

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT **TELEGRAM**

HR70-14

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (SVERDLOVSK OBLAST)

REPORT NO. TDCS -3/439,789

SUBJECT INSTALLATIONS IN THE VERKHNAYA - NIZHNYAYA SALDA AREA

DATE DISTR. 8 JUNE 1960

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

DATE OF INFO. 1957 - EARLY 1958

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: 20-Jul-2011

REFERENCES IN

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

APPRAISAL 3

THIS IS **UNEVALUATED** INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE WHO HAD LIMITED ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION (F).

1. IN FEBRUARY - APRIL 1957 PERSONS WHOM THE AUTHORITIES CONSIDERED UNTRUSTWORTHY WERE EVACUATED FROM VERKHNAYA SALDA (N 58-02, E 60-33). AT THE SAME TIME, "STREAMS" OF KOMSOMOL MEMBERS WHO HAD ANSWERED THE PARTY CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PARTICIPATE IN SECRET CONSTRUCTIONS (SEKRETNAYA STROYKA) ARRIVED IN THE TOWN. MANY PRISONER-LABORERS, UNITS OF ARMY ENGINEERS, AND FREE WORKERS SENT BY THE KGB AND MVD OBLAST DIRECTORATES IN SVERDLOVSK ARRIVED IN THE AREA NEAR THE SAME TIME. WITH THE INITIATION OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE AREA, THE TOWNS OF VERKHNAYA SALDA AND NIZHNYAYA SALDA (N 58-05, E 60-43) WERE DECLARED A CLOSED ZONE. (INFORMANT'S COMMENT: INITIAL WORK IN THE AREA ACTUALLY BEGAN IN 1955.) INFORMANT DID NOT KNOW

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THE EXACT LIMITS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AN ORGANIZATION CALLED VOYENSPETSSTROY,
 X WHICH HAD POB 3721, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXECUTING ALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
 IN THE ZONE. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: REPORTED TO BE POB 3170 IN [REDACTED])

THIS ORGANIZATION WAS CONCERNED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF SECRET MILITARY
 INSTALLATIONS AND WAS RUMORED TO BE SUBORDINATE TO THE CENTRAL KGB DIRECTORATE

X IN MOSCOW. OF THE REPORTED 20,000 WORKERS EMPLOYED ON THE CONSTRUCTION

X PROJECTS IN THE ZONE, APPROXIMATELY 5000 WERE PRISONER-LABORERS.

2. THE TOWNS OF VERKHNAYA SALDA, WHICH HAD BEEN LITERALLY SINKING
 IN THE MUD, AND NIZHNYAYA SALDA WERE BOTH MODERNIZED. THE STREETS IN BOTH
 TOWNS AND THE ROAD CONNECTING THE TWO TOWNS WERE PAVED. THE TRAFFIC ON
 THE CONNECTING ROAD BECAME SO HEAVY THAT SOLDIERS WERE STATIONED TO DIRECT
 X VEHICLES. HUNDREDS OF TRUCKS, TRACTORS, BULLDOZERS, AND OTHER PIECES OF
HEAVY MACHINERY WERE BROUGHT INTO THE AREA, AND RAILROAD SPURS WERE LAID
 FROM THE MAIN LINE BETWEEN VERKHNAYA SALDA AND NIZHNYAYA SALDA TO THE
 VARIOUS SECRET MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ON WHICH CONSTRUCTION HAD BEGUN.

THE INSTALLATIONS WERE GROUPED INTO FOUR OBJECTIVES:

- X A. COMPLEX WITH POB 3
- X B. PURIFICATION INSTALLATIONS (OCHISTNYE SOORUZHENIYA)
- X C. INDUSTRIAL BASE (PROMBAZA)
- X D. AIRFIELD

X 3. PRIOR TO 1957, PLANT NO. 319 HAD BEEN CONTROLLED BY THE CHIEF

DIRECTORATE FOR THE ALUMINUM INDUSTRY (GLAVNOYE UPRAVLENIYE ALUMINYOVOY

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PROMYSHLENNOSTI) OF THE MINISTRY OF NONFERROUS METALLURGY AND WAS REPORTED TO HAVE MADE AIRCRAFT PARTS WHICH WERE SHIPPED ELSEWHERE FOR ASSEMBLY. IN EARLY 1957, IT WAS RUMORED THAT PLANT 319 HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE MILITARY, BUT NO DETAILS WERE KNOWN. PLANT 319, WHICH IN 1957 WAS ALREADY A LARGE

