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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
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10784	MEMO	BREMER TO CLARK RE SOVIET FORCED LABOR R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9	2	10/9/1982	B1
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LATTA, DELBERT L

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SUBJ: THE USE OF FORCED LABOR ON THE SIBERIAN GAS PIPELINE

REQUIRED ACTION: DRAFT REPLY FOR WH SIG

DUE DATE: 08 OCT 82

COMMENTS:

Michael E. Weather
FOR MICHAEL E. WEATHER

STAFF SECRETARY

IGFM

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*This comes to you
via EWIC / Munich*

16.9.82

Ich Joe

September 1982

Dear Sir,

slave-labor is used by the Soviet Government in building the Siberian natural gas pipeline. Prisoners from concentration camps of the infamous archipelago GULAG - among them political prisoners, religious believers, prisoners of conscience, also women! - are forced to labor under terrible conditions.

We transmit to you their personal reports and cry for help in the attached documentation. Please help to disseminate this information. Free people and the responsible politicians should know about this tragic human side of the natural gas deal with the USSR.

In our view, this deal should be cancelled for moral, humanitarian reasons! No economic gain or other benefit to us can justify our participation in the exploitation of labor slaves. In the Nuremberg trials after World War II such forced labor of concentration camp inmates has been termed a crime against mankind and punished accordingly. The UN Commission on Human Rights condemns slave labor.

The Soviet news agency TASS (Aug. 8.82) has called the attached reports "dirty lies". Should you have any doubts about the presented evidence, please support our suggestion to send an international commission of labor union leaders to the USSR. They should inspect the working conditions along the pipeline on the spot.

We would be glad to hear your opinion about this!

Sincerely
International Society for Human Rights

Reinhard Gnauck
Reinhard Gnauck, M.D.
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The Use of Forced Labor on the Siberian Gas-Pipeline

DOCUMENTATION

ISHR

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

IGFM

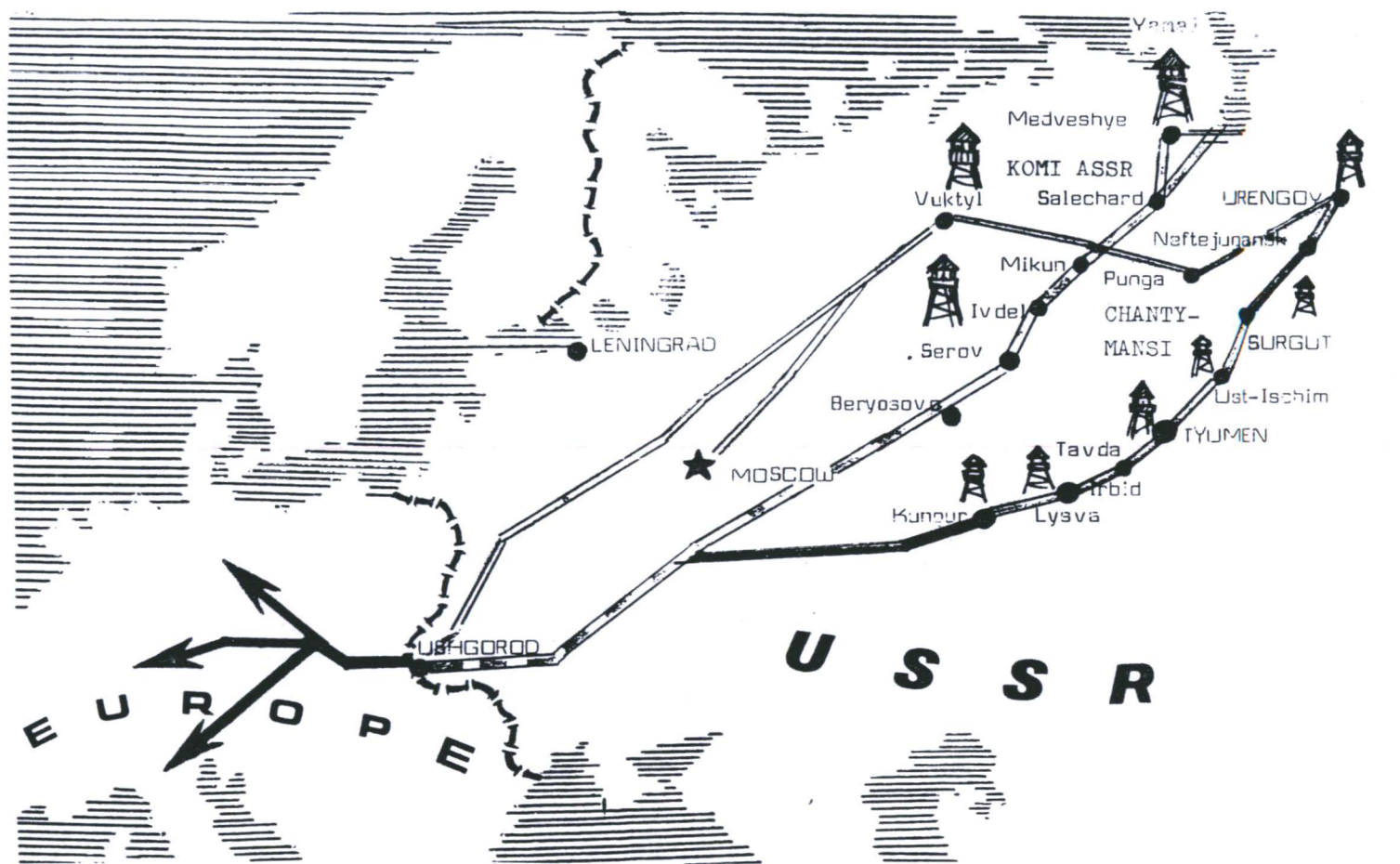
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GAS-PIPELINE SIBERIA-EUROPE

 = forced labour camp



PREFACE

In recent months, reports gathered from telephone calls and letters arriving from the Soviet Union have confirmed that large numbers of prisoners are being employed as cheap labour on the construction of the Trans-Siberian gas pipeline to Europe. There are civil rights campaigners, prisoners of conscience, victims of religious persecution and even women to be found amongst these prisoners.

As in the case of other large construction projects in the USSR the work is performed under inhuman conditions: with poor food, clothing and accommodation, and severe punishments for failure to achieve the desired output.

The reports on the human dimension of the pipeline are at first hand. They are a sign from the prisoners themselves, a call for help!

For this reason the ISHR (IGFM) released the information to the press and thereby to the public. The ISHR (IGFM) also appealed to the German Chancellor Schmidt to drop the projects on humanitarian grounds, in an open letter reproduced on page 32. The response surprised us all. From the public at large the reaction was one of overwhelming support. The proofs are increasing each day. However, whilst the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is still looking into the matter, Chancellor Schmidt has already informed concerned members of the public that these reports are "not true". The Soviet news agency, Tass, even speaks of "filthy lies". (8th August 1982)

The ISHR (IGFM) therefore has provided a documentary file so that the reader may reach his own decision. We should like to suggest to the governments of Western Europe, that they have the working conditions on the pipeline investigated by an international committee of trades unionists. We feel that this is also in the best interest of the Soviet Union.

We hope that our efforts will lead to renewed reflection about this pipeline project.

Should we share the guilt of exploiting forced labourers? The Nuremberg processes condemned the use of concentration camp prisoners as forced labour. So too, does the United Nations regularly condemn the use of forced labour as slavery. We too can play our part. We as the ISHR (IGFM) should like to ask all concerned people to stand up and be counted - send a parcel to a prisoner or to his family. We can assist you to do so (see page 38).



Reinhard Gnauck, M.D.

Frankfurt/M., in August 1982

Chairman

International Society for Human Rights

(Internationale Gesellschaft für Menschenrechte e.V.)

CONSTITUTION
OF THE UNION
OF THE SOCIALIST
SOVIET REPUBLICS

adopted at the
7th Extraordinary Session of
the Prime Soviet of USSR
at the
9th Legislation Period
on 7th October 1977

Статья 60. Обязанность и дело чести каждого способного к труду гражданина СССР — добросовестный труд в избранной им области общественно полезной деятельности, соблюдение трудовой дисциплины. Уклонение от общественно полезного труда несовместимо с принципами социалистического общества.

Article 60.

It is the duty and the honour of every citizen of the USSR who is able to work to provide conscientious labour in his common and useful field of work chosen by him and the observation of discipline at work.

Any refusal to perform useful labour to the benefit of the society is not comparable with the principles of the socialist society.

IT IS NOTHING NEW...

There has been forced labour in the Soviet Union since the very first day of its existence.

Lenin considered forced labour to be the best means of creating the "new man". It was supposed to stimulate the collective consciousness in people. The founders of the Soviet Union valued man only in terms of their use to society. They considered human beings only as a tool.

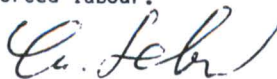
The first forced labourers in the Soviet Union were intellectuals and orthodox priests, imprisoned on the Solovetskii Islands in the White Sea in the year 1918.

Later, millions of people, accused of the most various crimes, were interned in prison camps. Most of the accusations were purely pretexts, used to generate cheap labour. In the 30 years since Stalin's death, such prisoners as these have built hundreds of factories, canals, roads and whole towns. All of these were so-called "Great achievements of Communism", including such projects as the White Sea - Baltic Canal, the Dnieper hydro-electric works, the BAM (Baikal-Amur-Magistrale railway), the Moscow Underground, the Volga-Don Canal and huge metal foundries in the Urals and Kazakhstan.

Millions of prisoners died before Khrushchev exposed Stalin's personality cult in 1956. However whilst only sentenced prisoners had been inducted into forced labour up till then, Khrushchev introduced a change: henceforth only an administrative order was necessary to force people to work.

The tragedy of all this is the way in which these prisoners are deprived of all their rights, are made to live in inhumane conditions separated from their families and suffer from malnutrition and insufficient medical care. Our attention should not be directed exclusively to the prisoners of conscience. All men have a right to decent treatment and so we should be concerned for all categories of forced labourers.

If we are not careful, we too shall suffer because of the existence of forced labour. No man is an island, and we run the risk of coarsening ourselves and our civilisation by allowing ourselves to become accustomed to the fact of forced labour.



Yuri Below

Leader of the working group on the USSR
in the International Society for Human Rights

Frankfurt, in August 1982

"Regarding crimes against humanity,
there is no doubt that political opponents
have been murdered in Germany before the war
and that many of them were detained in
concentration camps under disgracing and
horrible conditions. Such policy of horror
has certainly been pursued in a great style
and was in many cases pre-fixed and organized."

Extracted from a judgement of the
Nuremberg Processes - 1946

NATIONAL SLAVES IN THE SOVIET UNION A JURIDICAL HISTORIC COMMENTARY

by Prof. Michael Wossensky, Munich

The usual Soviet formula proclaims vehemently:
The Soviet State was born with the word "Peace" on the lips.
Another expression followed soon afterwards: penal servitude
On 18th January 1918 only two months after the October Revolution
the Commissariat of Justice issued a decree concerning "penal
working groups".

The first concentration camps, houses of correction and penal
labour colonies were established during the Red Terror in
September 1918. In spring 1919 the 8th Congress of the Party
Assembly formulated the program of the Bolshevik Party
specifying amongst other things the principles of the
execution of punishment in the Soviet Union: in future
prisons were to be replaced by houses of correction "in order
to subjugate the condemned persons to a producing work useful
to the society".

In the year 1929 Trotzky justified the must of penal servitude
in socialism and advocated the "militarisation of labour" and
the creation of "labour armies".

After Stalin had come to power, instead of the labour armies
the concentration camps became the core of penal servitude.
On March 1928 a decree was issued concerning "penal policy
and the status of penal institutions" as an extension of
labour colonies.

The decree of 6th November 1929 of the Central Executive
Committee and the Council of the Commissaries of the Soviet
Union defined penal institutions as being houses of correction
in remote regions of the Soviet Unions as well as labour
colonies for those people whose punishment did not exceed
three years.

