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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR (Sverdlovskaya Oblast)

REPORT

SUBJECT Restricted Zone of Pobeda and Atomic Plant

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

An eight-page report on the restricted zone of Pobeda and an atomic plant located west of the town of Verkhne-Neyvinskiy (N 57-16, E 60-09)

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The report includes two sketch maps of the restricted zone and a sketch of a gas compressor seen in the main building

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RESTRICTED ZONE OF POBEDA

General

1. The 20 x 20 kilometer restricted area of Pobeda, located west of the town of Verkhne-Neyvinskiy (N 57-16, E 60-09), approximately 70 kilometers northwest of the city of Sverdlovsk (N 56-50, E 60-38) was created in 1945. Within the restricted zone of Pobeda were located the secret city of Pobeda, prison camps, two secret military plants, one of them an Atomic Plant and the other referred to as Glavnyy Korpus (Main Building) and other installations. For location and description of the area see overlay of [redacted] the zone of Alapayevsk on page 8 and [redacted] sketch on the attached ozalid. The Murzinka and Bunarka Rivers ran through the zone, and several villages, one of which [redacted] was called Murzinka (N 57-42, E 61-01) were located in the area.

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Control of Civilian Population by MGB

2. When the restricted area was turned over to MGB control, the majority of the population was evacuated. A minimum number of persons were left for essential work such as farming and taking care of livestock. These remaining inhabitants were not permitted to have any contact with the prisoners who were brought into the area. The villagers were not allowed to leave the area except in case of necessity, and then they had to receive special authorization from the MGB who were in complete control of both free and prisoner personnel. Even when the villagers did have permission to leave, they had to return as soon as possible. Those who left the area without authorization were arrested, tried and sentenced.

Prisoner Labor

3. After the restricted area was established, approximately 35,000 Soviet prisoners and the same number or more of war prisoners, mostly German, were brought into the area and kept in separate camps. These prisoners did the construction work on all the installations. Prisoners were always sent from this camp to special camps in Siberia so they could not communicate with other prisoners and talk about where they had worked. When they had finished their prison sentence in Siberia, they were given only limited freedom, and were forced to settle down in towns near the camps. Two towns of this nature in Siberia were Kalinin (sic) in the Magadanskaya oblast of the Khabarovskiy Kray, and Pobeda (N 64-27, E 144-55) in the Yakutskaya oblast.

Railroad Transportation

4. A double-track, standard gauge non-electrified line led from Sverdlovsk (N 56-50, E 60-38) to Pobeda. [redacted]

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[redacted] This special railroad line or spur covered a distance of 70 kilometers and terminated two kilometers beyond the station (11). The rails rested on concrete crossties and the ballast was crushed stone. The purpose of the line apparently was the transportation of prisoners, food, and construction materials.

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Secret City of Pobeda

- 5. Construction of the secret city (2) began in 1948 or 1949 on a site located about 1,500 meters from the left bank of the Bunarka River in a wooded area of a marshy, rolling terrain which was first drained, then leveled by dynamiting the hills. The dynamiting was directed by sapper troops. A hard stone with yellow and brown lines was carefully gathered up after the dynamiting for an unknown purpose. Large, two-lane streets with a wide central walk, modern six or seven story high buildings and a magnificent nine-story high hospital were constructed.

Living Quarters and Personnel in Secret City of Pobeda

- 6. By 1950 living quarters were available for workers, technicians, and engineers who worked on construction, and the military personnel stationed in the zone. All the structures had reinforced concrete basements with a central corridor with rooms or cells on each side. [redacted] coal, potatoes, and other supplies were stored here; [redacted] the basements might be used for another purpose.

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[redacted] Approximately 1,000 officers, comprising the majority of the military personnel, lived in the city. Their uniforms were khaki-colored with an insignia, believed [redacted] to be a picture of a serpent and a cup on the epaulets.