X FACTORY WITH ITS OWN RAIL SPUR, WAS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY TWO KMS. EAST OF THE VERKHNAYA SALDA STATION. STANDING ISOLATED IN THE OPEN FIELDS, PLANT 319 WAS SURROUNDED BY A HIGH STONE FENCE COVERED WITH GRAY PLASTER AND HIGH ENOUGH TO HIDE THE WINDOWS OF THE ONE-STORY BUILDINGS IN THE COMPLEX. THERE WERE ALSO MANY THREE AND FOUR-STORY BUILDINGS IN THE PLANT AREA, AND MANY OTHER BUILDINGS WERE ALSO UNDER CONSTRUCTION. IT WAS SAID THAT THE

X EXPANSION OF PLANT 319 WOULD MAKE IT CAPABLE OF ASSEMBLING THE ENTIRE AIRCRAFT BY 1962. THE PLANT WAS SUPPLIED WITH POWER BY A NETWORK OF HIGH-TENSION CABLES CONNECTED TO A TRANSFORMER STATION WHICH WAS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE AND ONE-HALF KMS. SOUTHEAST OF THE VERKHNAYA SALDA RAILROAD STATION. INFORMANT KNEW NO ADDITIONAL DETAILS BECAUSE PRISONERS WERE NOT EMPLOYED AT PLANT 319 NOR DID THEY HAVE ANY OTHER ACCESS TO IT.

4. CONSTRUCTION OF ANOTHER PLANT, LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE KILOMETER SOUTHWEST OF PLANT 319, WAS REPORTEDLY STARTED IN 1955. IT WAS BUILT AROUND A SMALL, OLD (PRE-REVOLUTIONARY) FACTORY ORIGINALLY OWNED BY A RUSSIAN NAMED DIMIDOV AND WAS REPORTED IN EARLY 1957 TO BE MANUFACTURING ALUMINUM HOUSEHOLD UTENSILES. THE PLANT HAD NEITHER NAME NOR NUMBER AND WAS KNOWN SOLELY AS

X POB'S PLANT. EXPANSION OF THIS PLANT WAS BEGUN IN FEBRUARY - MARCH 1957 BY PRISONERS FROM PRISON CAMP NO. 7, UNITS OF ARMY ENGINEERS, AND FREE

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WORKERS. THE PRISONERS EMPLOYED AT THIS PROJECT WERE ALL MEMBERS OF PRIVILEGED BRIGADES 12 AND 13, BOTH OF WHICH WERE COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF FORMER PARTY MEMBERS. THE CONSTRUCTION CONSISTED OF ERECTION OF NEW FACTORY UNITS, ABOUT WHICH INFORMANT KNEW NO DETAILS, AND EXCAVATION OF DEEP PITS NEARBY, WHICH REQUIRED THE USE OF EXPLOSIVES BECAUSE OF THE ROCK FORMATIONS. APPROXIMATELY TEN PITS WERE DUG IN GROUPS OF APPROXIMATELY FOUR EACH, AND THE DISTANCE BETWEEN EACH GROUP OF PITS WAS APPROXIMATELY 100 METERS. THE PITS IN EACH GROUP WERE ARRANGED IN A STAGGERED PATTERN. EACH PIT WAS AS DEEP AS THE HEIGHT OF A FIVE-STORY BUILDING AND IN CROSS SECTION WAS U-SHAPED OR V-SHAPED WITH THE APEX OF THE V FLATTENED. THE SIDES AND FLOOR WERE LINED WITH A THICK LAYER OF REINFORCED CONCRETE, AND THE FLOOR WAS LARGE ENOUGH FOR A TRUCK TO TURN AROUND WITH EASE. PRISONERS SAID THAT THESE PITS WERE DESTINED FOR UNDERGROUND FACILITIES WHICH, AFTER INSTALLATION, WOULD HAVE ONLY A SMALL UNOBTUSIVE BUILDING VISIBLE ABOVE THE GROUND. PRISONERS FURTHER CLAIMED THAT THE INSTALLATIONS (SOORUZHENIYA) WOULD BE OPERATED MERELY BY PRESSING A BUTTON IN SOME SORT OF LABORATORY. BY EARLY 1958 SOME PITS HAD BEEN COMPLETED, AND OTHERS WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION. A RAIL SPUR FROM THE EXCAVATIONS TO THE VERKHNAYA SALDA STATION WAS ALSO UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