In the course of the liquidation of the Koulaks as a class,
the stalinien labour camps played a new role. A decree
issued on 7th April 1939 concerning the penal labour camps
asserted that contrarily to the concentration camps of the
bourgeois regimes, they were no institutions serving the
purpose to exterminate physically the enemies of the class.

As this was written three years before the Nazis came to
power and the first extermination camps appeared, the train
of thoughts of Stalin can be followed easily. Indeed from
1939 the camps in the Soviet Union became real extermination
camps. The evidence is given by the number of their victims.
Under the command of Krushev five to six millions of
these victims of the GOULAG were posthumously rehabilitated.
But this was only a few of them. The Koulaks for instance
have never been rehabilitated, although Krushev confided
to Churchill that the number of Koulaks exterminated in the
Stalinien camps amounted to more than 10 millions - that is
more than in the concentration camps of the Nazis.

However the method of extermination was different. In the
camps of Stalin the prisoners were rarely executed or murdered -
they died rather of exhaustion due to famine and cold as well
as to the hard work they performed.

After the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet
Union (February 1956) the execution of punishment in the Soviet
Union was a little humanized. The word "colony" replaced the
word "camp". GOULAG (Administration of the camps of the Home
Office in the Soviet Union) was changed into GOUITU (Adminis-
trative body for penitentiary matters) and the number of
prisoners decreased. It increased again in the course of the
last ten years.

But the principles of the Soviet execution of punishment
remained unchanged. The prisoners are exploited to slave
labour, and in the opinion of the Western countries they are
still very many. In the Soviet towns there are on an average
as many prisons as in the Occidental towns, but in 1971 only
0,3 % of condemned people were detained in prisons and it is
well known that the Soviet prisons are overcrowded.

As a result there are in the Soviet Union 330 times more
prisoners of other categories. They amount therefore to
several millions and form a special class of the Soviet
Society: the class of the national slaves.

In the paper I read at the 2nd World Congress for Soviet
and Eastern studies (Garmisch - Partenkirchen, 30.9.-4.10.1980)
I already mentioned the existence of this lowest class of the
Soviet society.

The constitution of the Soviet Union does not mention it -
with the exception possibly of a vague allusion in its
article 60: "The refusal to accomplish a labour useful to
the society is incompatible with the principles of the
socialist society".

Other official Soviet sources such as "The Principles of the
Legislation for Correction Labour in the Soviet Union and the
Republics of the Union or the Penal Codes of the Republics of
the Union and the Manual "The Soviet Legislation for Correction
Labour" give information about the status of these disfran-
chised people.

Most of them are detained in colonies for correction labour
and in case of juvenile delinquents in colonies for educational
labour.

Apart from the prisoners included in the categories mentioned
above, there are also the slave labourers who are not consi-
dered as prisoners: the banished who live in exile under the
supervision of the local authorities, are forced to slave
labour but allowed to move about freely within the limits
of the place where they are living in exile. As this category
of slave labourers was previously assigned to the construction
of important chemical plants, one calls them in slang "chemists".
As to the prisoners, in the slang of the camps one calls them
"Zek" (an abbreviation of the word "zakloutchenny" - prisoner.

The last category includes finally those who being either prisoners nor banished are sentenced to penal servitude by verdict of the court and carry on working in the same shop as before their judgment. However the greatest part of their salary is withheld by the state. It is maybe the most impudent form of slavery in the Soviet Union. A variant of this form is "the 15 days detention for hooliganism". The people concerned are to word as unskilled workers of burden carriers. This last group of servitude labourers constitutes the psychological and social bridge between the "free" slaves of the Soviet society and the slaves of state.

The labour colonies are subdivided into four different regimes:

1. the general regime
2. the strengthened regime
3. the severe regime
4. the special regime.

There are furthermore five groups of colonies for the people who have committed a crime through want of care or imprudence, as well as six groups of colonies for people "being already on the mend" (these last groups are collecting camps where the conditions of detention are no more quite so hard). In the prisons there are two regimes: the general regime and the severe regime.

In the Soviet Union the penal execution is not limited to the detention. Its main principle is to exploit as much as possible sentenced people. So it was in the GOULAG of Stalin and nowadays. But the second principle of the Soviet execution of punishment was modified in the course of years. Under the commandment of Stalin (from 1939) these principles were exploitation and extermination. The aim was "expiation through privations and suffering". As the manual of the University Lomonossov in Moscow in the chapters treating: "The Soviet Legislation for Correction Labour" states it, a punishment is unconceivable without expiation, consequently without suffering and privations.

Nowadays the Soviet legislation allows no more to inflict "useless suffering, not indispensable for the aim of the punishment". It is of course an uncurrante notion which can be interpreted in different manners.

In short, if the camps of Stalin were camps of extermination, the present colonies are centers of torture, where the main method is the intensified exploitation of manpower.

For prisoners the scheduled time of work is 48 hours a week against 41 hours for the "free" wage labour in the Soviet Union. The prisoners have no vacation privilege even if they have been sentenced to 15 or 25 years. The only day off is Sunday but also this day can be declared working day by the administration of the colonies. The years detention do not count as years of service and are consequently not considered when the person retires. If a prisoner becomes disabled during the years of detention, he is not in title to receive disable pension until he is set free.

Disablement claims of a prisoner are generally not accepted. Article 27 of the principles of the legislation for correction labour stipulates: "work is compulsory for all prisoners". Consequently everybody is bound to work and fulfil the work norms even disabled of the first group who in civil are in bed-ridden state and dependent on assistance of others. They are also expected to work 48 hours and have no vacation privilege. And either the advanced age or the qualification of prisoners is taken into consideration by the administration.

Only the regime of the labour colony is of decisive importance. The principles stipulate expressively that people detained in colonies with severe regime are to be assigned to heavy work. But as the Soviet newspaper "Kasachstanskaja Prawda" mentioned, and this applies also to other colonies: "Prisoners are principally to perform the heaviest work and the work norms are critical values. We can change nothing about it. A labour colony is not a sanatorium but a penal establishment where one works in the sweat of thy brow".

What does labour cost to the state? Almost nothing. The greatest part of the wages of those hard workers is withdrawn:

1. To cover the maintenance charges of the administration - i.e. guards and supervisors costs.
 2. For the food and clothing of prisoners.
- As the state has no other expenses in connection with the existence of the prisoners, the Soviet forced labourers finance themselves their slavery. All deductions made it remains to the prisoner 10 % of his wages (25 % for disabled of the first and second groups). However even this ridiculous remaining amount is paid only if the prisoner has not offended the regime of the colony and fulfilled the work norms. In case the prisoner has not fulfil these conditions (what happens quite often) he receives no salary at all. Furthermore the administration is in title to assign the prisoner to underpaid jobs such as maintenance of the colony and adjoining estates.

In his writing "About the Dialectical and Historical Materialism" Stalin has characterised amongst other things the extent of exploitation in different social orders. The exploitation of soviet prisoners corresponds to the exploitation of slaves in slave-holding societies described by Stalin, and on the model of which he probably organized the Soviet labour camps.

In connection with correction labour the Soviet legislation states "a legal relationship between the Soviet state and

the sentenced people" and he insists on the fact that this relationship is not set forth in a contract but originates from a judgment execution and ends on the day the prisoner is legally discharged or dies.

In the definition of slave exploitation given by Stalin it is pointed out that slaves may be sold, tortured or even killed. This applies to Soviet prisoners. The German Democratic Republic is the only country of the East Block where it is usual practice to sell prisoners to other states. On the other hand in the Soviet Union prisoners may be "leased" to other institutions through the GOUTU. Some colonies serve as suppliers of labourers. The colony and the business in question conclude a contract according to which one party has to supply the labourers while the other binds itself to organize the labour of prisoners in production zones specially prepared and is willing to pay the salary corresponding to the services - this salary being paid of course to the colony administration and not to the prisoner.

Tortures and extermination of prisoners in practice under Stalin have been described above. Nowadays the Soviet penal execution represents a permanent torture of the prisoners and we are not speaking of abuses committed by some officials but of rules prescribed by the Soviet legislation.

The Soviet law points out that the principal element of the colony regime is "the compulsory isolation of the sentenced people and their permanent surveillance". The prisoners wear prison uniforms, their mail is submitted to censor, the parcels sent to them are controlled. They are not allowed to have money or valuables with them. Nonobservance is punished and the good seized for the benefit of the state.

...We have here deliberately not described infringements or official oppression from the authorities of the colonies. Our information based only on soviet sources and especially on the Soviet legislation. The Soviet slave labour is in the practice worse than the theory but the theory is sufficient to enable to take a grave view of the situation. It can also not hide the existence of the slaves of state in the Soviet Union.

One can not choose one's neighbours and the social structure in the pretended real socialism is as it is. But this does not mean that the West may confidently participate to the exploitation of the slave labourers of the East. This causes a big political et moral damage above all to the West itself.

Sources:

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9. "Verfassung (Grundgesetz) der UdSSR", Moskau 1977. Seite 29
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12. "Osnowy Trudowogo-Isprawitelnogo Sakonodatelstwa RSFSR", Art. 28
13. dto. Art. 28
14. Siehe "Osnowy ...", Art. 31
15. Siehe "Osnowy ..." Art. 27
16. "Kasachstanskaja Prawda", 14.3.1973



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DEFINITIONS

The people sentenced to slave labour in the Soviet Union are subdivided in several categories:

1) Banished persons: Many prisoners having served a sentence in a penal camp are superimposed the punishment of banishment. Some are sent by the court directly into banishment without having been sentenced first to detention in a camp. Within the limits of the place where they have to stay as banished persons, the sentenced people may move freely. However they remain permanently under the control of the local police and must observe curfew. Without permission of the police they must not leave the place.

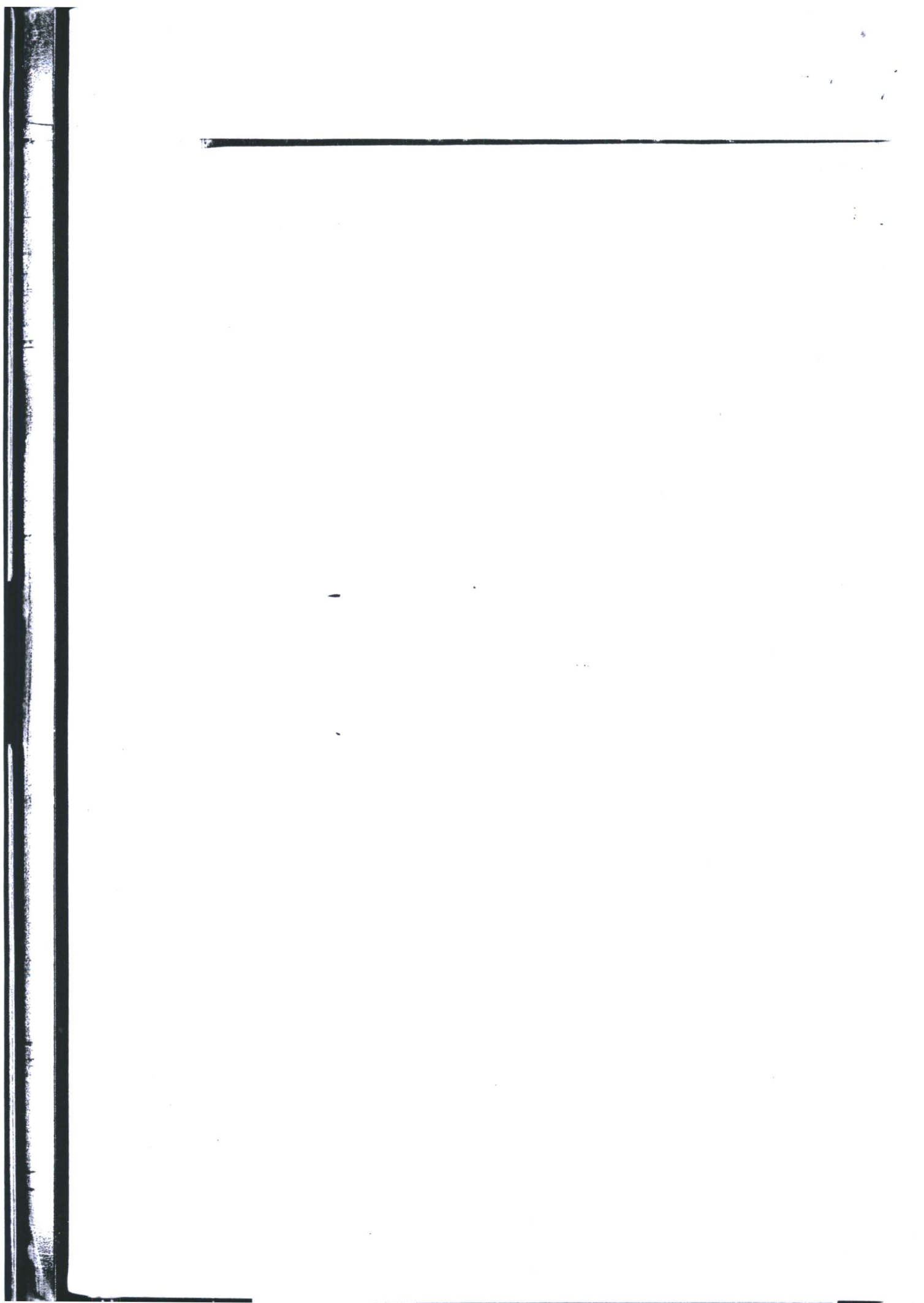
2) Prisoners forced to slave labour in camp-owned factories or, if the factory or building site is not too far from the camp, are taken to work in convoy under close guard.

