~canals~~ riverlets, canals, back-waters. There are 19 bridges within the town-limits. Besides, there are two railroad bridges across the Volga River, one old bridge outside city limits, another ~~two~~ new bridge within the city. The latter bridge was built in 1953 or 1954.

2) Industrial establishment in the city.

In Astrakhan' are located the Maritime oil-tanker shipping line, the river oil-tanker shipping line, the district administration of the Volga consolidated shipping line, the administration of the roadstead technical fleet, administration of "Glavneftesbyt", ~~major~~ major petroleum depots, Main administration of the Caspian fish industry,

CONFIDENTIAL

the Volga-Caspian state fish trust, the fleet administration of the Volga-Caspian trust, fleet administration of the Uralo-Caspian trust, sea port, river port, fish harbor, airport, railroad station, two fish-canning combines, about 8 ship-repair plants and fish industry machine shops, a ship-yard, a central Diesel-electric power station (Astrakhanskaya ~~REK~~ Ts., built in 1950), Municipal electric power station, 6 ship-repair plants and machine shops belonging to the River Fleet Ministry, Maritime Fleet shipyard, 3 shiprepair plants and machine shops belonging to the Maritime Fleet Ministry, wood-crating, cooperage, leather plants, food industrial enterprises.

3) Military installations and objects, milice, MVD.

There are in the city: the Oblast Army Commissariat, 5 Rayon Army Commissariats, Naval commandant's office, ~~an~~ Oblast, ~~a~~ City and 5 Rayon committees, ~~of~~ Oblast flyer's club, radio-club, Oblast Milice Administration, 7 Milice branch-offices, MVD and KGB Oblast Administrations, Oblast Fire Administration, 5 fire brigades (not including departmental fire brigades), Army Hospital, MVD medical unit, Astrakhan' garrison (billeted in Kreml' (citadel)), artillery unit (in Krasnykh kazarmakh (Red barracks)), tele-communications unit, Marine unit, Navy school, merchant marine school of the Maritime Fleet Ministry, Army Ammunition depot, Army underground depots, Local Anti-Aircraft defense Hqs (MPVO), Aeroclub-airport, Civil Aviation airport, GlavKasprybprom (Main Caspian Fishing Industries)airbase, Military airport, seaplane base.

4) Other objects and installations.

There are: a Municipal automatic telephone station, branch telephone stations which are connected with the city "Morye", "Reka", "Zarechnaya" nets, an MVD commutator, ~~an~~ RR station commutator. There are the following municipal transportation ~~systems~~ ^{media}: 9 city and inter-city (suburban) autobus lines, 8 streetcar lines, a municipal-river ferry service, local water communications (river trolleys), there is an Oblast radio-station and branch radio-stations of the Maritime Fleet, River Fleet and and Fishing Fleet. There are 5 hospitals, 4 polyclinics, 3 colleges, 11 technical schools. Publications in Astrakhan' city are the Oblast ~~weekly~~ daily.

CONFIDENTIAL

the "volga and the "Sovyetskiy Tanker", a newspaper, which first came out in 1953.

B. GUR'YEV.

1) General data.

The town is situated 47 degrees 15 minutes latitude North and 51 degrees 52 minutes longitude East. In Kazakh language the town is called Uzya - Balyuzin. It was founded in the first half of the seventeenth century. It has been invaded frequently by Ural Cossacks. It is the Oblast center of the Gur'yevsk Oblast of the Kazakh SSR. The population of this town numbers from 60-65,000 persons, [redacted] 25X1.

~~The town is connected by railroad with the town of Kandagach, by water with Ural'sk (Ural River). There is also ~~air connection with Astrakhan~~ short- and long-distance air connection - to Astrakhan and Alma Ata.~~

Gur'yev has connection with Astrakhan' by automobile (not autobus). Passenger sea communication with Astrakhan was interrupted in 1947 because of a breakdown of the Uralo-Caspian Canal (shallowing). Ships could only go as far as the Gur'yev Maritime Roadstead. Possibly the canal has been dredged and put back to use in the meantime. The town is divided into two sections - a right-bank section (the old town) and a left-bank section (the new town). The left-bank section of Gur'yev sprang up in the Thirties. All industries are concentrated there. A ponton bridge crosses the Ural River in the town. Besides, there are, 3-4 kilometers below the town, two railroad bridges, one over the left branch of the Ural and the other over the right branch. Along with these bridges there are also bridges for truck transports.

2) Industry in the town.

