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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Uranium Deposits at Kowary: Personnel/Special Permits for Workers

PLACE ACQUIRED

[Redacted]

DATE ACQUIRED

[Redacted]

DATE (OF INFO.)

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[Large Redacted Area]

- "Kowary is located approximately 4 to 4.5 Km away from Karpacz. The area is quite large and is divided into Kowary-Dolny (Lower Kowary), Kowary-Srednie, (Middle Kowary) and Kowary-Gorne (Upper Kowary). The Kowary-Dolny area can be reached more easily by bus. Buses depart from the Karpacz Station called Szczesc Boze.
- "Uranium deposits are located in the Kowary-Gorne area, which is located 3 to 3.5 Km away from Kowary-Dolny. Kowary-Gorne can be reached by train. Trains depart from Kowary. However, one can even walk. During World War II the Germans undertook to extract the uranium. When in 1945 the Soviets occupied that zone, the deposits were immediately taken over by them. Later on, Poles joined in the administration of the works, but supervision and management were exercised only by the Soviets.
- "During 1949-1950, many Polish workers moved to the Kowary area. During that period new houses were built and canals were constructed. Houses were also constructed in the Kowary-Dolny area specifically for the uranium-deposit miners. Uranium deposits are very near the Czechoslovak-Polish border zone, and it is said that deposits (die Grube in German) are also to be found deep in Czechoslovak soil. There was a rumor that in order to expand the mining operations, work was performed by inmates (whose nationality I do not know) who were 'buying' their freedom with that type of work.

SEE LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT & AREA CODES

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5. "Miners working on the uranium deposits resided either at Kowary or in the surrounding area. Some even lived at Bierutowice. Until 1950, these workers were the trouble-makers of the entire zone. They were earning very good money (compared to the average wage) but spent all their earnings on drink. During that period of time (when the uranium mining was being expanded), workers were making trouble, stabbing people with knives, etc. When the work came to an end in 1950, everything slowly calmed down.
6. "It was rumored in the surrounding areas during 1948 or 1949 that a Polish engineer who was working in the uranium deposits was caught spying for the U S. He was shot by the Soviets.
7. "At the end of 1950, all Polish workers were sent back to their original homes in Poland. However, some of the engineers (who took part in the expanding of the mines) remained and resided there until 1952 at the Szczesc Boze Station of Karpacz. In 1952 they returned to their own homes.
8. "According to the rumors, it seems that the quantity of uranium extracted was far beyond expectation, compared to the work performed. Poles are still employed in the mines at present [redacted]. The majority of the miners are, however, Soviets.
9. "According to what a friend of mine told me, during the early part of 1953, the Polish miners working on the deposits were paid in Soviet currency (rubles). They were then forced to exchange this currency immediately into zloty. This exchange took place at another window there for precisely this purpose.
10. "Each miner working on the uranium deposits has to have a special permit which entitles him to enter the deposit. This permit is issued by the Administration of the Mines. I do not know, however, how close to the deposits inhabitants of Kowary are allowed to approach.
11. "All buses depart for [from ?] Jelenia-Gora. However, only some of them pass thru Kowary. The buses which pass through Kowary have 'Jelenia-Gora Przez Kowary' written on the outside."

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