3)a) Prisoners being granted conditional freedom sent generally only in spring and summer to work on so-called "Great Economic Projects" i.e. the gas pipeline. In the slang of the Soviet camps these sites are called "chemistries" and the prisoners under limited control are the "chemists". This category does not live in camps during its assignment there, is not under the control of the guards of the camp. It is the reason why these people are called "prisoners under limited supervision". They remain however under the permanent control of the local police and are not allowed to leave the place. In autumn they are generally taken back to their camp. The months spent at the site of forced labour are not considered as time of detention, i.e. not deducted from their sentence.

b) The people sent for "parasitism" either by sentence of the court or only by order of the administration directly and without passing through a camp or a prison to "Great Economic Projects". (The people who have worked on private basis for themselves instead of for the state also fall into this category).

- "Great Economic Projects" are projects of national importance, to the construction of which labourers from all parts of the Soviet Union are assigned.

- In statements made by witnesses one hears sometimes "prisoners" when they mean "prisoners under limited control". Some witnesses speak generally of sentenced people and make no difference between the categories.



SELECTED STATEMENTS BY WITNESSES -FROM THE WEST

PETER BERGMANN, aged 62, zoological technician (retired) by profession, was sentenced to 3 years (1974-77) imprisonment in a camp because his attempts to emigrate. He has been in Germany since July 7th, 1980.

Address: Eutiner Straße 14, 4800 Bielefeld 17, West-Germany

I was in prison camp JaZ 34/2 in Tyumen. Many fellow prisoners told me that there were several camps along the route of the pipeline. I cannot remember the addresses of these camps any more, but my fellow prisoners did tell me that they were in the Taiga and Tundra regions. The prisoners were taken there in handcuffs by helicopter and aeroplane. Many of them work on the construction of the railway line from Surgut to the north as well as on the earthworks for the gas pipeline.

The most dangerous and most difficult work is done along the gas pipeline by the prisoners. They clear the trees through the Taiga for the pipeline, build roads and bridges, barracks and camp buildings.

There are no more prisoners in the areas where foreign experts are admitted. They have already been taken away to build other stretches. All that remain are the volunteer Komsomol brigades and the prisoners under limited supervision.

These prisoners, or "Chemists" as we called them are really seasonal workers. In the autumn they are usually taken back to their camps. The months they have worked are not counted towards their total sentence, and so most of them serve a double sentence. Neither are they put to work of their own volition. On the contrary, an administrative order determines where and when they will be sent to the "Great Economic Projects". They themselves have no influence on the decision and this is reserved for the camp commandants. Such prisoners were despatched from my camp to all the towns along the pipeline. They went to Surgut, Urengoy, Salechard and even to the Yamal Peninsula where there are many prison camps, often with especially strict regimes.

Prisoners under limited supervision are accommodated in barracks in rooms of two or more persons. Bedclothes are only provided if they are directly in a town. Sometimes the prisoners also get work clothes. They are issued with identity cards and their work pays for their keep. They are always under the authority of the commandant and are not entitled to leave the settlement without permission. There is also a curfew - at 10.30 PM they have to be in their rooms. These prisoners are forbidden to absent themselves from their work and cards and alcohol are prohibited. At all times these forced labourers are at the disposition of the authorities.

Huge projects, such as the hydro-electric works on the Dnieper, the Volga-Don Canal, the BAM and the Taischet-Abakan railway etc. were built with the aid of forced labourers.

Every year 30% of all those sentenced in the courts are sent to these so called "Great Economic Projects".

Prisoners under limited supervision and banished persons are applied to the work which the voluntary workers refuse to do. This is normally the most difficult and most dangerous work, demanding the greatest physical exertion. For example, loading and unloading ships, railway wagons and other forms of transport, clearing vegetation in the Taiga, digging the trenches with shovels and spades etc.

The physical overexertion and the inadequate diet lead to exhaustion and disease. Doctors can only be visited with the permission of the supervisor. Many of these forced labourers were brought back to the camp because they had spent up to a fortnight in hospital.

Those who do not meet production targets are put into a special isolation (detention).

Bielefeld, August 1982

AVRAHAM SHIFRIN, aged 58, profession lawyer, now runs the "Research Centre for Prisons, Psychoprison and Forced Labour Concentration Camps of the USSR". In 1953 he was sentenced to death for political reasons, but his sentence was commuted to 25 years in a camp. Of these 25, he served 10 in a camp and 4 in banishment before being granted permission to emigrate to Israel.
Address: 4 Hateena Street, Zikhron Yaakov, Israel

There is no doubt that forced labour is used in the construction of the Siberian gas pipeline. This was already the case in other large construction projects. Besides, it is otherwise impossible to find sufficient workers in areas with unpleasant climatic conditions, unless they are offered special incentives, such as above average high wages.

There are whole centres of forced labour, towns and regions full of camps along the gas pipeline which leads from Urengoy to Tavda. There are 3 camps in Surgut, 8 in Tavda, 4 in Kungur and several others in Verchoturys, Irbit and Hanty-Mansiysk. Each of these camps holds between 700 and 2500 prisoners.

There are single camps as well as whole complexes all along the pipeline which leads from the Yamal Peninsula through the Komi ASSR: for example the complex at Sochylag near Medveshnye, Salekhard nearby and 36 camps in the area of Syktyvkar in Mikun. There are also camps in Ust-Ussa, Workuta and Kotlas between Vuktyl and Salekhard, but these camps are not directly on the pipeline itself.

Prison camps for women, where work clothes for forced labourers are produced are distributed throughout the whole country. I know of at least 68 such camps (see page 29: A. Shifrin, USSR Reiseführer, 1980). There are similar camps near the Siberian pipeline to Europe: in Arkangel, Suyevka (in the region of Kirov), Dobruye Wody (in the Perm region), Kopitschilitsy (Perm) and Nishnii Tagil. Because of the use of forced labourers on the construction of the pipeline and their great suffering, I consider the construction of the pipeline to be immoral.

I should also like to bring to the attention of Western governments that prisoners of conscience are found in each camp destined purely for common criminals. These prisoners are mostly members of various national minorities, Christians or simply they are seeking permission to emigrate.

Israel, August 1982

Note: You can find more information relating to his topic in the publications of the Res. Centre etc., which we indicated in our list of further reading (page 28).

MACHMET KULMAGAMBETOV, aged 52, former teacher of Marxism-Leninism, sentenced to prison camp and banishment because of civil rights activities in Kazakhstan (1964 - 1972),

Address: Orsinistraße 6, 8000 München 81, West-Germany

Inmates of prison camps are always used as forced labourers on large projects. Naturally the gas pipeline is no exception. Between 1969 and 1972 I worked as a banished on the construction of compressor station KS 12 in Mikun, Komi ASSR, as well as on the construction of the pipeline in the Wuktyl settlement. There are many prisoners under limited supervision who have been transported there as forced labourers.

Such compressor stations as the one above are found every 100 - 200 km along the whole pipeline. The forced labourers also manufactured concrete bearers and supports for the pipes.

Between 1973 and 1974 I worked as an engineer in a concrete factory in Surgut. This factory produces concrete for the construction sites along the pipeline. 960 forced labourers under strict control worked in this factory. Both the factory and the camp were surrounded by a wall. New camps also arose in the area of the Tyndinskii settlement during the construction of the BAM (Baikal-Amur-Magistrale railway). I know - I have worked there. It is widely known, but I can repeat it, that when prisoners do not fulfill their work quotas they are punished with confinement in the punishment cell. If this happens they are permitted neither visits from relatives nor letter contact.

In the Komi ASSR such prisoners lived in railway wagons. In the Wuktyl settlement they lived in barracks. They are always under the control of the authorities and are not able to move freely.

Forced labourers are also used on the construction of the gas pipeline from Siberia to Europe. For this reason I consider the use of Russian natural gas immoral.

Munich, August 1982

EINAR KOMP, aged 50, computer programmer, former political prisoner: 7 years in a camp and 3 years banishment - 1969 to 1979.

Address: Storgatan 64 läg 923, 17 163 Solna, Sweden

Forced labourers are used to build the gas pipeline from Siberia to Europe. I personally know of the camp complexes at Vorkutinskii Lagernii Komplex JuS-34/22 and Permskii Komplex WS 389.

During the 1970's prisoners were continually been sent to work on "Great Economic Projects", known as "Chemistry" in the slang of the prison camps.

I disapprove of the gas pipeline deal and suggest that West European governments should demand explanations from the Russians about the use of prison camp inmates to build the pipeline.

Sweden, August 1982

GEORGII DAVYDOV, aged 40, geologist, sentenced to 7 years in a camp and 3 to banishment for activities connected with printing. He served the full sentence.

Address: Hauptstraße 4, 8045 Ismaning, West-Germany

It is reasonable to assume that at least prisoners under limited supervision are employed on the building of the gas pipeline from Siberia to Europe.

I know of at least 2 such cases:

1. V. M. Burzev, on the pipeline "Drushba", in 215 633 Smolensk, Region of Cholm-Shirkov; the forced labourers are accommodated in 16 small railway wagons (1980-1981).
2. R. Kadiyev, in 169 400 Komi ASSR, Uchta, in the settlement of Stroitel KS-10, SMV-13, working on the construction of the oxygen station for the gas pipeline (1981).

In the town of Mikun, Region of Ust-Vym, Komi ASSR a large number of prisoners under limited supervision are used on building the pipeline.

I am categorically opposed to the completion of this project if forced labour is the price of such completion. Western governments should make their participation in the project conditional upon the prohibition of further forced labour.

Ismaning, August 1982

BORIS WEIL, aged 43, librarian, former political prisoner. Sentenced to 5 years in a camp followed by 5 years banishment for civil rights activities.
Address: Lundtoftegade 59, III, tv., 2200 Copenhagen N, Denmark

Prisoners under limited supervision are used to build the gas pipeline from Siberia to Europe, as are prisoners from camps.

I lived with such forced labourers in the city of Tobolsk, region of Tyumen, at the end of the 1960's and early 1970's. (I was in banishment there). Then they numbered about 500 and were employed in the construction region SU-34 (later renamed Tyumen Industrial Construction SU 1). There they built the oil refinery at Tobolsk. This was a huge project of great importance. There were also volunteer brigades of the Komsomol there. The forced labourers were accommodated in a 5 storey block in the Klara Zetkin Street.

Their forced labour was governed by corresponding quotas. If a labourer was absent thrice, he was sentenced in court to be taken back to his camp. This is what happened to a good many of them.

There are many camps in the region of Tyumen, however I should imagine that only the labourers from the camps at Salechard or Surgut are directly or indirectly concerned with the construction of the pipeline.

