

ITEM No. 9768/53

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

INDUSTRY
Mining Uranium

New Uranium Mines Near ZACLER Now In Full Exploitation.

SOURCE FRANKFURT : 31-year-old ethnic German worker who worked in the JAN SVERMA mine from 1946 until June 1953, when he escaped to Western Germany.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : June 1953.

EVALUATION COMMENT : In contrast with the statement of the correspondent, report I/9841, dated 9 February 1953, was processed by the Czech Evaluation Desk and was released under Item No. 01804/53. The present report identically states that uranium discoveries were made in the "Jan Sverma" pit at ZACLER. The rest of the report is based on second-hand information. The value of this report is not doubted, but the large amount of reports dealing with the JACHYMOV uranium region do not disclose that uranium mines are guarded by Soviet militia. It is still believed here that the guards duties are carried out by SNB. It is UNCONFIRMED here that ZACLER is an exception.

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Between 1500 and 2000 workers, mostly brought from JACHYMOV, are now engaged in mining uranium in a large fenced-in and guarded area near the villages of RYBNICEK and BECKOV some 7 kms from ZACLER near the Polish border. This information was given source in June 1953 by a friend who was himself working on this project.

The uranium mined in this area is said to be richer than that mined at JACHYMOV, containing a uranium yield of up to 3.6 per cent compared to JACHYMOV's yield of 1.5 to 2.8 per cent.

Source's friend told him that most of the workers came from JACHYMOV and were housed in surrounding

(Over)

villages.

Slovaks also worked there who lived in LIBEC. Source spoke to some of these men and they confirmed his friend's information that uranium was being mined in this area. The ore is transported in trains proceeding in the direction of KRALOVEC (KONIGSHAN) in the CSR and LUBAWA (LIEBAU) in Poland, but none of source's contacts knew what became of it there.

The whole area is allegedly guarded by Russians. These are reputedly Russian militiamen under the supervision of about twelve Russians engineers.

In the area behind the fence four wooden barracks have been erected reportedly to accommodate prison labor, but up to the time of this report no prisoners had arrived there.

Source was told by his friend that workers digging for uranium were being paid as much as 15,000 - 20,000 Kcs monthly at pre-currency reform rates.

Source himself worked at the JAN SVERMA coal-mine in ZACLER and recalls a number of Russian engineers from JACHYMOV who checked the mine and its environs for uranium with special instruments in fall 1952. A few months later he saw about 200 workmen engaged in digging, and building wooden barracks in a fenced-in area not far from RYBNICEK and BECKOV. The presence of these newcomers already at that time started off a flood of rumors about the discovery of uranium.

It is also rumored that about 200 workmen are employed making test drills for uranium in the neighborhood of CHVALEC near TRUTNOV some 12 km from the ZACLER uranium area.

End.