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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [redacted]

CD NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 6 June 1950

SUBJECT The Oswiecim (Auschwitz) Chemical Works

NO. OF PAGES 3

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PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW) 2 Annexes *

DATE OF INFO.

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

[redacted]

1. The Oswiecim (Auschwitz) Chemical Works* was known as the Buna and Hydrogenation Plant of I.G. Farben prior to 1945, at which time it was nationalized. The plant was erected by I.G. Farben in 1940-1945 and was not entirely finished at the end of the war.

2. During the period from the summer of 1945 to the spring of 1946, all machines and installations at the plant were dismantled by the Soviets except for those in the low-temperature carbonizing plant. These installations were sent to Kemerovo in western Siberia east of Novosibirsk.** An escort of ten to twelve workers from the plant accompanied one particularly complicated shipment, and only two of these workers returned to the plant. It had been intended that they also remain in Kemerovo, but they succeeded in returning to Oswiecim through official means. During their stay in Kemerovo, they did not see the Oswiecim equipment installed there.

3. The plant is located about 2 km. east of Oswiecim and southwest of the Vistula River. It covers an area of 3,655 x 1,165 m., which does not include the workers' settlement, and is divided into parallel running streets in lots measuring 250 x 125 m. Some of these lots are occupied by buildings, others by underground tank plants (see Annex 2, items 12 and 13). The plant is composed of the following buildings:

   a. Low temperature-carbonizing plant, under construction. Six carbonizing units are to be installed.

   b. Oxygen plant, under construction.

   c. Small hydrogenation plant, under reconstruction. Part of the foundations which had been laid by I.G. Farben will be used. The furnaces being erected at this time had been dismantled at the chemical works in Schwarzheide.

   d. Thermal power station.

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e. Carbide plant.

f. Workers' settlement, consisting of about 300 units in two and three-story buildings which are about 2 km. from the plant. Enlargement of this settlement is planned.

A long-distance gas supply plant for supplying Warsaw with gas is being planned.

4. The plant has its own railroad station, located southeast of the plant, with sidings to the plant. The tracks at the northern end of the plant service incoming deliveries of coal and other raw materials; the tracks at the southern end are used for dispatching finished goods. The tracks are standard gauge. For the time being, the plant does not have its own locomotive or freight car yard.

6 Electric power is supplied by outside plants. The power station which is now under construction should meet the total power needs of the Oswiecim works. Coal, which is the main raw material, comes from the Upper Silesian mines.

6. At the present time, the plant has approximately 600 workers; about 560 of them are engaged in assembling equipment, the remainder in the laboratories. Production had not yet been started by September 1949.*** The workers live either in Oswiecim, in the workers' settlement at the plant, or elsewhere. They are transported by bus from the plant headquarters, from the plant railroad station, and from Oswiecim.

7. Leading personnel in the plant are:

a. General manager: Sobieranski, age about 50 and an expert in coking, comes from the Upper Silesian industrial district.

b. Manager of mechanical section: Tgban, a Jew and about 40 years of age, is the managing engineer. He worked in industrial plants in Moscow prior to World War II. An intellectual Communist.

c. Mangger of chemical section: Jarszinski, about 35 years old and Moscow-trained.

d. Manager of research and laboratories: Pavlikovski, about 50 years of age, formerly worked in a nitrogen works in Moscow.

e. Manager of power station: Chumra, about 50 years old, from Upper Silesia.

f. Specialist in liquid fuels: Professor Tomaszyk, about 45 years old, is a scientist and a lecturer in the technical department of the Jagiello University in Krakow.

8. The factory guard is an independent unit and the management has no influence over it. Its strength is not known. The guard room and the quarters of the factory guard are situated at the main entrance to the plant (see Annex 2). A wooden fence, 2m. high, surrounds the premises of the plant.

Attachments: Annex 1: Chemical Works in Oswiecim.

Annex 2 with legend: Chemical Works in Oswiecim.

[redacted]

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* [redacted] Comment: The exact location of this plant is Dwory (Q51/Y74) near Oswiecim. The large electric power plant under construction is being financed equally by Poland and Czechoslovakia. Its capacity will be 120,000 KW, later 300,000 KW. The boiler and engines will be furnished by Czechoslovakia which will receive 50 percent of the power until this investment has been paid for.

** [redacted] Comment: This statement has been confirmed by several other sources.

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*** [redacted] Comment: Another source states that the plant was put into operation during 1948 and that production of 20,000 tons of synthetic gasoline should be expected in 1949 [redacted]

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Legend to Annex 2:

1 Low-temperature carbonizing plant with six carbonizing units. Six smokestacks rise about 8 m. above the building.

2. Generating station, dismantled, about 120 x 20 m. The building is empty at present.

3 Power station.

4 Smokestack of the power plant, about 40 m. high, and conspicuously higher than the building.

5 Carbide plant.

6 Oxygen plant of unknown size.

7 Gas boiler, capacity 10,000 cu. m.

8 Gas boiler, capacity 30,000 cu. m.

9 Recooling towers, about 35 m. high, 30 cm. in diameter.

10 Site for the erection of the long-distance gas supply plant.

11 Site for hydrogenation plant.

12 Underground tank installations

13 Site for planned underground tank installations.

14 Railroad tracks for shipment of finished products.

15 Railroad tracks for incoming coal and raw material.

16 Main entrance to plant with quarters of factory guard.

17 Temporary barracks with offices.

18 Wooden fence surrounding the plant (see broken line in sketch).

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Annex 1

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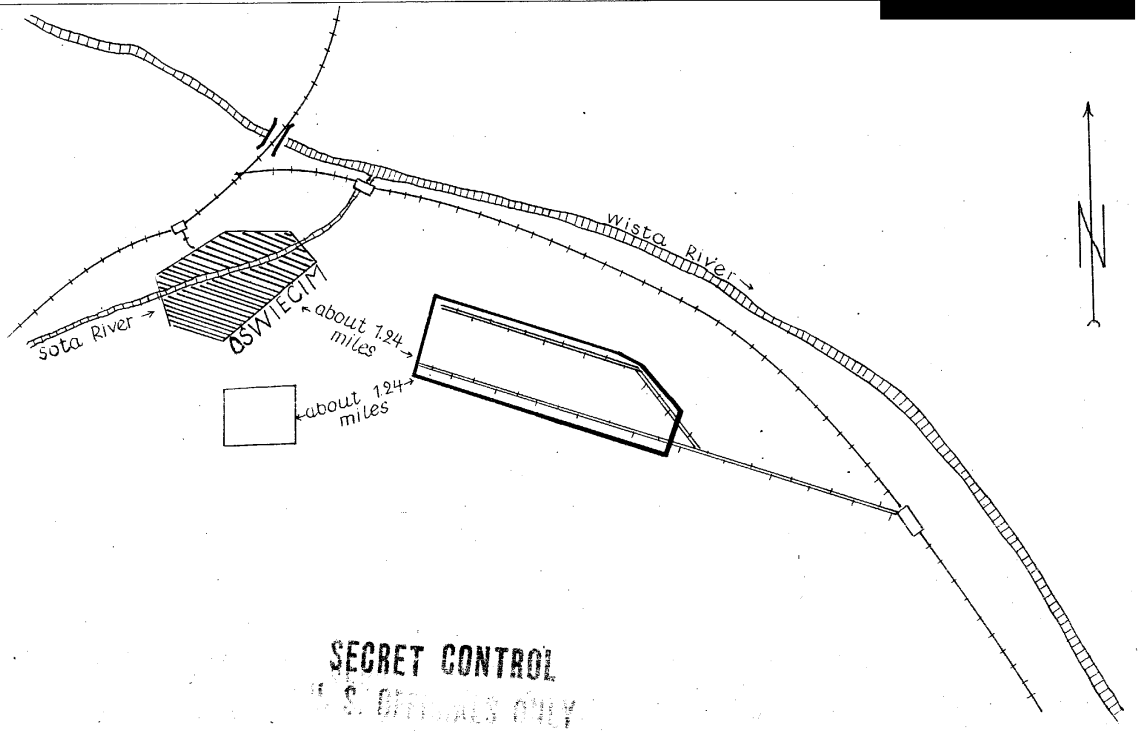
[redacted]

Chemical Works in OSWIECIM



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Annex

Chemical Works in OSWIECIM

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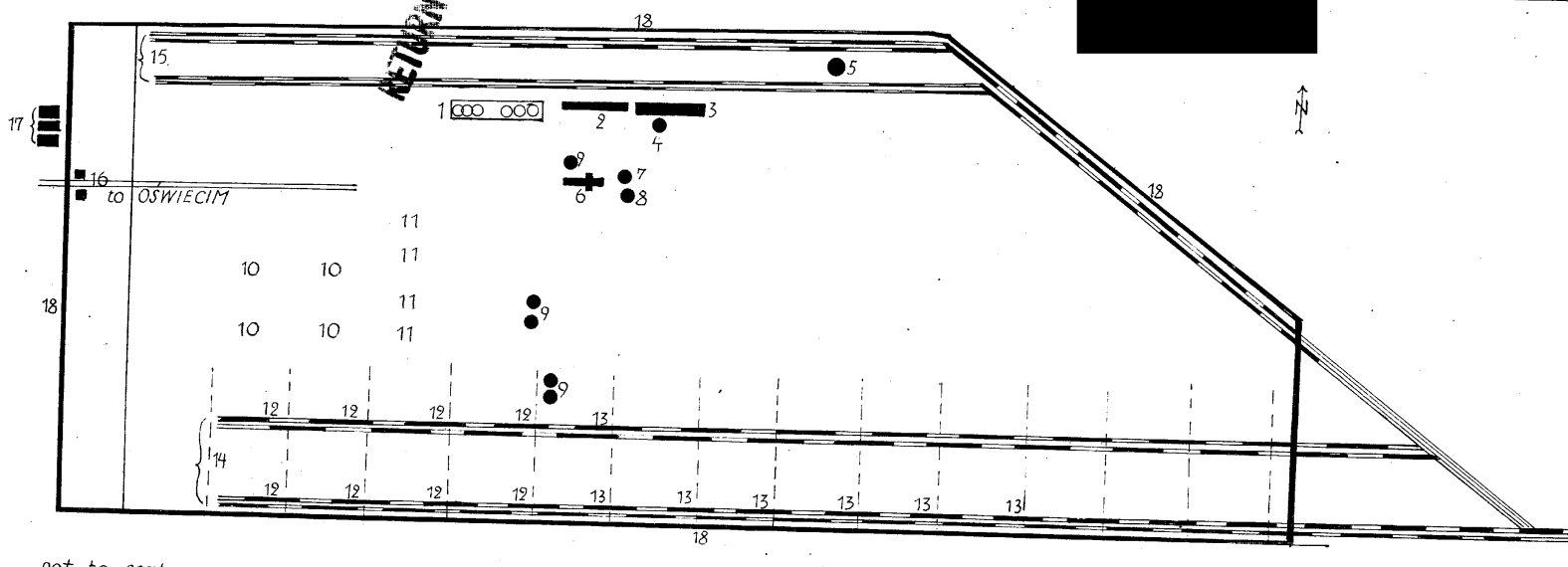

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Legend: See report