My information is restricted to the time between 1970 and 1975.

I am not predisposed to bless the construction of this pipeline using forced labourers.

Denmark, August 1982

JULIA VOSNESSENSKAYA, aged 42, poetess, sentenced to 5 years banishment for participating in the "2nd Culture" movement, the movement of independent writers. Her sentence was converted to 2 years in a camp. After serving her sentence she was forced to emigrate and has lived since that time in Germany.

Address: Rembrandtstraße 5, 6090 Rüsselsheim-Haßloch, West-Germany

The town of Kungur lies on the route of the pipeline, and there is a prison camp for women near there. The camp is designed for 800 but normally upwards of 2000 women live there. There is a factory producing working clothes in the camp, whose produce is destined for the nearby construction sites and the workers there.

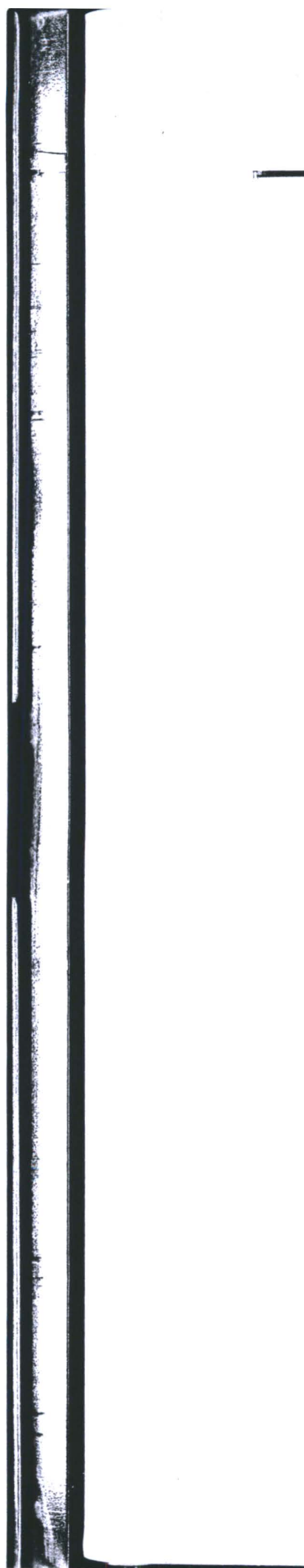
Why do the women in particular sew the clothes for the "Great Economic Projects"? Because they work for a pittance, and because the work quotas are 5 - 8 times as high as those of the free clothing factories.

I myself have been in two prison camps, and have gathered information from dozens of such camps.

In no camp do the women work less than 12 hours a day, and do so on a diet better fitted for a 2 year old child than an adult. The women consider it a great misfortune to be situated near a "Great Economic Project", for in Russia things are built the way the pyramids were: not so much with knowledge and technology but with the use of hordes of slaves. The more difficult the work, the more people who are sent to work: Prisoners, called "chemists" (prisoners under limited supervision used as forced labourers), builders, free workers. All these men need clothes

Camps with clothing factories are always overfilled as a consequence. There are too few beds. Women sleep on the floor, under the bunks. They live in tents pitched between the barracks. Factories even have sewing machines set up in the corridors which are never switched off. The next shift is always standing ready.

Rüsselsheim-Haßloch, August 1982



DESCRIPTION OF THE CAMP JAZ-34/2 IN TYUMEN

alongside the Siberia - Europe gas pipeline.

Camp Address: 625 014 Tyumen Region, Tyumen, utsch. JaZ-34/2, which has been in existence since 1966. The camp is situated approximately 3 - 5 kilometers North of the town of Tyumen, about 8 - 10 km from the station. According to the second in command of the political department, the first prisoners lived in tents. They were succeeded by one-storeyed-barrack blocks, which in turn were replaced by two-storeyed-houses built of bricks.

In 1966 the prisoners numbered about 600. In 1974 the total reached 3000 and it had increased to 4000 by 1977.

The exact number of prisoners in the camp varies. Each spring (April-May) 600-700 prisoners are despatched to work on the so-called "Great Economic Projects", known as "Chemistry" in the prisoner's slang. In autumn more than half of them are sent back to the camp. Quite apart from this, each autumn there are prisoners from the transit prisons to accommodate.

In the camp the prisoners are assigned to columns, each containing between 50 and 200 persons and arranged according to letters. The fourth column is called "Column G" for example, and the twelfth "M". There were 17 columns in the camp in 1974, and in 1977 23 (perhaps even 24). Each column is again divided into work brigades. Two to three brigades, designated by numbers, constitute a column.

The organisation of the camp:

Lt.bd. Kasakov is in charge of the camp. His deputy is Major Saporoschtschenko. The Operations Department is Major Onischtschenko, nicknamed "cockroach" by the prisoners. The deputy commander of the Production Department is Captain Sergeyev and his second in command Petuchov. The first-aid section is lead by a Lieutenant, a medical assistant by profession.

The camp itself, about 54 hectares in area, is surrounded by a "forbidden zone" consisting of a four-fold fence: a thick double wooden fence, with barbed wire coils on both sides. Watchtowers guard the corners of this prohibited area. At the north-west part of the area there are double gates with the main guard house which controls those entering and leaving. To the left of

SCETCH

the camp JaZ-34/2

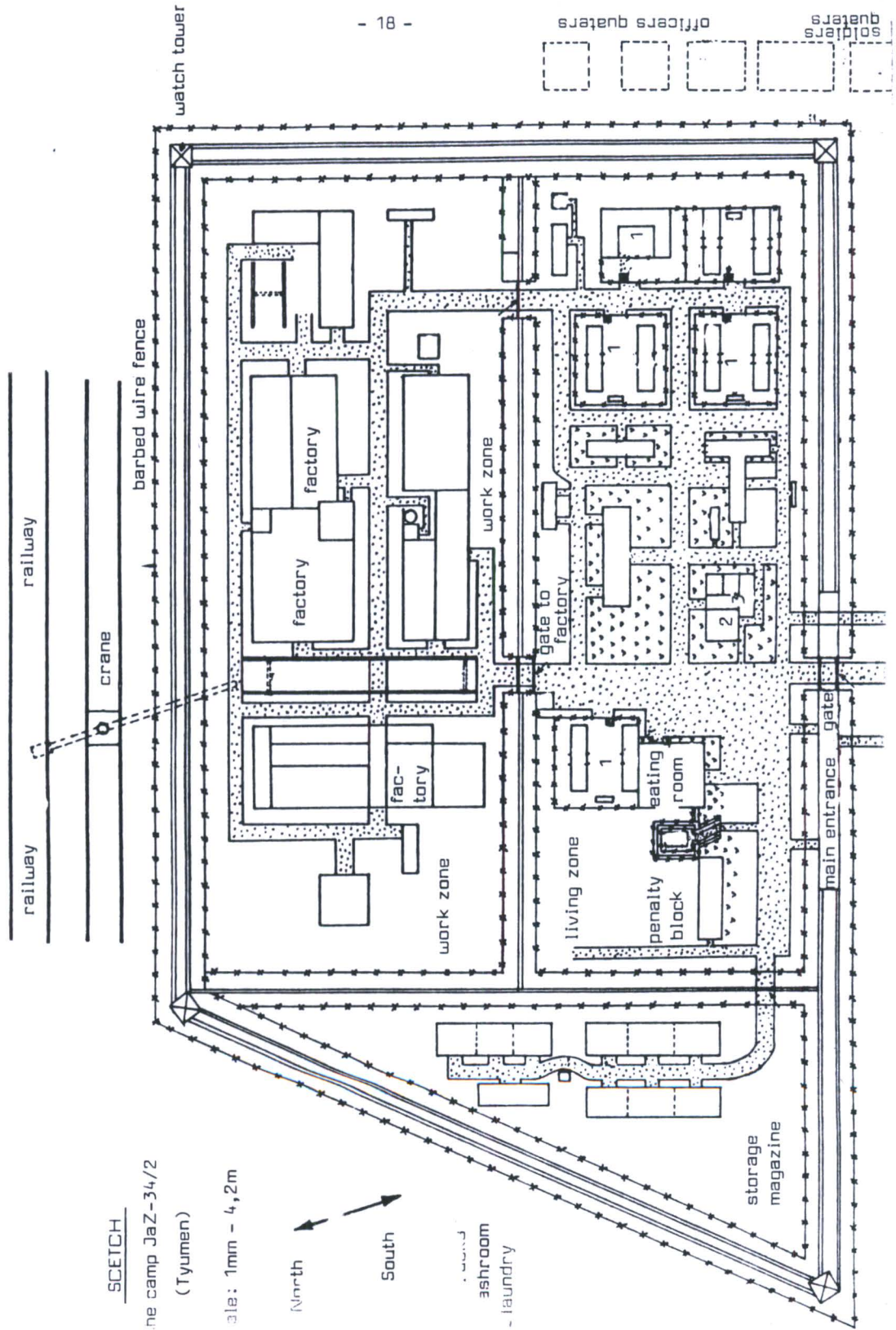
(Tyumen)

scale: 1mm - 4,2m

North

South

ashroom
- laundry



this is the "Visitors House", a two-storeyed building for relatives of the prisoners.

The interior of the camp is divided into three by fences. Living accommodation is in the north-west section; the south-eastern section houses the working area and stores and a saw-mill are situated in the north-eastern part. Gates, guarded by watch-towers separate the living areas from the working areas.

The various barrack blocks are each surrounded by a 2-metre high fence as an attempt to keep contact between the columns to a minimum. On the top of the fence there is a further metre of barbed wire, making the fence 3 metres high altogether.

Production:

According to official documents, Camp JaZ-34/2 is a branch of the Tyumen Engine Factory. What the prisoners achieve is counted towards the production figures of the engine factory. According to the camp's economist, production has risen steadily and reached a total of 18 million roubles in 1976. The factory produces electric lights and grid batteries as well as defence equipment.

Working condition and accident prevention:

As very little is done in the way of accident prevention, accidents are a fact of daily life. The machinery is obsolete. Often they are junk parts, rejected by free factories, such as the big stamps which were extremely noisy and made the ground tremble. Their mechanism tended to fail at the critical moment, so that the press would drop and sever the fingers or the hand of the operators.

Many accidents are caused by the inexperience of the operators, often untrained, young prisoners put to work there for "offences against camp discipline". The work quotas also constrain the prisoners to greater haste, so that the safety rules are ignored.

The machines are generally defective and lack safety devices. Lathes, drills and polishing machines lack safety screens, no protective goggles are distributed with the result that prisoners frequently lose an eye. In the galvanizing plant the prisoners suffer from skin-wounds caused by acid materials. There have even been cases where prisoners have fallen, or sometimes been pushed into vats of sulphuric acid.

In the paint-shop working without masks frequently leads to cases of poisoning. This work is recognized as being damaging to the health, and should be compensated by the issue of a pint of milk per day. However the milk, admittedly several litres at a time, is distributed once or twice a month.

The more dangerous or harmful forms of work, such as working on the stamps, painting or cleaning the outside lavatories are handed out as punishments for infringements against the camp rules.

The authorities combat accidents in their own way: they are not officially registered and the victims are punished. There are permitted no visits, parcels and sometimes no letters.

Prisoner's living conditions - Accommodation

The prisoners are accommodated in two-storeyed houses. Each column occupies one storey, which is divided into 4 rooms - 2 larger rooms of between 50-80 sq. metres and 2 smaller ones of about 40-50 sq. metres.

Lavatories are outside. The blocks are furnished with double bunks, mostly arranged in narrow rows of two, and small bedside tables. Normally each table is shared by four men. Each prisoner normally has about 1 sq. metre to call his own, but in autumn, when the prisoners return from the "Great Economic Projects" en masse, there is not even this much space. Then the prisoners must sleep wherever they can find a space for themselves.

The above refers only to the two larger rooms. In the smaller rooms each prisoner has about 2-3 sq. metres. In there are the "privileged" - brigade leaders, those employed in the organization or cultural committees, in short anyone with some sort of a function in camp life, and who can classify themselves as the "clean ones".

