

47
NATIONAL COLLECTION DIVISION

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

WARNING NOTICE--INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED

STATE DIA NSA TREAS OCR
FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CONTROLS
STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT PAGE 1 of 8
THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

REPORT CLASS [REDACTED]

COUNTRY: USSR

DATE DISTR. 1 April 1985

SUBJ:

1. [REDACTED]
2. Use of Forced Labor on the Soviet Siberian Gas Pipeline

DOI: APRIL 1982-MARCH 1983

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

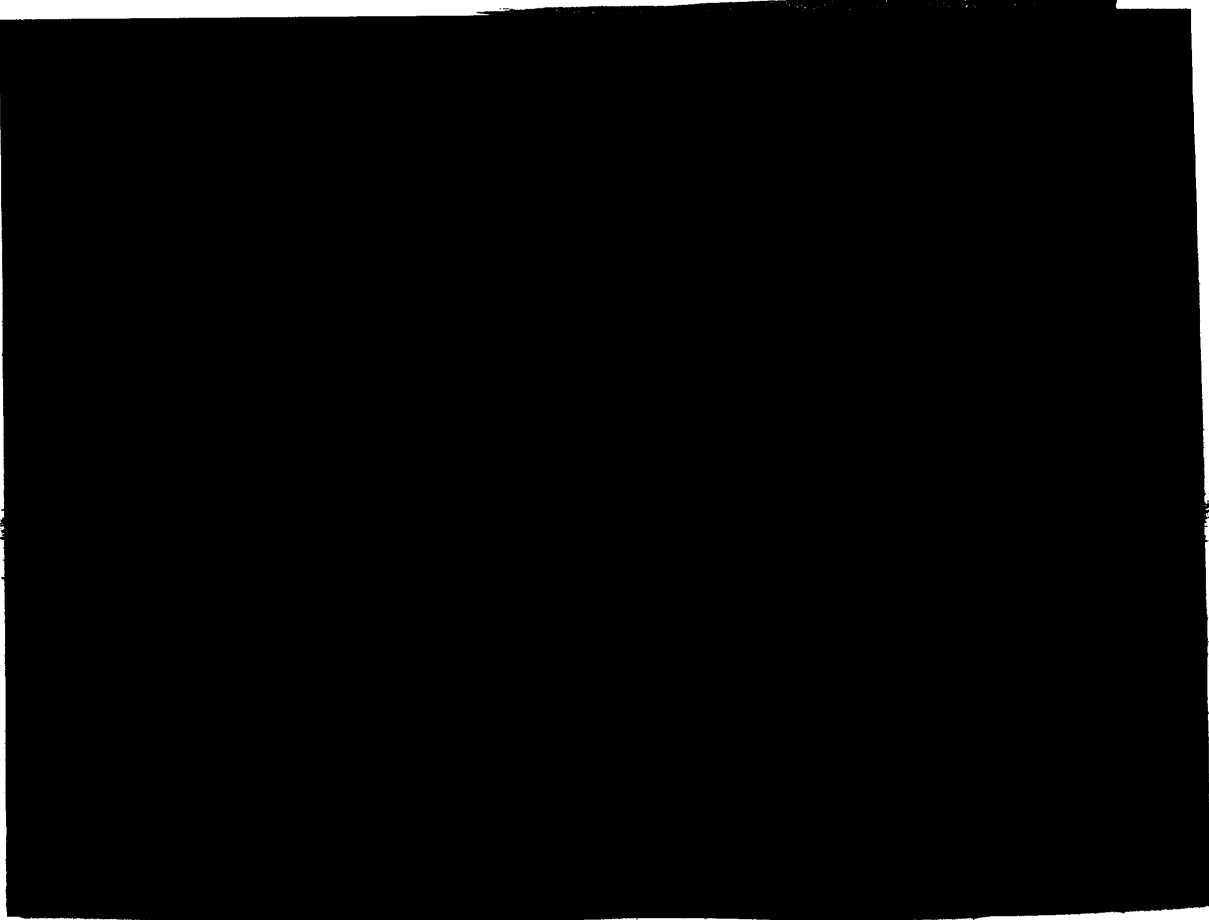
1 4 0 5

34
Approved for Release
Date MAR 1997

WARNING NOTICE
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED

FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT
TO CONTROLS STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT