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Atomic Plant (Atomik Zavod)

- 7. This underground atomic plant had been constructed between the years 1945 and 1948 by from ten to fifteen thousand prisoners and was entered by way of the two buildings indicated by (10) on the overlay and ozalid. The plant was in partial or full operation by 1950. [redacted] the plant was engaged in atomic production by the year 1950 and [redacted] uranium ore was used.

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[redacted] the subterranean installation [redacted] had many laboratories and functioned almostly entirely automatically 24 hours a day. Every morning at 0800 hours or 0900 hours, several persons, dressed in white smocks and many army officers in uniform entered the installation. [redacted] the installation was controlled and directed by the military. [redacted] the non-military personnel consisted of Komsomol members.

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Vibrating Sounds Emanating from Underground Atomic Plant

- 8. Loud, unidentified, vibrating noises, similar to claps of thunder, but lasting from two to three minutes, and originating in the underground installation, were heard five or six times during every 24 hour period. During the day these sounds were not noticed very much because of the general noise caused by the construction work. At night the noises were so loud that [redacted] were awakened.

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Underground Cables in Vicinity of Underground Atomic Plant

9. Underground cables in the area around the subterranean Atomic Plant were laid at a depth of one meter. In spite of signs warning of the danger, from eight to ten laborers were killed because their tools touched the cables, when they were working on the job of digging water and drainage ditches in the area. Cables were laid in many places in the area.

Trucks at Atomic Plant Transporting Unidentified Corrosive Liquid

10. [redacted] observed approximately 30 six or seven-ton, canvas-covered, military type trucks with the exhaust pipe in front, enter and leave the plant daily. [redacted] these trucks were loaded with filled demijohns in the plant although possibly the liquid in the demijohns had been brought into the plant. The glass demijohns were 45 centimeters high plus the 10 centimeter high neck, and had a maximum diameter of 30 centimeters and a minimum diameter of 10 centimeters at the narrowest point. These contained a transparent colorless liquid which, when spilled, appeared to boil and gave off a vapor which irritated the eyes. In order to avoid work, prisoners sometimes incapacitated themselves by burning themselves with this liquid. It was said that a drop of the liquid would burn a man's hand so severely that it would not heal for a year. [redacted] the trucks led to an out-of-sight warehouse in the forest. [redacted] heard an explosion followed by a fire which was quickly put out. [redacted] the explosion had occurred in the warehouse.

Glavnyy Korpus (Main Building) Area

11. An area referred to as Glavnyy Korpus (Main Building) indicated on the overlay and sketch as (15), measured 2,500 x 800 meters and was under construction for an unknown purpose. It was thought to have some relation to the Atomic Plant (10). The entire area was surrounded by a barb wire fence. Construction was initiated in 1949 or 1950 and it was [redacted] completed by 1952. Throughout the extensive area occupied by this plant were building foundations, ditches, and elevated concrete pillars which gave the impression that all the installations in the entire plant were being worked on at the same time, rather than one building being completed at a time. From ten to fifteen thousand prisoners were employed on the construction site. German technicians and engineers also worked here and were in privileged positions compared to the other prisoners.

Unfinished Building Containing Machinery in the Glavnyy Korpus Area

12. [redacted] one installation in the Glavnyy Korpus area [redacted] particularly notable. This was a 200 x 80 meter reinforced concrete structure with basement, which appeared as though it was going to be two stories high. [redacted] it did not yet have a roof. Several shops were already being equipped with lathes, planers and milling machines. The installation of the machinery was under the direction of four or five German prisoners who were probably specialists in this field. Construction was carried on only during the day. [redacted] the plant was still not functioning although some of the machinery had already been installed. [redacted] fifteen Soviet-make gas compressors and five or six water compressors (sic), all the same size, were being installed for an unknown purpose on the first floor of this structure.