Care of the Prisoners - Average menu

Breakfast: 200 g of bread, soup, mostly cabbage or potato soup (that is to say - fresh cabbage is available only in the summer, in winter the prisoners are served with an almost inedible sauerkraut). There are sometimes soups made of fish heads. Special days and the visits of control commissions are marked by the issue of noodle or barley soups.

Lunch: 250 g of bread, barley or dried potato soup, sometimes containing a few pigs' bones or thin cereal but always prepared without fat and frequently unsalted.

Supper: 200 g of bread, thin soup, as at breakfast, occasionally fish soup.

Pigs, bred nearly, are also sometimes slaughtered for the benefit of the prisoners, but only the bones ever make their way into the prisoners' kitchen. They only receive fresh potatoes in the autumn during the harvest. After that they must make do with the rotting remains. These provisions are used up during the winter, and so all that remains is the overpickled, almost inedible cabbage. Sometimes,

In the spring dried potatoes and tinned vegetables find their way into the cooking pots after they have been withdrawn from shops as inedible. In the meantime the administrative organs of the camp are well supplied with the products of the camp's side industries.

Clothing

The prisoners receive new clothing every two years. Special work clothes are only issued to those who work outside in winter. They receive felt boots, padded jackets and trousers and warm gloves. All others are obliged to work in their normal prisoners' clothes, for which they are charged. Parcels or visitors' gifts may only consist of winter or summer underclothing, and socks or gloves.

Needles are treasured items in a camp, as their possession is illegal. Knives or needles are therefore carefully hidden. Should a prisoner lose, or have confiscated a piece of clothing with a needle sewn into it, then he is sorrier for the loss of the needle than for the article of clothing. Many prisoners own home made needles of thin copper wire which they have salvaged from the rubbish in the working zone.

Washing facilities

Prisoners are entitled to weekly, scheduled visit to the wash room. Sometimes there is no warm water there, sometimes no clear. There are always queues and several prisoners will frequently have to use the same water to wash in. The arrival of prisoners' transports results in the closure of the wash rooms and barbers' shops for the established prisoners, as they are reserved for the new arrivals. There are showers in the work zone, but they are reserved for the men in the heating plant.

Laundry

The prisoners must wash their own clothes, in a room set aside for the purpose. However there are only 6 wash troughs - there is no room for more. Consequently it is rarely possible to wash everything at once, and they are obliged to use the smaller wash-basins in the barracks or at their place of work. This is an offence punishable with the withholding of parcels or writing rights. Not infrequently the newly washed clothes will be torn up in front of them.

Insects

As they cannot change their clothes often enough, the prisoners are often lice-infected, particularly at the end of each quarter when there is so much to do, that they can rarely bath themselves.

The overcrowded barracks are irredeemably infected with bugs. They are imported with the convoys of new arrivals. (The cells of the transit prisons of Tyumen are full of bugs).

Epidemics

There are always flu epidemics or outbreaks of other infectious diseases in the camps. The worst epidemic (of dysentery) occurred between 1975 and 1976.

During the first hot days of the summer of 1975, a few prisoners, employed in the forest on the banks of the river Tobol, contracted dysentery. They were accused of having drunk water from the river, and instead of releasing them from work duties, the camp leader, Kasakov, punished all the "germ-carriers" by withholding their parcels, prohibiting them from making purchases in the camp shop and withdrawing their right to receive visits. Nevertheless the epidemic spread, the number of sick rose, and first prisoners died...

The cause of this terrible epidemic is easily found. On hot days there is no water in the camp, because all the supplies in the pump house are used by members of the staff and their families to water their private gardens or for other purposes of their own. No account is taken of the prisoners and their needs. Not only water for laundry and personal hygiene is reduced, but also drinking water becomes scarce. Finally, there was only water to be had during the night and the prisoners had to get up in order to quench their thirst from the taps in the wash rooms. When the authorities became aware of this, they locked the wash rooms up. This caused a frantic search for water amongst the prisoners who were reduced to drinking river water, or waste water from the workshops etc.. Then came the epidemic.

Punishments

One should emphasize the withdrawal of the right to correspondence, which is incidentally not mentioned in article 53 of the law for corrective labour of the RSFSR at all. This punishment is imposed for the following infringements of camp rules: smuggling uncensored letters out of the prison, suspicion of preparing an escape, corresponding with "undesirable persons" (inmates of other camps, friends abroad, etc.). Withdrawal of the right to receive letters is always accompanied by the withdrawal of visiting facilities and the privilege of making purchases in the camp shop. The punishment is imposed upon the orders of the camp commandant or his deputy.

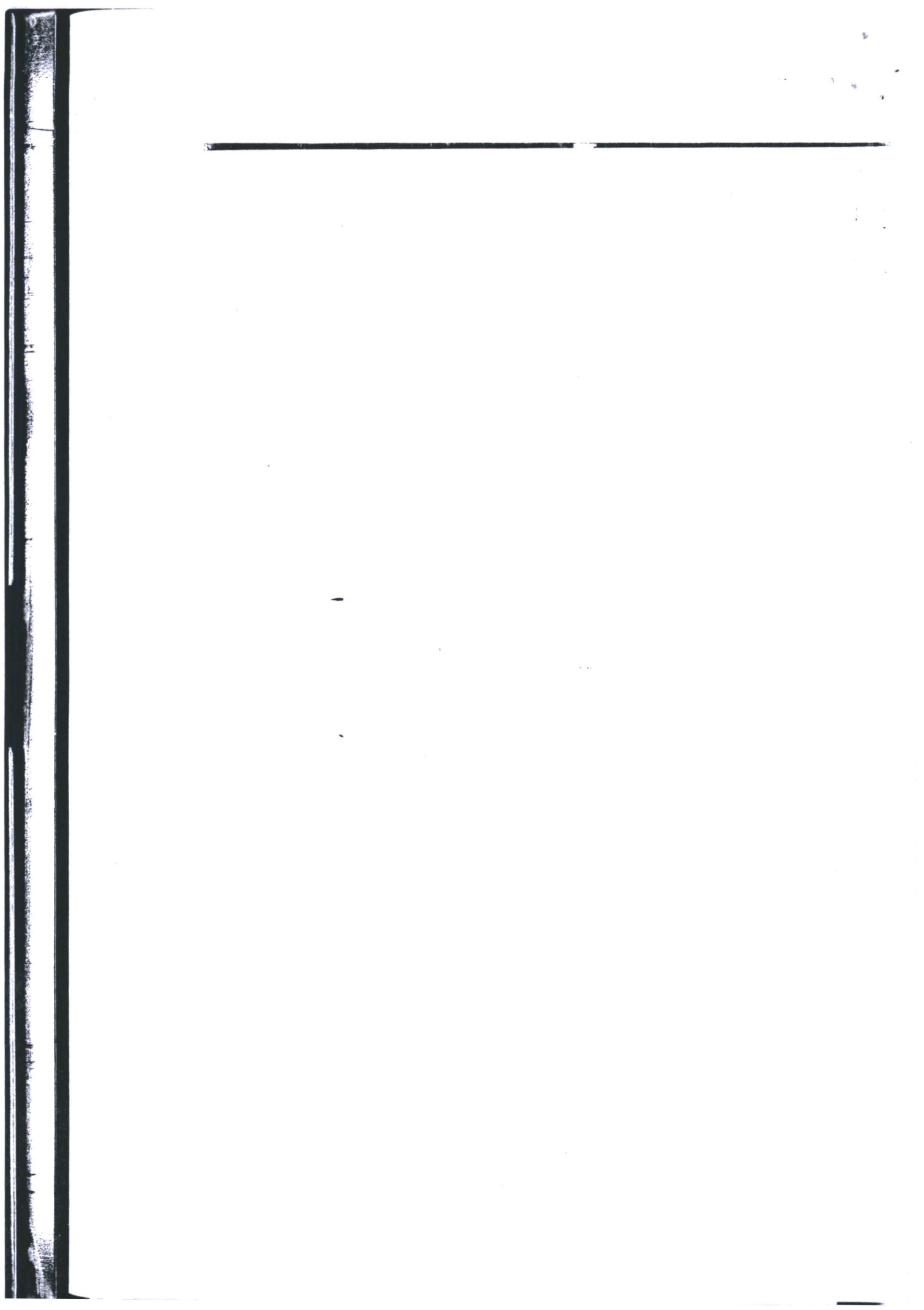
Officially the punishment only concerns letters which have been sent from the camp. Post sent to the camp is treated differently: massive censorship or simple confiscation. There is a further means of exerting pressure on prisoners: they are only given the letters of their nearest relatives, and threatened with withdrawal of correspondence if they continue to receive letters from non-related persons.

Other camp punishments consist in beatings, special work (especially difficult or dangerous work), hunger rations, usually in combination with hard physical labour, and finally PKT and SCHISO (camp prison and solitary confinement).

Two examples: Two prisoners from Minsk were suspected of having smuggled letters to the outside world. After a long period in the PKT they were beaten so much that they were both prepared to admit to an offence that they had not committed, and to give testimony against one another. Finally they were confined to the PKT again and sentenced to heavy labour on the stamp.

Another example: A Tartar prisoner had been wounded in a skirmish on the Chinese border and possessed a doctors note releasing him from heavy labour. Nevertheless he had to drag heavy crates and load onto lorries. At the end of his strenght he finally refused to work on a Sunday, which had been declared a normal workday. As a result he was beaten unconscious and confined in the SCHISO. Upon leaving the SCHISO he began a hunger strike and was again beaten. Totally at a loss he attempted one evening to cut his arteries. He was taken to the camp hospital and when he had recovered to the SCHISO for 15 days. He cut his wrists again and was again sentenced to 15 days in SCHISO. This happened three times in all, so that he spent 45 days in solitary confinement. This was too much for him and at length even the camp authorities had to admit that he was only fit for light work. He finally left the camp as a complete invalide.

The camp-prison with its special cells for PKT and SCHISO is situated in the living area surrounded by a three-fold fence. The prison is divided into cells for short term inmates, who only spend one or two days there, cells for longer term but not dangerous inmates and cells for especially dangerous prisoners. These last cells are reserved for serious offenders who fight each other, and especially the weaker ones among them horribly. Not infrequently there are frightful murders in these cells.



SELECTED STATEMENTS BY WITNESSES -FROM THE SOVIET UNION

WRITTEN REPORT BY MRS A. P. FROM MOSCOW (JULY 1982):

My family and I, that is to say, my husband, my children and I have been trying for 5 years to acquire permission to leave Russia. Our applications are always rejected, because my uncle is an officer serving in the north in a department of the Hanty-Manssiiskii-Rayon.

My uncle is officially merely a simple engineer in a pioneer unit. Even so the authorities declare that he is party to military secrets and so even 20 years after his period of service is terminated, we will still not be issued with emigration papers.

Towards the end of last year, my uncle appeared unexpectedly in Moscow, saying that he had been released from the army owing to illness. In the course of the conversation I learned the following facts:

My uncle had in fact worked as an engineer on various projects, ranging from the new harbour on the Yamal Peninsula to Perm in the Urals. The officers and men were openly told that the construction of the gas pipeline from Siberia to Europe would strengthen the defensive capacity of the north of the Soviet Union. In the first place the size of the work force would be increased, and then the pipeline would considerably ease the difficulties of supplying fuel to the military installations in the far north. We don't even need to do anything ourselves. The first stage of the work would be completed by prison camp inmates and work brigades would only need to continue the work.

My uncle was astounded at Western naiveté. He could not understand how the other side would wish to contribute to the military programme of the Soviet Union by delivery of their latest technology. The Russian defence ministry had been saved millions through this.

In my uncles opinion, along the entire pipeline there are branch lines for supplying military installations with gas. There are basis, launching pads for rockets and even weapons factories, as well as their grid network.

I am not harming my uncle by disclosing this information. He was transferred to a nuclear missile base and suffered a severe exposure to radiation. He is now dying. Nor is he an isolated case - there are hundreds like him.

