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22 Apr  
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POLAND

WAR INDUSTRY (1704)  
Mining (1706)

POPULAR RUMOR OF A NEW ATOMIC PLANT IN THE CARPATHIANS.

SOURCE HAMBURG: Various marine sources

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Recent and current

EVAL. COMMENT: No confirmation of such rumors ever reached us, and the news seems to be improbable when one tries to think logically. The building of an atomic plant in a vulnerable area, close to Western Europe, in a hostile to the Soviets country and accessible by a few minutes flight from any of the American airbases sounds almost fantastic. Such rumors might be the result of a general "atomic" hysteria on both sides of the Iron Curtain. Some armament installation under construction at BALIGROD and a KBW (Internal Security Corps) motorized units there were already reported (Item No. 3714/53,) but there was no further confirmation of this fact, and a military industry plant -- even strongly guarded -- necessarily does not mean an atomic plant.

No information is available here on uranium deposits in these parts of the Carpathian mountains, either on the Polish or on the Czechoslovak side.

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According to what is in the popular mouth, interest has been recently concentrated on NOWA HUTA in order to distract attention from a large atomic plant which is being built not far North of BALIGROD at the Czechoslovak border. This is a rumor which seems to be catching on and on which is apparently believed by the "man in the street." The whole business is said to be in Soviet hands and employing Soviet labour, and it is not intended that the Polish population should learn too much about it. The construction of the plant is alleged to be the consequence of the discovery of uranium deposits in the Carpathians. According to one source, the area has been closed off and only a Soviet permit will gain anyone admission (this allegation was not based on personal experience.)

The name of the town of BALIGROD was known to only one source the others were vague in their local topography, but all mentioned the Carpathians.

End.