PAGE 2 of 8



1 4 0 6

WARNING NOTICE
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED

FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT
TO CONTROLS STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT

PAGE 3 of 8

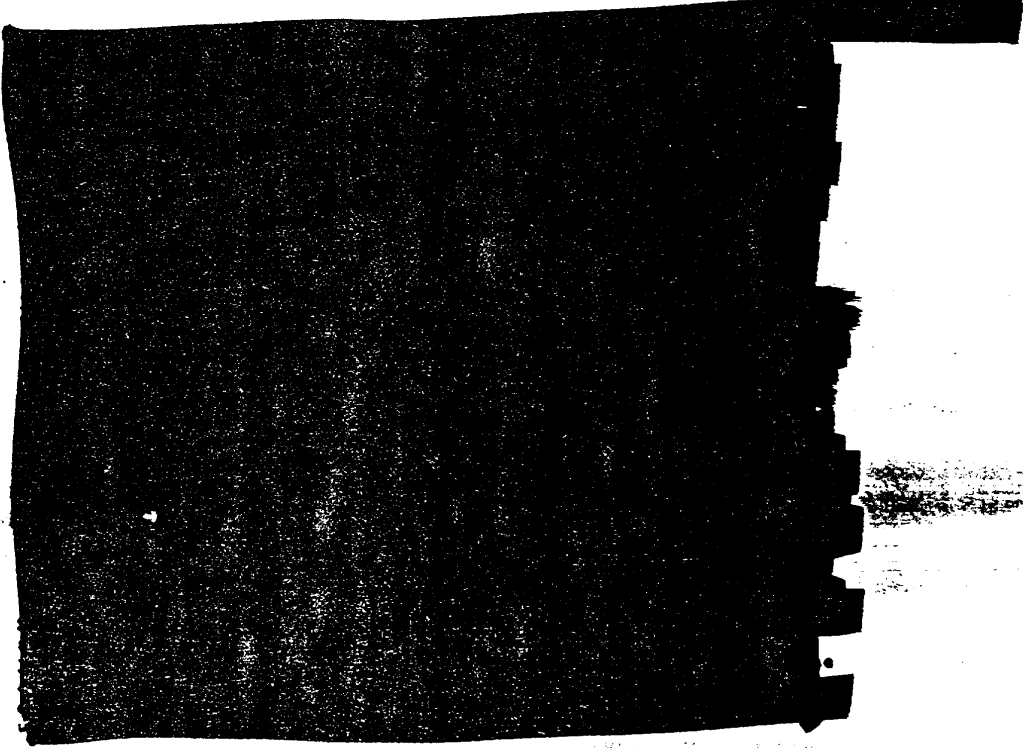


1 4 0 7


WARNING NOTICE
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED

FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT
TO CONTROLS STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT

PAGE 4 of 8



9. On pipeline projects, morale was low because of poor living conditions. There were also broad-scale problems with alcoholism, and workers frequently broke the doors, windows, and furniture in their quarters, making their living conditions worse and leading, in turn, to further drinking. Because of alcoholism, accidents were frequent during operation of machinery and lifting of heavy items. There was an insufficient amount of free manpower (as opposed to forced labor), despite high wages and incentives. Long term free labor was not attracted to work on the pipeline because it meant losing



1 4 0 8

WARNING NOTICE
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED

FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT
TO CONTROLS STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT

PAGE 5 of 8

[REDACTED]

residential permits (propiska) at home. Conversely, short term labor (1-4 months) had better incentives. These laborers were paid a percentage of their home salaries, paid per diem, and cold weather extra wage. However, short term workers tended to be very young and minimally skilled and usually refused to do any of the dirty work chores such as working up to the waist in snow. There was a shortage of technical equipment, and available equipment always suffered from a shortage of fuel. Short term free labor was solicited by country-wide campaigns with the sort of agitprop activity that used to be associated with the old Virgin Lands campaign under Khrushchev. Employers were forced to give up workers for a few months while continuing to pay out portions of their salaries. Each enterprise was given a quota of volunteers. Housing as high as 5-6 stories was erected for these brigades of volunteers, and occasionally railroad cars were used for housing. Mess halls were also built. Almost all the long-term labor was local, and these workers were allowed to live at home. Neither short-term labor nor locals could be made to do large amounts of the dirty work, hence, prison labor was not only used but indispensable.