TELEPHONE ACCOUNT FROM MR P.S., MOSCOW, JULY 1982:

Because of my criticism of the government I was released from my position at the Institute of Mining in Moscow. There was no-one in the entire city who was prepared to employ me. The KGB man said to me: "You can always volunteer to work on the pipeline, before we send you there anyway. You still have the chance to volunteer".

So I travelled to Tyumen, where I was told to register as an electrician at the distributor station at Urengoy. I worked there for a year. Urengoy is a small, dirty town with lastily built, barrack like buildings. I shared a room in a hostel with three other workers. On my first day at work I was officially informed that camp inmates were also at work on the pipeline. Unless I wanted to join them I was not to speak to them or speak about them at all. For eleven months I was able to observe how badly and injustly the prisoners were treated. They were subordinate to the volunteer workers, who of course only had to do the easier work. If the work was dangerous, then again the prisoners were made to do it. However they were then promised a reduction of their sentences.

In those eleven months I witnessed many fatal accidents, caused by exploding gas or toxic fumes. During the summer concrete was delivered in open lorries. It often became so hard en route that the prisoners received lacerated hands as they attempted to remove it. Ever the heavy equipment delivered from abroad was unloaded by unaided prisoners.

There were always accidents during the test runs. Poor servicing led to many breakdowns and the prisoners were made, with inadequate equipment, to put the damage right. They had to move the heavy pipes. It often happened that weak ropes broke and killed someone. I often tried to raise the matter with the trade union but always received the answer that: "You shouldn't feel sorry for them - they should have been killed long ago. They are happy to be given the chance to 'improve' themselves".

The camp itself was not in Urengoy, but a few kilometers out in the Tundra, so that the inhabitants of the town remained unaware of their existence. But I had plenty of opportunity to speak with their guards, young soldiers serving there. They told me of the high rate of mortality of the prisoners and also of the frequent suicides among the young soldiers who could not stand the sight of so much misery. Young soldiers were known to turn their own weapons against themselves in their watch-towers.

The worst sight to bear was that of the many female prisoners, who were obliged to perform the same work as the men. Every evening they returned filthy and soaked to their barracks, and had no chance to change or to wash their clothes.

In winter the MWD guards warmed their hands around a fire, clad in sheepskin jackets. The prisoners worked on, in their working trousers and scarcely padded jackets.

TELEPHONE ACCOUNT OF MR I. P. FROM TYUMEN, JUNE 1982:

On the 15th of June, Mr. I. P. telephoned a friend in the West and related the following account:

Ever when I was in the camp, I had heard about the possibility of working on the gas pipeline to Europe.

Because of the hard conditions in the camps, many inmates are prepared to exchange camp life for the relatively "freer" life of a prisoner under limited supervision, who can be sent to work on special projects.

I did this and travelled with 50 other prisoners under limited supervision to Tyumen. Together with prisoners from other camps we waited in the transit camp for 10 days, whilst the militia and MWD arranged the areas of work. I with several others, formed part of "Special Group 7" and was taken to Kirpitschnii, a small place near Tyumen. As a prisoner under limited supervision I came under the authority of the Area Commander. There I lived with 4 others in a railway wagon, with just enough room for 4 cots. We had electricity but no water. Others lived in barracks, dating from the Stalin era, while others again lived in rapidly erected hostels, usually two storied buildings with no comforts.

Such places rarely have names. They are mostly known as "Special Group No ..." with an indication of the camp authorities for the respective areas.

Such prisoners as we had to accept any work which was detailed to us. Prisoners under limited supervision work together with banished or "parasites". There are about 6000 in Kirpitschnii.

Our work consisted mostly of producing glass wool, wrapping the pipes, digging the trenches, transporting the armatures and pipe bearers, laying electricity or telephone cables and various tasks in the petro-chemical sector.

Armed soldiers and dogs guard specific areas, which are also fenced and wired off, where the permafrost is worked or rocks blasted. Inmates of camp No. 34/2 "x" are transported here in closed railway wagons. These areas are laid out to correspond with the progress of the project.

Food is poor, there is no medical attention, the barracks and wagons are cold and there are frequent cases of drunkenness amongst the workers.

There are also frequent cases of prisoners under limited supervision receiving fresh sentences and being taken back to camps, to continue working behind barbed wire.

At this moment there are 14 prison camps which belong to the complex of TYUMENLAG: Nishnaya Tavda, Ussetsk, Jalutorovsk, Savodoukovsk Ipim, Malitza, two camps in Tobolsk and two more in Tyumen itself.

All related tasks, such as digging trenches, laying railway tracks, mixing concrete and preparing grids for the frames are not only done by men, but by women and minors. It is estimated that about 100 000 forced labourers are employed on various tasks associated with the gas pipeline from Siberia to Europe.

One related task is the manufacture of work clothes. Women, or the inmates of psychological institutions are used for this. Even so work clothes are still scarce. For example protective gloves are only distributed every six months. Most prisoners wrap rags around their hands, but there are still frequent injuries or eczemas occurred by working with barbed wire, concrete, glass wool or asbestos. Accidents are a part of life. However when the medical orderlies are called, they demand to know who is injured, whether the victim is a volunteer or an ZEK (the name for prisoners, prisoners under limited supervision, banished persons). Where an ZEK is concerned, the orderlies never bother to hurry.

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IGFM

INTERNATIONALE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR MENSCHENRECHTE e.V.

International Society for Human Rights - Association Internationale pour les Droits de l'Homme

Int. Gesellschaft für Menschenrechte, Postfach 2965, D-6000 Frankfurt/M. 1

To
The Chancellor
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D-5300 Bonn

Kaiserstr. 72
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Bad Homburg v.d. Höhe
BLZ 50052009, Kto.-Nr. 023000733

Frankfurt/M., 23 June 1982

OPEN LETTER TO THE CHANCELLOR

(Translation)

Dear Mr. Chancellor!

When Western States co-operate with the Soviet Government in economic projects within the USSR, the effects of such co-operation are unfortunately always considered in their relation to the States and people in the West.

With regard to the envisaged gas-pipeline Siberia-Europe, for instance, the preservation of jobs in Germany, the expected benefit and the risk of Western Credit-Investments, the possible dependency of our energy supply, and other problems are discussed publicly. This is, of course, justified. However, neither politicians nor the managers of banks and firms who are dealing with that project in the Federal Republic of Germany, give any thought to the consequences which the gas-pipeline might have on the population of the USSR. It is presupposed that this is a matter of the Soviet Government only. But this is not so. According to reports from the USSR, available to the IGFM, there are about 100 000 prisoners employed along the gas-pipeline under inhuman conditions, many of them are political prisoners (see attached Press Release). We share the guilt in the exploitation of these people and the "Preservation of Jobs" - according to press releases about 6 000 - is morally questionable.

When German firms are accused to support the apartheid policy of South Africa by employing black workers, then any co-operation with a Government who forces political prisoners to work appears in a dubious light.

The fact that the Soviet Government compels political prisoners to forced labour is wellknown for a long time and it has been documented in numerous publications and should also not be a secret to Western Governments.

-2-

Ehrenvorsitzender:

Ludwig Martin
Generalsbundesanwalt a.D.
Prof. Andrej Sacharov
Friedensnobelpreisträger UdSSR
Ehrenpräsident:
Ludmila Alexiewna, USA
Prof. Dr. Urs von Baltazar, Schweiz
Prof. Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, Polen
Dr. Jürg B. Bille
Prof. Dr. Dieter Blumenwitz

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Prof. Dr. Walter Hoeres
Prof. Dr. Otto Kimmich
Prof. Stefan Kisilewski, Polen
Prof. Dr. Martin Kriele
Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn, Österreich
Prof. Dr. Niklaus I. Huber

Prof. Dr. Hellmuth Nitsche
Ludwig Pachman
Prof. Laszlo Révész, Schweiz
Prof. Dr. Gotthold Rhode
Dr. Peter Sager, Schweiz
Vladimir Skuhina, Schweiz
Niklas Ffir von Schrenck-Hotzing
Dr. Josef Stimpfle, Bischof von Augsburg
Johannfried van Straaten o. praem.
Bernhard Wenzel, Bischof von Venedig

Vorsitzender des Vereins:

Vorsitzender:
Dr. med. Reinhard Gnauck
Geschäftsfl. Vorsitzender: I. I. Agrusow
Schatzmeister: Leonid Müller
Sprecher des Vorstandes:
Jörn Ziegler
Beisitzer:
Katrin Bornmüller, Wittlich
Hans-Jürgen Casper, Henstedt
Erhard Gohl, Darmstadt

Are we, in our selfishness, allowed to tolerate maltreatment and exploitation of these innocent people?

This is both morally and legally not acceptable!

Therefore, we request the Federal Government to cancel the gas-pipe deal with the Soviet Union out of solidarity with the suppressed people in that country.

We appeal to the Members of the Deutsche Bundestag to adopt a resolution (as done in a similar action on 18 December 1982 in respect to Poland) to request the Federal Government to do so.

Dear Mr. Chancellor,

Please be the speaker of those silenced people in the USSR and of all free people in the West who reject this gas-pipe deal for humanitarian and moral reasons.

Yours respectfully,
International Society for Human Rights



Reinhard Gnauck, M.D.
President

Annex: IGFM Press Release of 23 June 1982

PRESS - REVIEW

Die "Welt" 9.8.82

Die "Welt" 9.8.82

DER KOMMENTAR

Beweislast

ENNO von LOEWENSTERN

Vielleicht bewirkt eine Mitteilung der Frankfurter Gesellschaft für Menschenrechte, was keine Warnung vor den Konsequenzen im Bündnis oder vor der Gefahr, Moskaus Rüstung zu stärken, erreicht hat: ein ernsthaftes Überdenken des Gas-Röhren-Geschäfts. Was in Bonn erst einmal als unbewiesen vom Tisch gewischt wurde, hat nun die französische Regierung zu einer Weisung an ihre Moskauer Botschaft veranlaßt: nachzuprüfen, ob die Sowjetunion beim Bau der Gasleitung KZ-Häftlinge einsetzen wird.

Moskau selber hat durch ein kraß utilitaristisches Tass-Dementi den Verdacht noch verstärkt: „Jeder vernünftige Mensch wird einsehen, daß ein solches Riesenprojekt die Ausarbeitung und die Anstrengung durch eine starke Industrie zwingend macht, die die modernsten Errungenschaften von Wissenschaft und Technik zum Einsatz bringt.“

Jeder vernünftige Mensch weiß, daß dieses System dennoch halbverhungerte und technisch wenig versierte Arbeitssklaven seit jeher bei technisch aufwendigen Vorhaben einsetzte, ehe die Ingenieure antreten; vom Weißmerkanal mit seinen hunderttausenden Toten bis zu den sibirischen

Blei- und Goldgruben. Denn schaufeln können sie allemal, bis sie selber eingeschauft werden. Jeder vernünftige Mensch weiß auch, daß die Geheimpolizei bereit steht, nach Bedarf jederzeit neue Arbeitssklaven einzufangen. Jeder vernünftige Mensch hat vermerkt, daß Tass nicht einmal zu dementieren wagt, daß es Konzentrationslager und Häftlinge für Arbeitseinsätze gibt.

Die französische Regierung hat viel weltpolitischen Unfug getrieben, aber sie besteht darauf, die Menschenrechte ernst zu nehmen. Mit Recht wird von Beobachtern in Moskau darauf hingewiesen, daß das Sowjetsystem ein freies Herumreisen und Nachschauen nicht zuläßt. Aber in Paris weiß man genau so gut wie in Bonn, daß die Beweislast bei den Arbeitgebern vom Weißmerkanal liegt. Inspektionen gehören zu den „vertrauensbildenden Maßnahmen“, von den Kernwaffen bis zu den Konzentrationslagern. Wer sie verweigert, der weiß, warum. Wer die Verweigerung mitgeteilt erhält, weiß auch, warum. Eine Regierung, die dennoch das Röhrengeschäft machte, dürfte sich nie mehr als Hort der Menschenrechte darstellen.

