

TELETYPE

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

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SUBJECT The Rudnik Dren Chroma Ore Mine in
Besvica

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1. The Rudnik Dren chrome ore mine is located one kilometer west of Besvica Village, near Demir Kapija in Macedonia. Large beds of chrome ore and sulphur were found after the war in this area and the present work consists of digging the principal galleries.
2. The mine employs approximately 200 workers, of which 80 are political prisoners sentenced to forced labor. The work is carried out in three shifts. Engineer Mihail Stoss, a German prisoner of war, and his assistant, Mihail Berta, a German born in Yugoslavia, are in charge of the technical work.
3. The main gallery was completed in the spring of 1950. It is 95 meters long, 10 meters wide, 2 meters high and approximately 40 meters below the surface. Three tracks for the mine's small carts have been constructed in the gallery. Two lateral galleries are being dug at the end of the main gallery; in April 1950 approximately ten meters for each gallery had been excavated. The right lateral gallery, according to Engineer Stoss, leads to the chrome ore beds and the left gallery to sulphur beds. Stoss reportedly estimated that about 150 to 160 meters of additional excavation would be needed in each gallery to reach the chrome ore and sulphur beds.
4. Two compressor machines are utilized in the mine. One, driven by naphtha, came from the Dudice Mine and is designed to generate power for four pressure drills. It broke down in the spring of 1950 and was sent to Skopje for repair. The other compressor, driven by gasoline, generates pressure for two drills. The dynamite used until early 1950 was of a red color and of Swedish origin; later, a white dynamite of less destructive power was used. The mine had one water pump constantly in use. A hydro-electric power station is located on the Bosava River about 500 meters to the north of the Dren mine. About one thousand meters south of the mine are vacant military barracks.

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