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Gas Compressors

13. [redacted] fifteen of the compressors being installed were gas compressors [redacted] because of the type of six-millimeter steel tube used, and [redacted] because of the fact that the tube sections were welded together. [redacted] See [redacted] sketch on page 7 of the gas compressor. [redacted] the compressor measuring 1.20 meters high, 1.50 meters long, and .60 meters wide. Each compressor had two inlet and two outlet pistons (sic) each measuring 10 centimeters in diameter. [redacted] they produced a pressure up to eight atmospheres. Each compressor filled two heavy, steel cylindrically shaped tanks which measured two meters high and 1.20 meters in diameter. For every two or four compressors a control panel with an automatic starting and stopping device was installed. The electric motors which drove the compressors were [redacted] "large" [redacted]. After installation, the compressors were protected from the construction work dirt with wooden sheets. The gas for the compressors came from the subterranean plant (10), [redacted]. The gas conduction pipes leading to the compressors were of drawn steel and were welded at the joints.

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Legend for Overlay and Ozalid of Restricted Zone of Pobeda

Margin numbers in parentheses (1) through (15) refer both to the overlay identified in the first paragraph of this report, and also to the attached ozalid of [redacted] sketch of the same area. Numbers (16) through (21) appear only on the ozalid.

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- (1) Approximate eastern boundary of zone of Pobeda indicated by broken line. The entire perimeter of this zone was fenced off by barb wire and patrolled by MGB troops and guard dogs.
- (2) Secret city of Pobeda indicated by broken line in the form of a circle.
- (3) Main prison camp. This camp measured approximately 500 x 1000 meters and accommodated 15,000 prisoners.
- (4) Prison camp. This was somewhat smaller than the main camp and accommodated 10,000 prisoners.
- (5) Prison camp. Similar to camp described in point (4). In addition, there were other camps for the prisoners of war, [redacted]
- (6) Railroad terminal point referred to as tupik (siding).
- (7) Asphalt streets which led from secret city of Pobeda, across bridges over the Bunarka River, to the restricted plants. One street led through the main prison camp (3).
- (8) Bunarka River. This river had a small channel.
- (9) Concrete bridge leading over Bunarka River. There were other bridges over the river, [redacted]

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(10) Atomic Plant. The plant could be entered by way of the two structures indicated on the overlay and sketch by number (10). These were located approximately fifteen kilometers from the Bunarka River and approximately three kilometers from the secret city of Pobeda. Each of these flat-roofed, two-story high structures measured 200 x 15 x 8 meters and, from a distance, appeared to be occupied living quarters; from close-up they appeared to be industrial structures. The walls and possibly the roofs were camouflaged with green and yellow paint.

(11) Small railroad station which had been constructed between the years 1945 and 1950.

(12) Five-meter wide asphalt road. This road led from Verkhne-Neyvinskiy, ran parallel to the Bunarka River, crossed the restricted area, and continued in a western direction into the woods to an unidentified destination.

(13) Narrow metal smokestacks. These rose to a height of four meters above the atomic plant buildings. [redacted]

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(14) Two storage sheds. These 30 x 10 meter structures consisted of a roof supported by a structural metal frame. In one shed, tons of aluminum and steel in the form of square and round bars; 7-meter long slabs up to 15 millimeters thick; and 30 centimeter wide sheet of many thicknesses were stored. The other shed was used to protect the aluminum and steel slab. Quantities of alcohol and lacquer were available. [redacted] the mixture was used for paint.

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(15) Glavnyy Korpus. (Main Building.) This 2,500 x 800 meter area was under construction.

(16) Murzinka railroad station of the Sverdlovsk-Nevyansk line.

(17) Lake Iset.

(18) Railroad line leading toward Sverdlovsk.

(19) City of Verkhne-Neyvinskiy.

(20) Village of Bolorechka.

(21) Railroad line leading towards Nevyansk.

