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INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

CD NO.

COUNTRY	Korea	DATE DISTR.	14 MAR 51
SUBJECT	Monazite Production in North Korea	NO. OF PAGES	3
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25X1X

[redacted]

1. Monazite sand production in North Korea centers in three mines, the Cholsan (124-40, 39-46), the Sinchon (125-29, 38-20), and the Taedong (126-00, 38-54). The sand contains about 1/500 part of monazite, which is not absolutely pure but is 15 percent titanic selenium and 5 percent garnet tellurium. Since no vacuum furnaces are available, processing cannot be handled in North Korea. Output from the three mines is summarized as follows:

	Production	Export	Remainder (in tons)
Cholsan	15,706	7,760	7,946
Sinchon	2,600	200	2,400
Taedong	110	0	110
Total	18,416	7,960	10,456

2. In 1948, an agreement was made between KIM Ch'aek (金策), Minister of Industry of North Korea, and Soviet ambassador Shtykov to exchange monazite sand for weapons and munitions from the USSR. During 1949 and 1950, North Korea obtained construction equipment such as motors and transformers in return for the monazite sand.

3. The Cholsan mine was discovered by Dr. OMORI (大森), head of the Japan Institute of Physics and Chemistry, in the Sonam (124-40, 39-38) Mine of the Japan Nitrogen Company. After the war, monazite deposits in this area were again investigated by AN Chao-yong (安在永), former assistant professor at the Japanese Imperial University, and by Soviet scientists; the investigators announced in February 1947 that this was the best monazite mine in the world. The mine cover parts of Cholsan, Sonchon (124-54, 39-48), and Kusong (125-16, 40-00) Counties (gun) in North Pyongan Province. Mining began in August 1949 and was progressing on a large scale by the following October. Mine statistics are given as follows:

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a. Production (in tons):

	Jan-Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct	Total
1949									7,000
1950	230	85	413	981	1,678	2,119	2,300	1,000	8,706*
			1,479 tons			6,097 tons			

The 1950 output is estimated as 60 percent.**

b. Exports:

1949 - 7,000 tons was sent to Antung by train. 1,940 tons was later returned as of unsatisfactory quality, thus leaving the export total 5,060 tons.

1950 - 2,700 tons was exported at the beginning of October. Export was suspended from January to September because of the unsatisfactory quality of the product.

c. Stock on hand: 7,946 tons (including the 1,940 tons left from 1949 and the 6,006 tons left from 1950).

d. Staff members:

AN Sŏng-chun (안성춘), age about 30, chief commissioner of Democratic Youth in South Hamgyong Province and head of the organization department of the North Korean Labor Party central headquarters.

CHANG Ch'ol, specially appointed by the North Korean government, directed the mining personally. He was a party secretary in a district in the USSR, then vice-chairman of the Hwanghae Province NKLP headquarters and a member of the NKLP Central Committee. He was given a decoration for his achievement in increasing output from the Cholsan mine.

Soviet engineer (unidentified) was invited to the mine at the beginning of 1950 but did not actually arrive until September. He was working at the mine at the beginning of November.

e. Labor:

Summer 1949, there were approximately 500 permanent workers and approximately 2,500 temporary ones. In summer 1950, the number were the same. Temporary laborers were primarily mobilized farmers in 1940 and mobilized farmers and members of the Democratic Youth Federation in 1950.

f. Equipment:

In 1949, wet ore dressing was the principal method of production. In 1950, about 30 pumps were brought to the mine, but they were not used. About 20 concentration plates were installed, but the results were unsatisfactory and only seven plates were operated. About 20 magnetic ore dressing machines are in use, each treating four tons of ore daily.

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4. The Sinchon Mine covers part of Sinchon, Songhwa (125-08, 38-22) and Ullyul (12[illegible]-12, 38-30) Counties in Hwanghae Province. It was opened in 1949.

a. Production (in tons):

1949: 294 tons

1950:	Totals	60%**	50%**	40%**	30%**	20%**
Jan-March	102.0***	28.0	5.8	4.3	44.4	15.5
April	60.9	19.9	9.5	11.5	20.0	
May	80.7	19.0	9.3	5.6	46.8	
June	173.0	27.0	16.5	11.1	118.4	
July	564.4***	37.9	11.9	7.8	106.9	399.8
August	921.3***	50.5	12.2	8.5	99.1	750.9
September	404.0					
Total	2,306.3					

b. Exports: 274 tons was exported in 1949, but it was all returned because of unsatisfactory quality. No material was exported in 1950.

c. Stock on hand: 2,400 tons, of which 640 tons is 50 to 60 percent, approximately 200 tons is 70 percent, and 1,560 tons is below 50 percent.

d. Labor: 1,500 worker in 1949 and 1950, most of them temporarily mobilized.

e. Equipment: The principal method is wet ore dressing. Although seven magnetic ore dressing machines have been installed they are not in use.

5. Taedong mine covers part of Taedong and Sukchon (125-38, 39-24) Counties in South Pyongan Province. It was opened in August 1949. Production in 1949 was 110 tons, of which none was exported; there was no production in 1950. The mine had approximately 1,200 workers, all temporarily mobilized labor, until its operation was suspended in 1950 because of the bad quality of the deposit.

25X1A * [redacted] Comment. The correct total here would be 8,806.

25X1A ** [redacted] Comment. No explanation was given for this term. It is assumed to indicate the quality of the material.

25X1A *** [redacted] Comment. Correct totals would be the following: instead of 102.0, 98.0; instead of 564.4, 564.3; instead of 921.3, 921.2.