

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

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SUBJECT Jelasnica Coal Mine

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1. The Jelasnica coal mine is situated approximately one kilometer south of the main Nis-Bela Palanka road and east of the village of Jelasnica. The mine is connected with the main single-track standard European gauge Nis-Bela Palanka railroad line by a narrow-gauge railroad. The two lines meet at the Niska Banja railroad station. The mine is also connected with the main Nis-Bela Palanka road by a secondary metalled road which runs through the village of Jelasnica. The mine is administered by a director who is directly responsible to the Ministry of Mines of the Serbian Republic.
2. The planned annual production figures are as follows:
  - 1949 - 100,000 tons
  - 1950 - 100,000 tons

The total output of coal for 1949 was 109,000 tons. The output of coal in January, February and March of 1950 was 9,000 tons per month. The entire output is transported by rail directly to the various factories at Nis, Skoplje, Leskovac and Pirot.
3. Coal reserves: The coal reserves are divided into three categories, according to an official circular of Soviet origin, published and distributed by the Ministry of Mines in Belgrade. The categories, applicable to all mines in Yugoslavia, are as follows:
  - a. Category A, subdivided into:
    - Category A-1: Deposits which have been accurately surveyed and through preliminary workings are ready for mining.
    - Category A-2: Deposits whose shape and size are accurately known and which are more or less accessible, but which have not been prepared for mining.
  - b. Category B: Deposits whose rough shape has been established through research and initial drillings.

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- c. Category C: Covers reserves estimated according to geological indications.

Quantities

- a. Category A - 600,000 tons, with: Ash content - 21 percent  
Calories - 4,200
- b. Category B - 450,000 tons, with: Ash content - 35 percent  
Calories - 3,200

4. Factors limiting output:

- a. Inefficient management and technical supervision.
- b. Poor discipline among the employees.
- c. A fire which broke out in the mine at the end of 1949 damaged some of the workings and temporarily curtailed production. The decrease in output caused by the fire was investigated by officials of the Ministry of Mine in Belgrade during December 1949.

5. Developments: The following developments have been carried out since 1945:

- a. A narrow-gauge railroad line connecting the main Nis-Bela Palanka railroad line has been constructed.
- b. A new winding machine was installed at the mine in 1946.
- c. Two new oil burning mine locomotives were delivered to the mine in 1947.
- d. A new directorate and houses in the workers' colony are being constructed. These constructions were started early in 1946 and additional houses are still being added.

## 6. The power used at the mine is relayed from the grid which connects Nis with the Sveta Petka hydro-electric power station. Current, at 10,000 volts, is carried on steel pylons.

7. Machinery and equipment:a. The mine

- 1) One electrically operated winding machine.
- 2) Four compressors with capacities from 6 to 12 cubic meters per minute.
- 3) Various centrifugal pumps, electrically operated.
- 4) Two Jung oil burning locomotives.
- 5) One hundred and fifty mine cars, each of 500 kilogram capacity.
- 6) One electrically operated ventilator, with a capacity of 500 cubic meters per minute.

b. Mine railroad

- 1) Three 10-ton steam locomotives, produced at the Djura Djakovic factory.
- 2) Twenty cars each of 7-ton capacity.
- 3) Five passenger coaches.

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- c. Workshops: The mine has its own engineering, turning, welding and carpenter's shops.
  - d. Motor transport: The mine possesses two private cars and five trucks.
8. The total number of employees is approximately nine hundred. These are divided as follows:

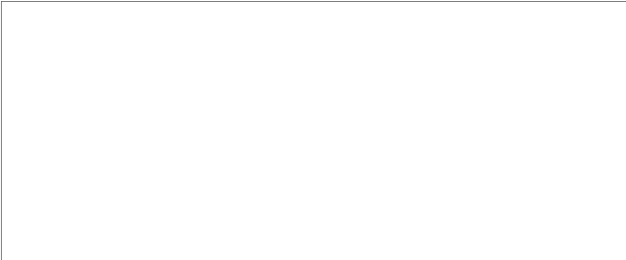
Administrative staff : Approximately 60  
 Miners and surface workers : Approximately 640  
 Forced laborers : Approximately 300

The forced labor for the mine is provided from the Mis prison. The mine normally should work on three 8-hour shifts per day, six days a week, but each workers is forced to work 28 days per month. Sunday work is classed as voluntary. Living conditions at the mine are good and accommodation is guaranteed to all permanent employees. Miners receive their rations in accordance with the state ration quotas for heavy labor.

- 9. The mine is guarded by the Mine Militia, approximately fifteen men strong, who provide guards at the entrance to the mine, at the directorate, mine stores and explosives store.

10. Personalities:

- a. Ilija Ozegovic
- b. Danilo Miletic
- c. Nikola Orlic



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