10. Ivdel was at the center of a radius of 300 km of concentration camps, operated by the Directorate N-240 of the MVD, under the command of Colonel Mikhail Mikhailovich ((Pushkin)). The directorate was also known as Ivdel "Spetsles" since normally all of the prisoners were engaged in lumbering. Four camps, totalling 2,500 prisoners, were close to the town of Ivdel. The four camps were called ITK Number 4, 1/1, 1/2, and 1/3. These were strict regime camps. A relaxed regime camp, from which prisoners could go to work unguarded, was Settlement Colony Number 8, located in Tokhta, about 100 km away. Settlement prisoners worked on compressor stations under the direction of free managers, who signed for each prisoner every day that the prisoner worked.

11. MVD Directorate N-240 had an estimated 20,000 prisoners entirely devoted to lumbering, except for labor provided for the pipeline. It was only one of dozens of similar directorates throughout the Urals. The headquarters for the administration of the Urals camps was in Sverdovsk. All of these camps were categorized by three types: strengthened regime (usilenny rezhim), strict (strogiy) regime, and settlement colonies. The strengthened and strict regime camps were the "hells". In settlement colonies, prisoners lived in camps but had considerable freedom to go to work without guards, to visit nearby towns, and have their families there. These were the "heavens" of the prison system although conditions at the settlement houses were poor. There were no political prisoners officially in the Urals camps, because all

[REDACTED]

1 4 0 9

WARNING NOTICE
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED

FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT
TO CONTROLS STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT

PAGE 6 of 8

[REDACTED]

the inmates received their sentences under criminal articles of the legal code. (Comment: However, only about 20 percent of the prisoners were real criminals; the rest were either dissidents of one sort or another or basically decent people unlucky enough to be caught for the sort of illegal activity indulged in by the whole country, such as theft of socialist property, dealings "on the left," etc.) Some effort was made to identify specialized skills among the prison laborers. Approximately 20 specialists were found among the prisoners for the Ivdel compressor station project. While they could not occupy a position higher than that of foreman (prorab), they could leave their camps with passes and without guards, could take part in meetings, and were used as much as possible for the specialties. (Comment: Source did not elaborate on whether similar privileges existed for forced labor on the pipeline.)

12. The base pay for wage workers on the gas pipeline was based on a classification system from one to seven, with seven being the highest paid. To the base pay which is somewhat higher in the Urals, 1.2 percent was added for cold weather working. In addition, bonuses were sometimes, but not always, received for fulfillment or overfulfillment of plan, and special clothing was issued. However, all of this was not enough to attract sufficient numbers of long term workers. The one to four month "volunteers" received all of the above plus 2.60 rubles per diem and 30-50 percent of the pay in their regular home enterprise. Thus a skilled worker of the seventh class might earn the following: local resident base pay, 220 rubles per month, cold weather pay, 26 rubles per month, totalling 246 rubles per month. With the 20-25 percent bonuses for plan, if paid, he would make an additional 48-62 rubles per month for a total of 294 to 308 rubles. Short-term volunteers from distant locations would be typically paid their home enterprise pay of 100 rubles per month, local base pay of 220 rubles per month, cold weather pay of 26 rubles and per diem of 40 rubles. If paid a bonus, short-termers could make a total of 474 to 488 rubles per month. (Comment: For a four-months' stay, this is quite a nice nest egg by Soviet standards; however, in practice, much of the salaries went to alcohol consumption. Supervisory personnel, engineers, master specialists, and foremen usually made 400 rubles per month plus the bonus if paid. It would have been impossible to do all of the necessary dirty and unpleasant auxiliary work by wage labor without offering about 15 times more than the available incentives. There was no civil defense training at the Ivdel project.)

13. [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

1 4 1 0

WARNING NOTICE
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED

FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT
TO CONTROLS STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT

PAGE 1 OF 1

1 4 1 1

WARNING NOTICE
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED

FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT
TO CONTROLS STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT

PAGE 8 of 8

ACQ: (9 January 1985)

REPORT CLASS

1 4 1 2