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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Slave Labor and Prisoner of War Camps in the Artemovsk Area

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

DATE ACQUIRE [redacted]

DATE OF INFORMATION [redacted]

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1. [redacted] USSR Camp 1004 [redacted] was located 20 miles south of Artemovsk, a town south of Kharkov. Camp 1004 held approximately 12 hundred ethnic Germans, about 300 men and 700 women, from Hungary, Yugoslavia and Rumania. In November 1949 all of these individuals were released. [redacted] Grotewohl, the premier of East Germany, had petitioned Stalin to free Germans held by Soviet authorities for their return to East Germany.

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2. In addition [redacted] there were three other slave labor camps in the vicinity. Our actual location was in the town of Uzna (phonetic) [redacted] A prisoner of war camp for Japanese soldiers was located [redacted] This camp was occupied by Japanese for about six months during the winter of 1946 - 1947, [redacted] there were about 600 Japanese confined there in one large building. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Japanese were working in a central warehouse located at Tschasovyar, a town eight miles away. I do not know where the Japanese were sent from this camp when it was closed.

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3. In addition to our camp and the Japanese camp there were also a German prisoner of war camp and a camp for ethnic Germans from the Transylvania district of Rumania. [redacted] there were 12 hundred prisoners of war in the German camp, all former soldiers, and about 900 civilians, men, women and children, in the Rumanian camp. The German prisoners of war left their camp around September 1949 and [redacted] were returned to East Germany. The Rumanians were returned to East Germany along with the people from our camp in November 1949 and both the German prisoner of war and the Rumanian camps were then closed.

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4. [redacted] food was based principally on horsech and black bread which contained a considerable amount of sawdust. On rare occasions [redacted] some food from the US although very little was ever distributed. This food included oleo-margarine, lard, powdered eggs, powdered milk, flour and peanut butter. The Soviet citizens were able to buy food in stores in the nearby villages, including US food. All food was rationed and one was required to have a ration card.

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5. During the time [redacted] people [redacted] worked principally in clay quarries while the Rumanians were employed at brick factories (zavods) in making bricks. [redacted]. Other quarries in the vicinity were known as "Yugostal", Ljevanec, [redacted] where prisoners of war were employed. The clay was loaded onto open top railroads [redacted] and shipped to smelter [redacted] and [redacted] the clay contained a certain amount of iron and aluminum. [redacted]
6. The railroad tracks from the quarries were wide gauge and the wagons appear similar to US gondola cars. Large, coal-burning, steam locomotives were used to haul these trains. There were a number of trucks in and around the quarry which were similar to the two and one-half ton trucks [redacted] the US Army use. [redacted] one personal auto in the whole [redacted] camp. It was a car of Soviet make and was used by Paul Mihailovitch Ktitorov, the quarry director.
7. Coal mines were located about 30 miles [redacted] near Stalinov. [redacted] mostly women were employed in the mines and that they had to climb down either 165 or 265 steps on ladders to where they worked. [redacted] the mines were frequently flooded.
8. All of the camps had guards. [redacted] consisted of three large barrack buildings, one for men and two for women. Very seldom were any escape made or attempted. [redacted] one case [redacted] in which two youth had sold their clothes from home for money and then bribed a truck driver. [redacted] they had successfully escaped to Rumania.
9. [redacted] The older people who had lived under the Czars and had known private ownership of land and churches were very unhappy under the Communist regime. Some expressed hope that the US would come and release them. A number of the Free Soviet workers had been sent to our area without their families. One older man [redacted] had his family at Sevastopol and he received leave once a year to visit them.
10. The Soviet quarry workers resided at Tschasovyar in long two-story buildings. The first floor contained the common kitchen for all residents, a dining hall and a store. The residents lived on the second floor with from eight to 10 boys per room while the same number of girls would live in other rooms. The young girls were taught and worked at all types of trades, such as electrician, welders, et cetera. One girl [redacted] was an engineer on one of the small quarry locomotives. There were numerous female guards everywhere protecting supplies, coal dumps and store rooms. These guards did not wear any one type of uniform but were trained together in marching and drilling.
11. [redacted] an attempt was made to teach [redacted] Soviet history and industrial state us in Communism although none of the inmates were interested. [redacted] not encounter any anti-US propaganda. [redacted] no newspapers and the only radio was one in the town square of Usna which had a loud speaker on a pole giving forth propaganda constantly.

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