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POLAND

INDUSTRY
Mining

Delay In Operating The Polish Uranium Mines -
"KOWARY."

SOURCE HAMBURG: a Polish engineer, in the early forties, who fled from the area in December 1951. He was not employed in the mines but lived nearby.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: up to December 1951.

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About three miles from the Uranium Mines in KOWARY near JELENIA GORA work still continues on the workers' settlement. The authorities undertook a big job when, in 1948, they planned to build a settlement for 10,000 families, and they estimated optimistically when they planned the completion in the summer of 1951. There are still 2,000 men engaged on the task, and there are few signs that anything like completion will be achieved before the middle of the current year (1952.) There is, in addition, once more a chronic shortage of building material.

In the meantime the full exploitation of the Uranium mines is awaiting the occupation of the settlement. A large number of workers are already on the spot, accommodated in makeshift dwelling, but there are very few Poles amongst them. The majority seem to be Rumanians, Bulgarians and Greeks, as well as a number recruited from the Soviet Zone of Germany. It might have been expected that the technical branches or the directorate would show a representative strength of Poles, but here their absence is even more remarkable. All the important posts are exclusively in the hands of Soviet Russian personnel, if any excuse is needed, there is the fact that most of the machinery is of Soviet origin. Soviet interest in Uranium is extreme.

Both the mines and the part of the settlement, which has already been completed, are carefully guarded by specially recruited guards who work directly under the UB. Access to both is forbidden to all who are not directly connected with the work in progress.

EVAL. COMMENT: Uranium mines at KOWARY confirmed by another source. All Uranium mines in Poland all under strong Soviet control. The housing difficulties in this particular locality are UNCONFIRMED, although highly probable.