In Gur'yev are located: the fish canning combine imeni Kaganovicha, machine-construction works of the "Kazakhstannyeft" Association, the "Kazakhstannyeft" Association, a machine shop, the large oil-refinery plant No. 441, which was built at the end of WW II (located below the town), a fish-industry ship-repair plant, ship-repair shops of the Gur'yev maritime agency of the "Reydtanker"

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

shipping line, River Fleet ship-repair shops, a crate-cooperage plant, a meat combine, a grain combine, a milk processing plant, administration of the Uralo-Caspian Fish Trust. In the area of plant No. 441, a workers' town for oil-refinery workers has been built (it is called "Gur'yevskiy zhiloy gorodok").

3) Other organizations.

There are in the town: an Army garrison, MVD ^{and KGB} Oblast administration, oil-bases, a railroad station, a river landing place, ~~public buildings~~ the Glavneftesbyt" Oblast administration. The town is connected by oil pipelines with the Embensk oilfields and Orsk. Besides, refinery No. 441 is connected by oil-pipeline with the oil base located on the island of Bol'shoy Peshnoy. Ships of the Astrakhansk oil-tanker shipping line "Reydtanker" deliver gas-oil to the oil-base of this island. The town has 15 elementary, 6 7-year and 7 secondary schools with a total student body of about 9,000 pupils. There are 3 labor youth schools, a trade-school for oil-workers, a school for young fishermen, a petroleum, fishing, agricultural technical school, a pedagogic ~~institute~~ ^{school}, a teachers institute. In 1946 The Uralo-Embinskaya base of the ~~Kazakh~~ Kazakh SSR Academy of Sciences was organized in Gur'yev.

Right after the end of WW II, construction of a railroad connecting Gur'yev with Astrakhan' was planned. Construction of this railroad has not been started yet, however. Construction has been in the planning stage for the duration of 2 Five-Year plans and remained there all that time. The Sixth Five-Year plan again provided for construction of this railroad but it remains to be seen what will come of it.

There are two newspapers published in the town. One of them is the "Prikaspiyskaya Kommuna", which is a Russian-language paper and the other one is the "Sotsialistik Kurylys" which appears in the Kazakh language.

The railroad station, river landings, all Oblast and city organizations are located in the left-bank section of the town. The main source of electrical power ^(for Gur'yev) is supplied by plant No. 441. There

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

are two airports outside town limits. One of them is located on the right bank of the Ural River, about 2 kilometers distant from the town, the other on the left bank of the Ural River, about 5 kilometers distant from the town.

7. Some additional remarks:

Between 1930 and 1945, the level of the Caspian Sea dropped almost 2 meters and by 1950 it had dropped ^{almost} another 50 centimeters.

As a result there are a great many dead and abandoned settlements at a distance of 10 and somewhere even 15 kilometers from shore in evidence. The former occupants left these settlements and moved somewhere else. Many inlets, like for instance Komsomolets Cove, have disappeared even though they still appear on maps today.

The coastal line got even more cut-up by bayous and lagoons, which in the local dialect are called - eriki, prorany, il'menya.

As a result of silting-up of the sea, the maritime roadstead, which handles transshipment of cargo from tankers coming from Baku to Astrakhansk vessels, had to be moved further out to sea. Now this roadstead is called the 14 foot maritime roadstead and not the 12 foot roadstead as it was called before.

The climate of the interfluvial territory is harshly continental and dry. Freezingly cold winters and hot summers. In summertime the air-temperature frequently reaches 40 degrees Celsius, but during the winter it often drops to 35-37 degrees Celsius. North-East and East winds blow during 9 months of the year. The Sukhovvey, a hot and dry eastern or south-eastern wind, frequently blows in the summer. These winds originate in the southern part of Kazakhstan. Non-freezing weather lasts for 165-200 days. Along a strip, 30-60 kilometers along the sea coast, high humidity prevails during summertime - breezes predominate (locally they are called "Moryana") The amount of precipitation per year is 150-200. There is rainfall usually in spring and late fall.

There are 42 steam-ferrries in the Volga delta and the Volga-Akhtubinsk flood-plain. The average length of the shipping season in the northern Caspian is 260-265 days.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Major artillery units are stationed in the Kapustina Yara area. East of Kapustina Yara, beyond the Volga river, ~~important~~ large ordnance proving grounds are located. In addition to artillery units, ~~stations include~~ there were also tank units stationed in the Kapustina Yara area in 1951.

Reference material used in the compilation of above report:

- 1) Bol'shaya Sovyetskaya Entsiklopediya 1st and 2nd issue,
- 2) "Kazakhstan", published by Academy of Science, Moscow, 1950.
- 3) "Kazakhstanskaya pravda" newspaper publications for 1956.
- 4) Economical and physical geography of the USSR.
- 5) Books on the transformation of nature in the Soviet Union.

25X1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~