

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.  
REPORT CLASS [REDACTED]

DIST: 25 AUGUST 1982

COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJECT: USE OF FORCED LABOR ON PIPELINE AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION  
PROJECTS (OOI: 1973 - 1979)

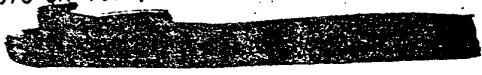
REF :

SOURCE :

1. SOURCE OF PARAGRAPH 2:



NO DIRECT OBSERVATION OF THE USE OF FORCED LABOR WAS EVER  
MADE, BUT IT WAS WIDELY RUMORED THAT SUCH LABOR WAS USED ON PIPELINE  
AND RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTH WHERE  
IT WAS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN LABORERS. DURING A VISIT TO LABYTNANGI,  
NEAR SALEKHARD IN 1973 OR 1974, A PRISON CAMP WAS OBSERVED. THE



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Approved for Release  
Date [ ] MAR 1987

CAMP WAS DISTINGUISHABLE BECAUSE OF ITS REMOTE LOCATION AND FENCED PERIMETER WHICH WAS PATROLLED BY ARMED GUARDS WITH DOGS. THE PRISONERS WERE MUSTERED EVERY MORNING AND TAKEN OFF TO WORK AND THEN WERE RETURNED EVERY EVENING. THE TYPE OF PRISONERS AT THE CAMP OR THE TYPE OF LABOR THEY PERFORMED WAS UNKNOWN. THE PRISONERS WERE SAID TO BE PAID SMALL AMOUNTS OF MONEY FOR THEIR LABOR.

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4. IN 1978 WHILE VISITING COMPRESSOR SITES ON A GAS PIPELINE BEING CONSTRUCTED FROM URENGOY TO YAMAL, FORCED LABORERS WERE OBSERVED WORKING ON THE LAYING OF PIPE. THE LABORERS WERE HOUSED IN BARRACKS IN THE TYUMEN AND TABULSK AREAS WHICH WERE FENCED AND PATROLLED BY GUARDS. THEY WERE BROUGHT TO THE CONSTRUCTION SITES BY TRUCK CONVOYS DAILY AND WERE GUARDED THROUGHOUT THE DAY BY ARMED MEN, SOME OF WHOM PATROLLED IN JEEPS. THE LABORERS WERE USED EXCLUSIVELY ON PIPE LAYING AND WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMPRESSOR STATIONS. IT WAS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THE LABORERS WERE POLITICAL PRISONERS OR CRIMINALS NOR WAS IT KNOWN WHETHER THEY WERE PAID FOR THEIR LABOR.

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6. NO DIRECT OBSERVATION OF FORCED LABOR IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF GAS PIPELINES WAS MADE. HOWEVER, IT WAS WIDELY UNDERSTOOD THAT PRISONERS WERE EXTENSIVELY UTILIZED IN LABOR GANGS FOR SITE PREPARATION, IN THE CLEARING OF FORESTS AND UNDERBRUSH, IN THE BUILDING OF ROADS FOR ACCESS TO PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION SITES AND IN INITIAL PIPELINE TRENCHING AND LATER IN BACKFILLING. PRISONERS WERE ALSO USED IN CONSTRUCTION OF FOUNDATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT BUILDINGS AS WELL AS THE FOUNDATIONS FOR COMPRESSOR STATIONS. FORCED LABOR CREWS WERE KEPT SEPARATE FROM THE UCHASTOKS, SKILLED PIPELAYING BRIGADES CONSISTING OF FROM 150 TO 200 WORKERS. IN THE PLANNING AND DESIGN PHASES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PIPELINES, THE INCLUSION OF FORCED LABOR FOR PLANNING AND COST ANALYSIS WAS NOT PERMITTED. HOWEVER, SOVIET DESIGN ENGINEERS KNEW THAT IN ORDER TO MEET RELATIVELY SHORT CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULES MANDATED FOR PIPELINES CARRYING GAS TO WESTERN EUROPE, FORCED LABOR WOULD HAVE TO BE EXTENSIVELY USED BECAUSE OF THE SEVERE SHORTAGE OF UNSKILLED LABORERS, PARTICULARLY WEST OF THE URAL MOUNTAINS.

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