

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO

COUNTRY USSR (Chelyabinsk Oblast)

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR 6 JUN 51

SUBJECT Factories in the Chelyabinsk Area

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM

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CIRCULATE

1. A new industrial products complex is under construction at Bakal (54-56N, 58-48E), near Chelyabinsk. Construction materials are brought in on a special railway which was built for the purpose. Each train, drawn by an electric locomotive, consists of 50 or 60 cars of about 60-ton capacity. When construction is finished the railway will be used to bring in coal and ore. The only unit thus far completed and in operation is a factory for measuring instruments of all kinds, gas masks, and artificial respiration equipment. Completed but not yet in operation is a factory for firebricks and tiles. The clay for this factory is brought from a distant source. Still under construction are an electrical plant, at least 12 blast furnaces, many Martin furnaces, several rolling mills, and a cement factory.

Several thousand houses are being built around the industrial complex. 50X1-HUM

The tractor factory at Chelyabinsk employs between 70,000 and 80,000 persons and produces 18 tractors per day. This number could be doubled without change in plant or equipment if it were not for the chronically high percentage of construction flaws in individual parts. Some of the tractor plant employees are German. In addition to its tractor section, the factory has the following sections:

- a. Tank section. Entirely separate from the tractor plant itself. Produces heavy tanks. Security arrangements effectively prevent German tractor plant employees from learning any details of operation or production of this section.
- b. Airplane motors. Security arrangements as in Paragraph 2-a above.
- c. Foundry. All foundry employees are prisoners, who are guarded against any contact with employees of other sections.
- d. Household equipment section. Very small section, but operates a sawmill of tremendous capacity.

Comment: the industrial area covering Bakal was probably started about 1940-1941 and consists primarily of the Chelyabinsk Metallurgical Factory. Construction of Martin furnaces, rolling mills, and other factories continued at least through 1948-1949. 50X1-HUM

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Document No. 50X1-HUM

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Class. Changed To: TS 30

Auth: HR 10-2

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