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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT

Azovstal Steel Plant and Rolling Mill
in Zhdanov (Mariupol)

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PLACE

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1. The following plant installations are located in the compound of the Azovstal Steel Plant and Rolling Mill in Zhdanov (Mariupol) (37°34'E/47°07'N):

a. The total plant area was estimated at about $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ km.

b. The plant had the following installations in 1947:
Two blast furnaces, one or two coke oven batteries, four open-hearth furnaces, the larger building of the pig-iron foundry, four gas-fueled furnaces, located at one end of the later constructed mill train, one water tower and the power plant under construction.

c. The following plant installations were constructed after 1947:
Blast furnace No 3, completed by the end of November 1948; blast furnace No 4, to be completed by 31 October 1949; the small pig-iron foundry, completed by May 1949; one coke oven battery, completed by 1948 (a second was under construction); two water towers, one of which was completed by the end of 1948 and the other in mid-1949; two reservoirs, completed by mid-1949; foundations for the fifth and sixth open hearth furnaces (to be fitted in early 1950); "Blooming stroi" and "Prokat stroi", departments of the rolling mill, completed

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25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

in the Summer and late 1948; four additional gas fueled furnaces in the rolling mill, completed by May 1948, two tracks to the open-hearth furnaces, one track connecting the blast furnaces and coking plant. Construction of the power plant was discontinued in early 1949.

2. Details:

- a. Coking plant: Each coke oven battery, approximately 50 x 8 x 5 meters, had 50 chambers. Shipments of additional 40 to 60 tons of coke, allegedly from Stalino, arrived daily at the blast furnaces.
- b. Open-hearth plant: Each open-hearth furnace had an approximate pouring capacity of 120 tons, enough to fill 80 to 100 ingot molds. While being transported to the rolling mill these molds were removed from the ingots (about 1.5 x 0.6 x 0.6 meters) by cranes with special equipment.
- c. Foundry: Cable-suspended ladles with 60 tons of fluid pig-iron arrived from the blast furnaces and poured their contents into molds for 30 to 40 kg blocks fitted to 30 meter long electric - driven conveyor belts. Having passed cooling-water, the blocks were tilted into railroad cars at the turning point of the conveyor belts. The foundry capacity was 12 60-ton ladles in each of the three shifts.
- d. Rolling mill: It was learned from Soviets that, except for the eight gas-fueled furnaces, all installations were of American origin. These included two roller frames, one (pair) drop shears, one large profile mill, four circular saws for iron, two boring machines, two electro-magnetic cranes and two mobile cranes.

Four mill frames with exchangeable roller sets for various profiles were placed between the profile mill and a shop with rollers and lathes to prepare the roller profiles.
- e. Power supply: A plant-owned power source, beside the rolling mill, supplied this installation with power, while the western plant sections apparently obtained electricity from an outside source through a power transmission line on wooden masts, reportedly pending completion of a second plant-owned power source south of the blast furnaces.
- f. Miscellaneous: Access roads and most plant roads, except for a few of asphalt, were paved with cobble stones and had an average width of 6 meters. They were in good condition. A road bridge near the plant entrance led over the Kalmius River towards the town. In the plant area were two railroad overpasses and one multi-track railroad bridge over the main plant road. The bridges were concrete structures.

3. Work force:

There were three shifts with about 2,500 laborers each, 50 percent of which were women. In addition, there was a great number of construction and maintenance workers which could not be estimated.

4. Production:

30 to 40 kg iron blocks, ingot steel and steel plates, rails; U, T, and double-T-shaped girders. The plant worked at 75 percent capacity in the spring of 1949.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

5. With three instead of eight blast furnaces operating, the production capacity of the plant could not be fully utilized.
6. Blast furnace department: The completion of the fourth blast furnace, also measuring 35 to 40 meters in height, 6 meters in diameter, was scheduled for the 1949 October Revolution Anniversary. The construction site for two additional blast furnaces was planned 300 meters east of the northernmost blast furnace. Structural parts, allegedly from the Polish-occupied Zone of Germany, had arrived. Power was supplied by a nearby power plant. A fourth boiler and turbine were being fitted.
7. Coking plant: The completion of the third coke oven battery under construction and of the third and fourth boiler in the coking plant boiler house, farther south, was scheduled for October 1949.
8. The Main Power Plant south of the rolling mill is surrounded by an iron fence and is strictly guarded.
9. Coking plant: The construction of the third and fourth coke oven batteries started in 1948 and was completed by June 1949. Each battery had 75 chambers.
10. Rolling Mill: The rolling mill had complete American machinery and started production on 1 August 1948. The output of 12 blast furnaces would be required to put the rolling mill into full operation.
11. Open-hearth plant: Four operating open-hearth furnaces each with a 65 meter high smokestack.
12. Blast furnace department: Three operating blast furnaces and one under construction in August 1949. Each blast furnace had four air heaters. The fluid pig-iron was shipped to the open-hearth plant by special cars.
13. Blast furnace department: Blast furnace No 3 was blown in on 4 October 1948, and blast furnace No 4 was completed by August 1949, when the construction of No 5 started. Seven or eight furnaces are allegedly to be constructed. All blast furnaces had the same construction. They were regularly tapped at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., when the tipping cars were also filled and driven to the open-hearth plant.
14. Coking plant: The plant was about 200 meters long. Each battery had an estimated 75 to 80 chambers. A fourth boiler was put into operation in the boiler house (75 x 15 x 25 meters) in March 1949. Gas, coal dust, and oil were used as fuel. The third turbine was being installed in the turbine house during June and July 1949.
15. Power supply: Main power source was the Stalino Power Plant, as was learned from Soviet laborers. Plant-owned power sources produced some additional electricity.

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 Comment:

a. Except for some minor variances as to the date of the completion of some new installations, the above information tallies with, and supplements, previous information and is a valuable contribution for a final evaluation of this important steel plant.

b. Comment on details:

(1) Blast furnace department:

*
The present operation of four blast furnaces is considered a fact. The construction of additional blast furnaces, possibly to utilize the full capacity of the rolling mill, might be correct but needs confirmation, since the full operation of the rolling mill would also require a considerable increase of the open-hearth plant production which cannot be achieved with the present number of operating open-hearth furnaces. As other information reported a cooperation of Ilich (located to the north) and Azovstal plants, the new blast furnaces at Azovstal may possibly serve to secure surplus to meet added pig-iron requirements at the Ilich Plant.

(2) Open-hearth plant:

The plant is assumed to be equipped with four open-hearth furnaces. Additional information is required to determine whether the fifth and sixth and possibly even more open-hearth furnaces have been installed in the meantime.* The capacity of 120 tons per furnace also needs confirmation.

(3) Coking plant:

Four coking oven batteries are estimated to be in operation. The number of chambers stated varies between 50 and 80. A number of 50 chambers would be proportional to the battery dimensions

25X1

c. Power supply:

It is certain that most of the power is supplied from the outside and that the power plant near the blast furnaces supplies only that installation. The alleged power plant south of the rolling mill was previously reported to be a transformer station, which seems more credible but cannot definitely be determined. Final clarification is required as to the power plant under construction south of the blast furnaces near the sea.* This plant may be a pump station as indicated by other information.

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