5. IN 1957 WORK WAS BEGUN ON WHAT WAS REFERRED TO AS THE PURIFICATION INSTALLATIONS (OCHISTNYE SOORUZHENIYA), WHICH WERE LOCATED APPROXIMATELY FOUR AND ONE-HALF KILOMETERS EAST OF PLANT POB 3 ON THE BANK OF THE SALDA RIVER. THE SITE CONSISTED OF AN OPEN FIELD BOUNDED BY THE RIVER ON THE NORTH, A HILL ON WHICH THERE WERE SEVERAL HOUSES ON THE EAST, A WOODED AREA

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OF HIGH PINES ON THE WEST. (INFORMANT'S COMMENT: THIS WAS ONCE THE CEMETERY OF SOME RELIGIOUS SECT.) OPPOSITE THE SITE WAS A SMALL, UNPAVED AIRFIELD WHICH WAS USE BY PISTON TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT. THE PURIFICATION INSTALLATIONS WERE TO CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

- A. A STEAM AND POWER PLANT. ALTHOUGH INFORMANT KNEW FEW DETAILS, HE THOUGHT THAT THE SIZE OF THE FOUNDATIONS INDICATED A VERY LARGE BUILDING. THERE WERE TO BE SIX BOILERS IN THE PLANT.
- B. A LARGE FACILITY CALLED PESOCHNITSA (SAND BOX). THE BUILDING WAS APPROXIMATELY 100 X 40 METERS AND HAD VERY DEEP FOUNDATIONS. IT WAS TO HAVE THREE INTERCONNECTED CELLARS, AND PRISONERS MAINTAINED THAT THIS BUILDING WAS TO BE A LABORATORY CONNECTED BY UNDERGROUND PASSAGES TO SMALL CONCRETE HUTS ON THE SURFACE.
- C. A FACTORY CALLED KHLORO-IZOLYATOR, TO BE LOCATED IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE RIVER. IT WAS TO CONSIST OF THREE WINDOWLESS BUILDINGS, EACH ABOUT THREE STORIES HIGH AND MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 45 X 25 METERS.
- D. FOUR ADDITIONAL FACTORY UNITS.
- E. A NUMBER OF PITS SIMILAR TO BUT MORE NUMEROUS THAN THOSE AT PLANT POB 3.

6. THE PURIFICATION INSTALLATIONS COMPLEX WAS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1958, AND 280 PRISONERS FROM CAMP NO. 7 AND 1000 SOLDIERS (A BATTALION) OF ARMY ENGINEERS WERE ENGAGED IN THE WORK. THE SITE, DIMENSIONS OF WHICH WERE NOT KNOWN, WAS SURROUNDED BY A THREE-METER-HIGH BARBED WIRE FENCE, AND THE DITCHES OF VARIOUS DIMENSIONS WHICH CROSSED THE SITE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE VARIOUS INSTALLATIONS WERE TO BE

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CONNECTED ONE TO THE OTHER. A RAIL SPUR FROM THE SITE TO THE VERKHNAYA SALDA STATION WAS ALSO UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND A CONCRETE PLANT HAD BEEN SET UP ON THE SITE TO SPEED CONSTRUCTION BY SUPPLEMENTING THE SHIPMENTS FROM THE CONCRETE PLANT IN NIZHNYAYA SALDA.

7. PLANT NO. 319, PLANT POB 3, AND THE PURIFICATION INSTALLATIONS WERE ALL LOCATED TO THE EAST OF VERKHNAYA SALDA (BETWEEN VERKHNAYA SALDA AND NIZHNYAYA SALDA), BUT THE PROMBAZA, WHICH PROVIDED THE TECHNICAL AND AUXILIARY SERVICES FOR ALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE AREA, WAS LOCATED TO THE NORTH OF VERKHNAYA SALDA, NEAR THE FOREST. BY 1957, THE PROMBAZA INCLUDED A VERY LONG AND VERY WIDE WOODEN STRUCTURE WITH A TAR-PAPER ROOF WHICH WAS USED FOR STORAGE AND REPAIR OF EQUIPMENT NEEDED IN THE CONSTRUCTION WORK AND COULD REPORTEDLY ACCOMMODATE APPROXIMATELY 400 TRUCKS. NEAR THIS BUILDING WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION A NUMBER OF RECTANGULAR BRICK AND CINDERBLOCK BUILDINGS, BUT NO DETAILS WERE KNOWN. THE SITE ON WHICH THE LARGE STORAGE AND REPAIR BUILDING WAS LOCATED AND ON WHICH THE BRICK AND CINDERBLOCK BUILDINGS WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION WAS CONSIDERABLY LARGER THAN THE SITE OF THE PURIFICATION INSTALLATIONS. THE RAIL SPUR BETWEEN THE PROMBAZA AND THE VERKHNAYA SALDA STATION WAS ALREADY IN OPERATION IN FEBRUARY - MARCH 1957.

