

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

July 5/96

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 14 JUN 19

SUBJECT Abertamy Uranium Mines

NO. OF PAGES 3

25X1A

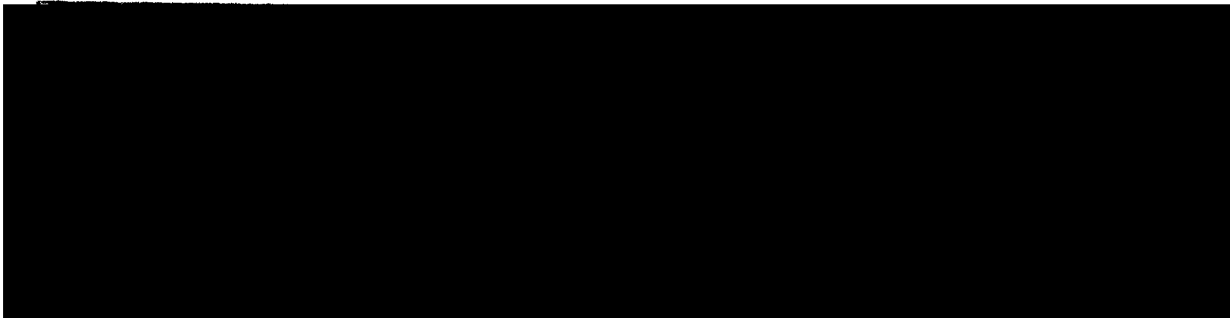
PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW) 1 Sketch

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1X



1. The town of Abertamy (K60) lies on a plateau of 800 meters' elevation. Forests stretch from the village of Fornink to within approximately 500 meters of Abertamy, while the town itself is surrounded by fields and meadows. The road leading from Abertamy to Jachymov passes through the dense forests of the Plesivec mountain region. Plesivec Mountain itself, which is 1,027 meters high, lies southeast of Abertamy; good photographs of the region might be taken from this peak. A valley, carved out by a small stream, stretches toward Merklin and Karlovy Vary. The plateau rises gently toward the west. North of Abertamy is the small village of Hrebčena (Hengstereben), which has been only 30 to 40 percent occupied since the expulsion of the Germans.
2. Abertamy has a population of 1,000 to 1,500, 20 to 30 percent of which is still German. The remaining inhabitants are new colonists from Slovakia, repatriates from German Upper Silesia, gypsies, and volunteer miners from Bohemia.
3. A sign, "Frontier Customs Belt", has been erected on the southern edge of Abertamy township. Strolling through the fields surrounding the town is forbidden. Customs officials, security police, forestry personnel, and even certain private individuals are authorized to use their firearms against suspicious persons.
4. Shaft I of the Abertamy mines is the only one which actually yields uranium ore. A total of 70 miners in two shifts works the mine without the aid of mechanized equipment. Pay is doled out according to work accomplished; some of the miners are prisoners. Compressed air is pumped into the shafts and is used partly to freshen the atmosphere. The shaft entrance is surrounded by a barbed wire fence and by three wooden, twelve-foot observation towers manned by security police with machine guns and automatic rifles. Good photographs might be taken of the entire compound from the last house on the road to the main entrance.
5. Shaft I has been producing ore at a profitable rate only since October 1948. A figure of two to three cubic meters per column of four to five men has been cited: this probably refers to daily yields. The three horizontal tunnels of Shaft I reach a depth of 15 to 25 meters. The catwalks are

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET / [REDACTED]

STATE	#	X	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION				
ARMY	#	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC	X			

Document No. [REDACTED]
 NO CHANGE in Class.
 DECLASSIFIED
 Class. CHANGED TO: TS
 DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
 Auth: DDA REG. 77-1783

CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

- 2 -

covered with water and the miners are provided with rubber boots. Open-flame carbide lamps are used in the pits.

6. The newly-dug reddish brown to golden orange ore lies on a wooden platform in the immediate vicinity of the shaft entrance. Old dumps of excavated material lie to the southeast of the barbed-wire enclosure. Inside the fence are several wooden huts of German origin. The air compressor is located between the administration building and the shaft entrances. Near the administration building are a locksmith's shop, carpentry workshops, and a fuel dump. The enclosure of Shaft I has two entrances: one for workers and the other adjoining one for vehicles. The vehicle entrance is opposite the security police station and opens on Marshal Stalin Street. The four-ton trucks carrying the ore from the shaft come from Jáchymov and return there every night. Abertamy has only four trucks of its own.
7. The activities of the Abertamy mines are administered by the Jáchymov headquarters. The miners are well paid, and there is no indication that anyone, excepting of course the prisoners, has been forced to work at Abertamy against his will. Persons wishing to work in the Abertamy mines must first report at Jáchymov, where they undergo physical examinations and a loyalty investigation by the political authorities, who decide whether or not an applicant is acceptable. Every miner has a special identity card with a photograph, and this must be produced at the entrance to the compound.
8. Shaft II is approximately six months old and is not yet being systematically worked. Test drillings are still under way. The shaft has been dug beside the road to Pernik, between the mechanical workshop of Joseph Mach and the Abertamy boarding school. The shaft has been opened beside a house. Some five to six meters behind the house the soil falls off steeply to a depth of 10 to 15 meters and this artificial depression stretches for some 50 to 70 meters along the road. The shaft employs some 20 men, mainly prisoners. Work is supervised by Russian engineers who employ a special detecting apparatus.
9. Shaft III lies along the road to Jáchymov, between the Zenker factory and the bridge. The underground shafts are horizontal and probably subject to seepage, since miners have been observed wearing rubber boots. The entrance to the pit is surrounded by an ordinary fence; the shafts extend under the road. The main tunnel is 1.5 meters high and two meters wide; some six secondary tunnels extend from the main one. Large boulders are frequently encountered and blasting is often necessary. The supply of dynamite is strictly controlled, and each explosion must be registered and reported.
10. Shaft IV is the most recent one and stretches westwards under a young orchard between the bridge and stops some 250 meters short of the Abertamy swimming pool. Some 20 men, all prisoners, are employed in the excavation of the ore, which is yellow in color. The shaft lies 15 meters higher than Shaft III and is free of water.
11. One more shaft lies in the forest along the road to Jachymov, some 2½ to 3 kilometers from Abertamy.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~SECRET/CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-3-