Zwangsarbeiter: Tass spricht von dreckiger Lüge

AFP/DW. Moskau

Informationen über den angeblichen Einsatz politischer Häftlinge in der Sowjetunion für den Bau der europäisch-sibirischen Erdgasleitung haben in Moskau erste polemische Reaktionen ausgelöst. Offizielle Stellungnahmen wurden dazu abgelehnt. Von offiziöser Seite hieß es jedoch, der Bericht der Internationalen Menschenrechtsgesellschaft in Frankfurt, wonach mehrere tausend Politikhäftlinge an dem Pipeline-Bau beschäftigt sind, habe die Unterminierung des Gasleitungsprojekts zum Zweck, nachdem das „amerikanische Embargo gescheitert“ sei. Die sowjetische Nachrichtenagentur Tass sprach von einer „dreckigen Lüge“.

In den westlichen Botschaften in Moskau wird die Angelegenheit jedoch sehr ernst genommen. Die französische Regierung forderte am Freitag ihre diplomatische Vertretung auf, über die Anschuldigungen der Menschenrechtsgesellschaft zu ermitteln. Die Existenz von Arbeitslagern wird in der UdSSR offiziell zugegeben. Nach Angaben von Regimekritikern werden dort politische Häftlinge interniert. „Die Lager bleiben ein Reservoir für billige Arbeitskräfte“, versicherte ein Dissident gegenüber AFP.

Mehrere Oppositionsgruppen haben in den vergangenen Jahren versucht, verurteilten Dissidenten in die verschiedenen Lager zu folgen. Von ihnen hat die Internationale Menschenrechtsgesellschaft die Informationen über Häftlingseinsatz am Pipeline-Bau erhalten. Wie sie versichern, können sie ihre Behauptungen durch direkte Zeugenaussagen belegen.

FAZ 9.8.82

Paris läßt Berichte über Gefangenen-Einsatz prüfen

MOSKAU, 8. August (dpa). Westliche Berichte über den Einsatz von Gefangenen beim Bau der neuen Erdgasleitung von Sibirien an die Westgrenze der Sowjetunion sind am Sonntag von der Moskauer Nachrichtenagentur Tass als „dreckige Lüge“ zurückgewiesen worden. Tass bezog sich unter anderem auf einen Bericht der französischen Zeitung „France Soir“ vom Vortag und äußerte den Verdacht, daß Washington Urheber dieser „Sensation“ sei. „... dort werden unter der gegen-

wärtigen Regierung massenweise große Lügen produziert“. Washington wolle mit allen Mitteln das Erdgas-Röhrengeschäft mit westeuropäischen Firmen zum Scheitern bringen. Über den angeblichen Einsatz von Gefangenen hatte im letzten Monat erstmals die in Frankfurt ansässige Internationale Gesellschaft für Menschenrechte berichtet. Danach „sind mindestens 10 000 Strafgefangene sowie mehrere zehntausend weitere Häftlinge anderer Kategorien beziehungsweise Verbannte im zwangsweisen Einsatz“, schrieb Vorstandssprecher Ziegler. Tass dazu: „Diese dreckige Lüge erfordert eigentlich kein Dementi: Jeder vernünftige

Mensch wird einsehen, daß ein solches Riesenprojekt die Ausarbeitung und die Anstrengungen durch eine starke Industrie zwingend macht, die die modernsten Errungenschaften von Wissenschaft und Technik zum Einsatz bringt.“ Unterdessen wurde bekannt, daß die französische Botschaft in Moskau prüfen soll, ob an der sowjetischen Erdgasleitung nach Westeuropa wirklich unter schwersten Bedingungen politische Häftlinge aus der Sowjetunion arbeiten müssen. Das Außenministerium in Paris beauftragte die Botschaft, den Angaben der Internationalen Gesellschaft für Menschenrechte nachzugehen.

Arab News - June 26, 1982

Soviets said using forced labor

FRANKFURT, June 25 (AP) — The Soviets force about 100,000 persons, at least 10,000 of them prison inmates, to help build the controversial Siberian natural gas pipeline to Western Europe, the Frankfurt-based International Society for Human Rights said Friday.

In a giant gas for hard currency deal, vigorously opposed by President Ronald Reagan, the Soviet plan to complete the 3,000 mile pipeline next year despite a Washington-ordered embargo on American-designed equipment for the project.

"Along the construction sites many new centers with forced labor camps sprung up in the past two years," a society statement said. "In Ust Ishim alone one of these centers is made up of eight camps," it added. Others are near Surgut, Tsvda, Tyumen, Irbit and Jysva, the statement said.

In the camps, prisoners are accommodated

in camps unsuitable to protect them from the freezing winter cold. Their supply situation was very bad, the statement said.

The forced labor was made up of about 10,000 persons serving prison sentences for crimes, the remainder are prisoners of other categories, including banned persons, among them many women and elderly people, the statement said.

THE TIME MAGAZIN
30.8.1982

SOVIET UNION

Gulag Gas?

New charges on the pipeline

The Soviet Union has not allowed Western correspondents to visit sites in Siberia where workmen are building the controversial 3,000-mile natural gas pipeline to Western Europe. Frankfurt's respected International Association for Human Rights has suggested a chilling explanation for that refusal. In letters mailed to West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, French President François Mitterrand and the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, the association charged that the Soviet Union is using up to 100,000 prisoners to build the pipeline. The claim is based on information from smuggled letters and from interviews with contacts inside the Soviet Union. The Copenhagen-based International Sakharov Committee, which was founded to uphold human rights and defend Soviet dissidents, including Physicist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov, has made similar allegations. The committee has warned that "conditions in these camps are such that a large number of the prisoners will not survive."

The Soviet news agency TASS denounced the accusations as "dirty lies." In a letter to the *Times* of London, Novosti Press Agency Editor Sergei Snegov said that pipeline workers have to be highly skilled and are paid higher than normal wages to make up for the difficult working conditions.

The charges have embarrassed Western European governments, whose participation in the pipeline project is opposed by the Reagan Administration. Alois Mertes, foreign policy spokesman for West Germany's opposition Christian Democrats, has asked Schmidt whether his government would "unwittingly become an accomplice" of a concentration-camp system. Washington has not taken advantage of the latest accusations to press its view that Western European governments are giving unwarranted assistance to the Soviet economy.

Indeed, State Department analysts say that "there are no hard facts at this point" to substantiate the human rights organizations' charges. West German and French officials are similarly cautious but have asked their embassies in Moscow to look into the matter. The allegations are quite plausible. The Soviet Union has relied on prison-camp labor for massive construction projects in the past, including the trans-Siberian railroad, the White Sea Canal and the Moscow subway. Dissident Author Vladimir Bukovsky, who was released from a Soviet prison in 1976 and now lives in England, says that while skilled workers probably are needed to assemble the pipeline, prisoners can be used for such tasks as clearing a way through vast forests. Says he: "Gulag labor is an integral part of the Soviet economy." ■

Daily Telegraph,
14.8.1932

PIPELINE DRIVE BY RUSSIA

By NIGEL WADE
in Moscow

WHILE Transatlantic wrangling intensifies over President Reagan's efforts to stop European firms supplying equipment for the Siberian gas pipeline, Soviet officials report progress on early construction along the pipeline route.

Optimistic claims are also being made about the development by Soviet industry of 25-megawatt gas-pumping turbines which Soviet officials say are the equal of Western equipment blocked by American sanctions.

In a move which has created serious friction between the United States and Western Europe, Mr Reagan has barred European companies using American licences from delivering parts for the pipeline because of Soviet involvement in the Polish crisis.

The Kremlin has publicly undertaken to complete the 2,900-mile pipeline as planned, in the first quarter of 1984. It is designed to deliver 40,000 million cubic metres of gas to Western Europe annually, bringing Russia an estimated annual income of £4,500 million pounds.

Over-riding priority

The Soviet Government has given an over-riding priority to completing the line on time, with exclusively Soviet equipment if necessary.

The Soviet system makes it possible for the Government to focus all necessary resources on achieving this goal, regardless of the cost in terms of money or disruption to other industrial sectors.

More than 200 miles of pipe was welded into place by the beginning of August, according to Mr Grigory Sudobin, a Deputy Minister for Oil Industry Construction. An average of four-and-a-half miles of pipe was being added daily.

Officials say 58 mechanised teams are working on the line. Moscow has rejected speculation by a West German human rights group that labour camp prisoners may be involved, and Western diplomats in Moscow say they know of no evidence to support this suggestion.

Visits not allowed

But requests by Western diplomats and newsmen to visit the pipeline or factories making parts for it have been repeatedly refused.

A recent Moscow Radio broadcast said young East Germans would work on the project in Western Russia. The initial section of the route, starting near Urengoy in Western Siberia, crosses about 100 miles of permafrost and 400 miles of marshland.

Soviet newspapers describe convoys of lorries carrying workers and supplies battling to get through the "notorious Taiga swamps stretching for hundreds of miles."

Planning for the most difficult northern sections has been finished "much earlier" than expected, thanks to photography from outer space, according to Soviet engineers.



Woman on forced-labour

100,000 people said in forced labor for Russ gas pipeline

FRANKFURT (AP) — The Soviets force about 100,000 persons, at least 10,000 of them prison inmates, to help build the controversial Siberian natural gas pipeline to Western Europe, the Frankfurt-based International Society for Human Rights said Friday.

In a giant gas for hard currency deal, vigorously opposed by President Reagan, the Soviets plan to complete the 3,000 mile pipeline next year despite a Washington-ordered embargo on American-designed equipment for the project.

"Along the construction sites may new centers with forced labor camps sprung up in the past two years," a society statement said. "In Ust Ishim alone one of these centers is made up of eight camps," it added. Others are near Surgut, Tavadu, Tyumen, Irbit and Lysva, the statement said.

In the camps, prisoners are accommodated in shaky waggons unsuitable to protect them from the freezing winter cold. Their supply situation was very bad, the statement said.

The forced labor was made up of about 10,000 persons serving prison sentences for crimes, "the remainder are prisoners of other categories, including banned persons," among them any women and elderly people, the statement said.

These persons were selected to do the heavy earth moving work. Only when this was finished, were Western journalists allowed in to inspect the construction cities, the statement said.

Göteborgs Handels-
och Sjöfarts-Tidning,
2.7.82

KGB utnyttjar 10.000 fångar för gasledning

Från den Internationella föreningen för de mänskliga rättigheterna i Frankfurt am Main kommer skrämmande rapporter om hur tiotusentals politiska fångar under svåra umbäranden utnyttjas för bygandet av den omtalade och ödesdigra gasledningen Sibirien-Västeuropa.

Bland "slavarbetarna" märks många kända intellektuella som fängslats för avvikande politiska uppfattningar.

Bilden ovan är hämtad ur filmen "En dag i Ivan Denisovitjs liv", och har sålunda ingenting med den uppseendeväckande rapporten att göra.

Sid. 3

« 100.000 bagnards travaillent au gazoduc sibérien »

accusent des dissidents.
Parmi ceux-là, 10.000 prisonniers politiques

Yvon SAMUEL

C OUP de théâtre à propos du fameux gazoduc sibérien qui sème la discorde entre l'Europe et les Etats-Unis : des dizaines de milliers de prisonniers des goulags soviétiques y travailleraient dans des conditions qui

sont dépeintes comme dramatiques. C'est ce que vient de révéler avec de nombreux détails l'Association Internationale pour les Droits de l'Homme, basée à Francfort.

Premiers destinataires de ces révélations : deux des chefs

□□□ Suite page 4

**ISHR ORGANIZES HELP:
"EURO-PARCELS FOR THE POOREST OF THE POOR"**

Since many years IGFM sends food parcels to relatives of convicted and exiled people in the USSR. The European Parliament supports these actions and have recently appealed by resolution to citizens of all EC-Memberstates to participate in this parcel action by donation.

Dear Reader,

if you want to help these poorest of the poor, you can do so by following ways:

1. We shall be pleased to mail a parcel for you (minimum costs for a food parcel, including mailing and insurance: DM 180.- ; a parcel containing clothes: DM 500.-), in case the relevant amount or even a part of it you may transfer to one of our following accounts:

Transfer from abroad: IGFM, Deutsche Bank A.G.
D-6000 Frankfurt/M.
Code-No. 500 700 10
Acc. No. 405 2031

IGFM, PSA Frankfurt/M., Acc. No. 4221-608

IGFM, Kreissparkasse, D-6380 Bad Homburg v.d.H.
Code-No. 500 520 09, Acc. No. 86

Upon your request we provide you with the name and address of the recipient.