8. IN JULY OR AUGUST 1957, CONSTRUCTION OF AN AIRFIELD WAS STARTED IN A WOODED AREA APPROXIMATELY THREE KMS. NORTHWEST OF NIZHNYAYA SALDA. THE WORK INCLUDED UPROOTING TREES, LEVELING GROUND, LAYING OUT ROADS, AND SURFACING THEM WITH ASPHALT. ACCORDING TO RUMORS, THE AIRFIELD WAS TO HAVE

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UNDERGROUND FACILITIES FOR JET AIRCRAFT, AND IT WAS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WOULD ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO TAKE OFF FROM BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE GROUND. THE AIRFIELD HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED BY APRIL 1958.

9. ALTHOUGH THE SECRET INSTALLATIONS IN THE VERKHNAYA-NIZHNYAYA SALDA AREA WERE ALL WITHIN THE SAME ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK, THEY FELL INTO ONE OF TWO ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS (RAYONY). IT WAS KNOWN THAT THE PURIFICATION INSTALLATIONS AND PLANT POB 3 WERE IN THE SECOND REGION. WORKING CONDITIONS OF THE PRISONERS IN THE ZONE WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE PRISONERS WHO WORKED IN THE URANIUM MINES IN THE CLOSED ZONE NEAR NIZHNYAYA TURA.

THE WORKDAY CONSISTED OF EIGHT HOURS, WHICH COUNTED AS THREE DAYS OF THE PRISONER'S SENTENCE, AND THE WORKWEEK WAS SIX DAYS. THE CAMP NEAR VERKHNAYA SALDA AND THAT NEAR NIZHNYAYA TURA WERE THE ONLY TWO CAMPS IN ALL SIBERIA WITH SUCH PRIVILEGES.

10. THE PRISONERS BELIEVED THAT WHEN ALL THE INSTALLATIONS IN THE VERKHNAYA-NIZHNYAYA SALDA ZONE HAD BEEN COMPLETED, OTHER SUCH INSTALLATIONS WOULD BE BUILT. THEY MAINTAINED THAT THESE PROJECTS HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR TEN YEARS AND THAT THE WORK THEREFORE WOULD NOT BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO 1965-66.

11. INFORMANT KNEW OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

A. KGB CAPTAIN IVAN VASILYEVICH LEBEDINTSEV WAS DIRECTOR OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PURIFICATION INSTALLATIONS. ORIGINALLY FROM A PEASANT FAMILY IN THE KRASNODARSKIY KRAY, HE WAS AN ENGINEER AND HAD PREVIOUSLY WORKED ON THE VOLGA-DON CANAL. HE ACCEPTED BRIBES FROM THE PRISONERS FOR FAVORS

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GRANTED IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR WORK. HE SPOKE AGAINST THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN FRONT OF THE PRISONERS AND OFTEN COMPLAINED THAT "OBJECTIVES ARE BEING BUILT THAT WILL DESTROY THE WORLD, WHILE MANY STARVE FOR BREAD IN THE USSR". HE WAS ABOUT 40 YEARS OLD, TALL, THIN, AND HAD A LONG NOSE AND BLACK HAIR. HE WAS MARRIED AND HAD THREE DAUGHTERS.

B. KGB LT. - COLONEL NEKHOROSHIKH (FNU) WAS DIRECTOR OF THE VOYENSPETSSTROY IN CHARGE OF THE WORK IN THE VERBYAYA SALDA ZONE. HE WAS AN ENGINEER, ABOUT 60 YEARS OLD, TALL, OF MEDIUM BUILD, AND HAD GRAY HAIR.

C. KGB CAPTAIN POKROVSKIKH (FNU) WAS DIRECTOR OF THE SECOND REGION (ADMINISTRATIVE). HE WAS AN ENGINEER, APPROXIMATELY 40 YEARS OLD, OF MEDIUM HEIGHT, WELL BUILT, AND HAD BLOND HAIR. HE WAS MARRIED.

D. KGB CAPTAIN SANDLER (FNU) WAS DIRECTOR OF THE FIRST REGION (ADMINISTRATIVE). ORIGINALLY FROM MOSCOW, HE WAS AN ENGINEER. HE WAS ABOUT 45 YEARS OLD, OF MEDIUM HEIGHT, STOUT, AND HAD BLACK HAIR.

END OF MESSAGE

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