

LL
3 October 1951
NL

POLAND

INDUSTRY
Mining

INFORMATION ABOUT EXPLOITATION OF URANIUM IN POLAND

Sources of uranium ore were discovered in 1949 by Soviet and East German geologists. Generally, they were not very rich, containing no more than two per cent of pure uranium. Exploitation costs are extremely heavy. The Soviet government, however, persuaded the WARSAW government to cover these expenses from the Polish budget.

All mines are working under a strict Soviet supervision carried on by MVD officers. The mining areas are isolated, and even members of the Polish UB have no access to them. A large part of the workers are Germans, Greeks and Hungarians. Their earnings are fairly high. Polish workers are also employed there, mainly prisoners condemned to forced labor, and their living conditions and pay are miserable.

The total output of uranium in Poland is about 200,000 tons per year. The mines are located in the following places: KRZYŻATKA near LUBAWKA, KOWARY, MIEDZIANKA, LUBAWKA, RADKO. near KODZK, KAMIENNA GORA, KARPACZ, JEZO., CHOJNASTY near JELENIA GORA and JANOWICE (all in Silesia.) The main depot exists in DZIERZONÓW, where all mills have been confiscated for this purpose. The depot is surrounded by a high wall guarded by Soviet sentries. Only East Germans are employed there. They are accommodated within the buildings, and are prohibited to leave the guarded area.

In the depot, the processed ore is packed in metal crates and sent away in Soviet military trucks under Soviet escort. From some of the Uranium mines, the ore is sent directly to local railway stations and loaded on ordinary trains. From DZIERZONÓW and other localities, all the ore is directed via PRZEMYSŁ to LVOV and thence to KIEV. Trains loaded with uranium ore have traffic priority before all other trains in Poland and in Russia.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Recent period

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : usually reliable;
Information: probably true.

ITEM No 0403

3 October 1951

ML

POLAND
(cont'd)

Many other sources brought similar news about the location and exploitation methods. The figures of the output must be taken with reserve as no reliable figures can be drawn.