12. The chairman of the Abertamy political organization is one Miska, a lukewarm Communist. The secretary is Zeman, a confirmed Party activist. Other members of the town committee are Frantisek Ucan and Kouzak. The latter is not a real Communist.
13. The Abertamy SNB office occupies a three-story building on Marshal Stalin street. An SNB major is in command of the 800 (sic) men who guard the shafts and the prisoners.

Key to the Map of Abertamy

I, II, III, and IV are the designated mine shafts.

1. SNB office 1a. Post office 1b. Church
2. Abertamy Communist Committee headquarters
3. School
4. Prison camp
5. Leather glove factory (B. Zenker)
6. Tannery
7. Boarding school
8. Mach mechanical workshop
9. Gymnasium
10. Main square
11. Workers' canteen
12. Cinema and bar
13. Hotel Praha
14. Motor workshop
15. Playgrounds

~~SECRET/CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET/CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

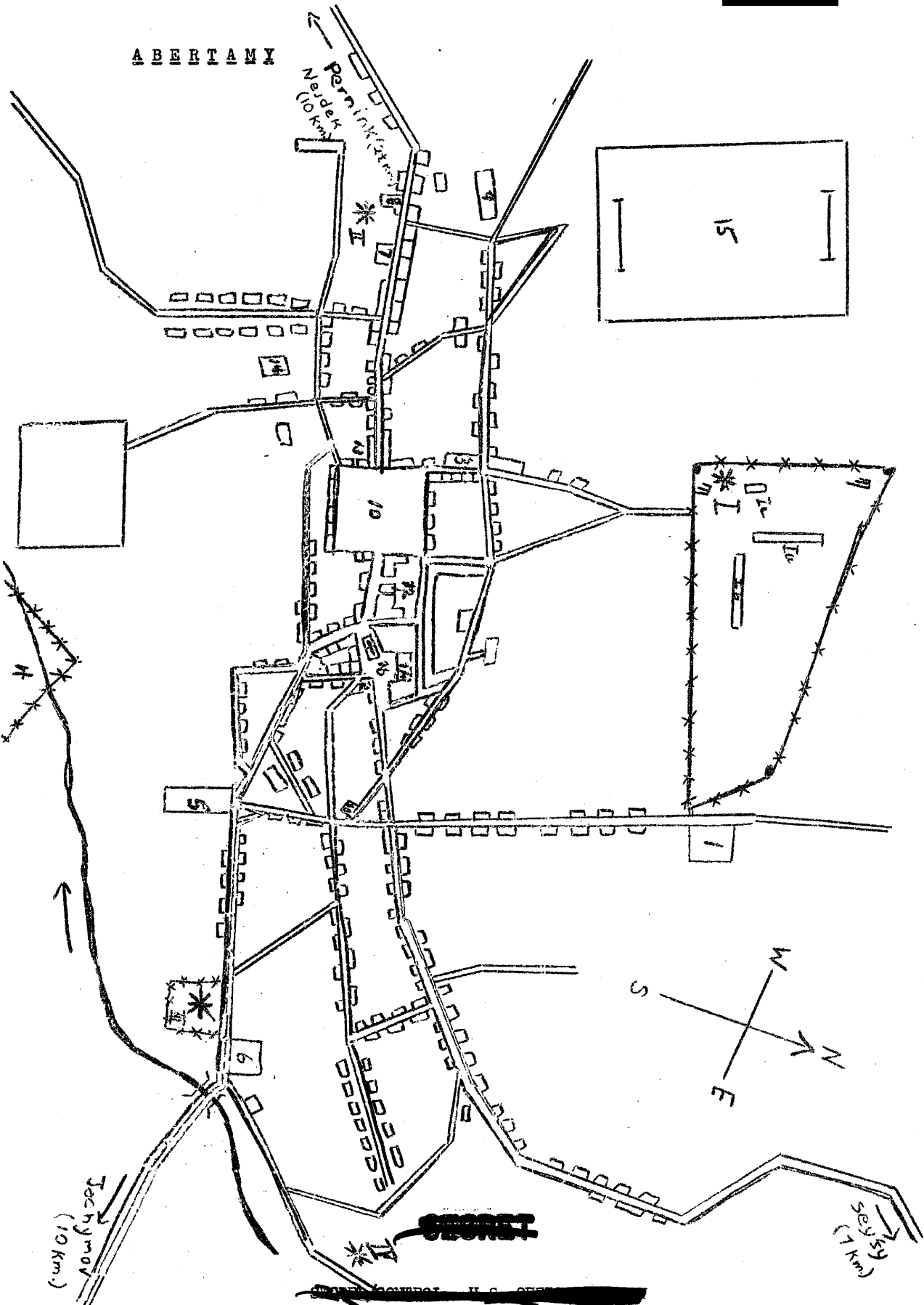
~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
ATTACHMENT I



ABERTAMY



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~