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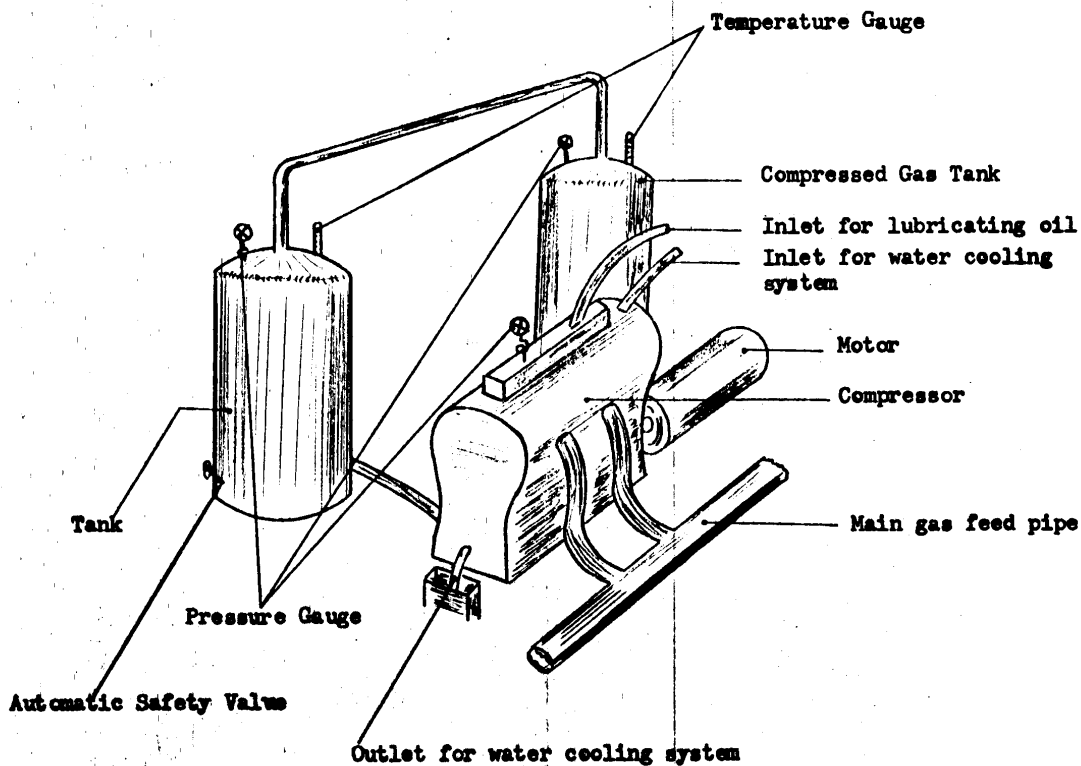
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Sketch of a gas compressor, [redacted] in the plant (No. 15 on the legend and sketch) in the restricted area of Pobeda.

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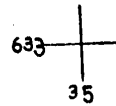
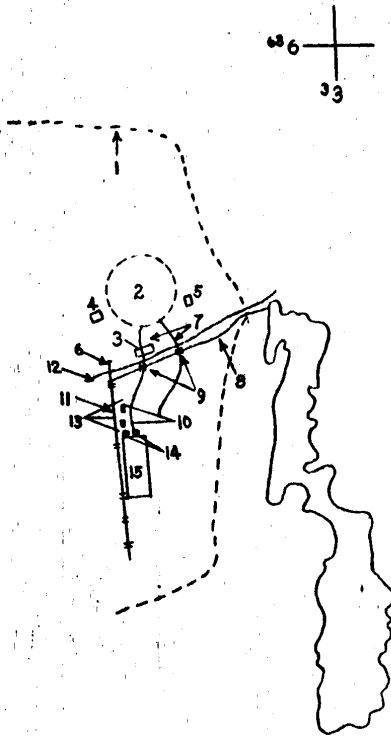
[Redacted]

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Overlay of [Redacted] the zone of Alapayevsk
indicating location of Restricted Zone of Pobeda.
Scale 1:250,000

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