2. We provide you with the addresses of relatives of convicted or exiled to whom you may wish to send a parcel or letter, if possible.
3. To protest against the use of forced labour and to write to the following addresses:

The
Minister of Petroleum-
and Gas-Industries,
Mr. Costandov
Moscow
USSR

The
Ambassador of the USSR
Mr. Semionov
Waldstr. 42
D-5300 Bonn
Federal Republic of Germany



WHAT IS the ISHR (IGFM)?

Several organizations around the world are active in defence of human rights, and, each in their own way, they are accomplishing excellent results. Nevertheless, this activity has a certain number of gaps. The International Society for Human Rights tries to fill these gaps.

Our activities are based primarily on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1948:

- Active support of requests drawn to our attention, whether in general, or in particular cases. Public disclosure and denunciation of all violations of human rights. Development of projects and suggestions for politicians and state institutions. Collaboration with international organizations. Improvement of international tolerance and understanding. Setting a personal example to motivate citizens to fight for human rights. Recruitment of new members to the Society. We are acting individually and do not wait for the state to intervene.

HOW CAN YOU HELP IN THE FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS?

«My time is my life. In giving a part of my time to someone, I give him a part of my life», says a proverb. Too often we waste our time, and therefore our lives, with trifles or futile amusements which bring us nowhere and give us no satisfaction. Use the time given to you to help other people obtain a little more justice and dignity. Contribute to the realisation of this great undertaking, HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL PEOPLES — join our organization.

Our Society is free and independent and we attach particular importance to what you can personally achieve, by carrying out your own ideas and initiatives in your own way. We will do our best to help you.

You can participate in the activities of the Society in the following ways:

- Individual activity where no group exists.
- Working together with a group.
- As a member of a working group.

A working group consists of a number of people working together, regardless of where they live. Their activities are as follows: aid in individual cases, writing and circulating ap-

The International Society for Human Rights is an humanitarian organization. Consequently, our activities are as follows:

- Assistance to all those isolated individuals or groups who are striving for the realisation of human rights; to

those doing it in their country without the use of violence; to those who are persecuted for 'exercising' these rights. Our help is not limited to political prisoners alone. We also intervene in cases of separated families, for example.

- Active support of requests drawn to our attention, whether in general, or in particular cases. Public disclosure and denunciation of all violations of human rights. Development of projects and suggestions for politicians and state institutions. Collaboration with international organizations. Improvement of international tolerance and understanding. Setting a personal example to motivate citizens to fight for human rights. Recruitment of new members to the Society. We are acting individually and do not wait for the state to intervene.

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A working group consists of a number of people working together, regardless of where they live. Their activities are as follows: aid in individual cases, writing and circulating appeals, documents etc..., organization and participation of multi-regional demonstrations and press conferences, running an information service...

Anyone over the age of 16 can become a member of the Society. Active members are asked to pay an annual fee of £12.— / US \$24.—. The fee for students is £6.— / US \$12.—, and for couples £10.— / US \$20.—.

If you cannot become an active member of the Society, a fee of not less than £20.— / US \$40.— will make you a supporter-member.

ISHR-Adresses for further information:

USA:

International Society for Human Rights - Section USA - Mr. S. Padukow
P.O. Box 2175 - Grand Central Station - New York, N. Y. 101163

FRANCE:

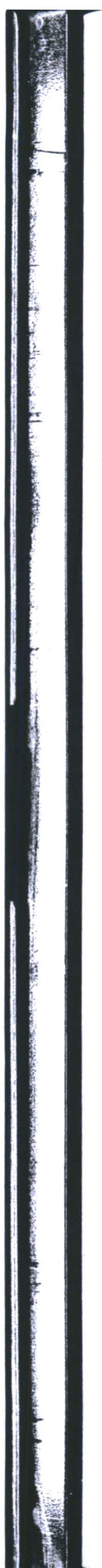
Association Internationale pour les Droits de l'Homme - AIDH -
Comité Français - M. J.-C. Pivert - 9, rue du Bouloi - F-75001 PARIS

Great Britain:

Institute for European Defence & Strategic Studies - Mr. G. Miller
12 a Golden Square, London W 1 R 3 A - Tel. 01-439 8719

address

for contacts



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FROM Douglas Firth OFFICE DESK OASD/ISP PHONE NBR 697-2682

SUBJECT Forced Labor in Soviet Union

CLASSIFICATION Unclassified

PAGES 2

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REMARKS:

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BU 11 3159

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Senate Resolution 449 (HR 6956) directed the Department of State to investigate the allegations that Soviet authorities are employing forced labor and violating human rights in the construction of the Trans-Siberian gas pipeline.

There is clear evidence that the Soviet Union is using forced labor on a massive scale. This includes the use of political prisoners. Dispositive proof that such labor is being used specifically on the Trans-Siberian pipeline is as yet unavailable, but there is evidence suggesting that it may be the case. Our investigation is underway and we hope to issue a final report within X weeks.

The use of forced labor on heavy construction projects in Siberia and elsewhere is consistent with historical Soviet practice. The Baikal-Amur rail line, the Bielmorsk and Volga-Don canals, and the Moscow subway are a few of the better known Soviet projects built with forced labor. Among the groups that Soviet authorities traditionally press into forced labor are political prisoners and prisoners of conscience convicted under broadly-worded "hooliganism" and "parasitism" laws. For years, complaints have been registered in the International Labor Organization and other international bodies against the use of such laws to punish and exploit political and religious dissidents in the Soviet Union. The Soviet authorities persist nevertheless.

We welcome the Senate's interest in this issue. Decency compels us to express distress, indeed disgust, at the Soviet Union's exploitation of forced labor. Moreover, the issue raises important questions, which we are now researching, regarding whether current Soviet forced labor practices violate treaties or international conventions dealing with slavery and forced labor. In working on such questions, we face obstacles related to the closed nature of Soviet society. Through their efforts to control information in their country, Soviet authorities make it difficult to learn just what is going on there and even more difficult to come away with the kind of evidence one can use to prove to a skeptical public what one has learned. This problem has far-reaching implications.

For those of us who believe in the promotion of world peace through law and international agreements, it is crucial that apparent violations of such agreements generate vigorous reproaches and demands for remedial action. If evidence of such a violation is ignored or measured against an unreasonable standard of proof and dismissed, treaty-abiding states are deprived of all justification for entering into international agreements.

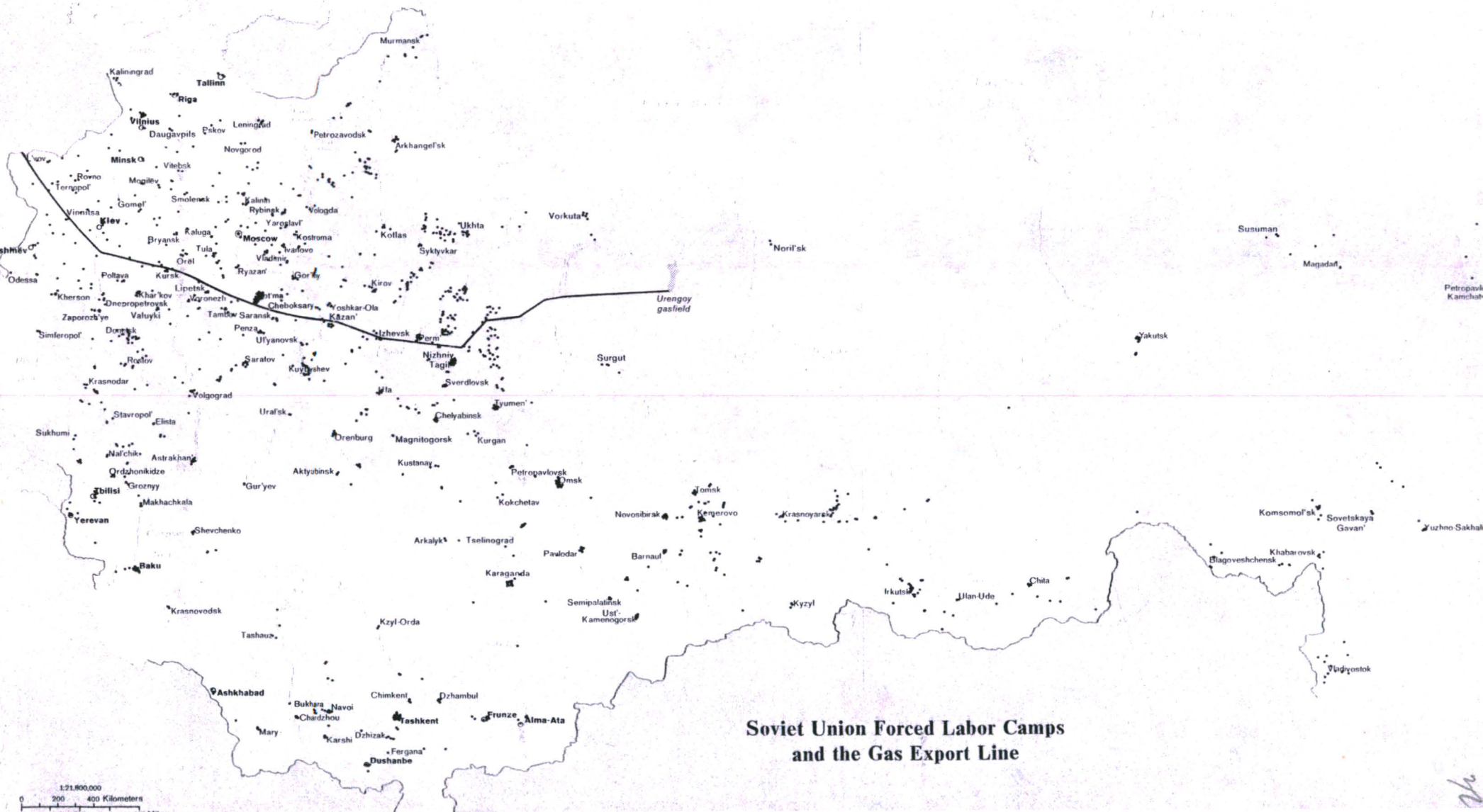
Be assured that for all these reasons we shall continue with diligence the investigation the Senate has mandated. As our

1) See of State signature.

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preliminary response, I am transmitting under this cover a copy of the Department's statement of September 22 and a packet of reports and documents which will provide for you the status of our efforts at this time. This packet includes a broad survey of the allegations; a historical summary of Soviet forced labor issues before the International Labor Organization; a study we have prepared on "Crime and Punishment in the USSR," including the widespread use of penal labor camps; actions by other governments, by international labor bodies and by national unions; and documentation and testimony from hearings sponsored by the Frankfurt-based International Society for Human Rights. Intelligence information pertinent to the issue will be made available through the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

The United States Government has not recognized the incorporation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the Soviet Union. Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.



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ACTIONS TAKEN
BY
OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND
INTERNATIONAL LABOR BODIES

The democratic trade union federation of France (FO) requested that President Mitterand undertake an investigation of the charges of forced labor being used on the export pipeline in the USSR. President Mitterand responded positively to the FO request. The Federal Republic of Germany also initiated an inquiry, through its embassy in Moscow, to ascertain the facts, to the degree possible, regarding Soviet labor practices on the Siberian project.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), based in Brussels, formally requested that the International Labor Organization (ILO) inquire directly of the Soviets about those alleged labor practices which violate various ILO Conventions, to which the USSR is a party. In early September 1982, the ILO complied with the ICFTU request and so notified the Soviet mission in Geneva. (The earliest formal discussion of these charges against the USSR would take place in March 1983 by the ILO Committee of Experts.)

Finally, the EC-10 Foreign Ministers discussed the forced labor allegations at their October 13 plenary in Strasbourg.

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DEPARTMENT FOR S/IL - WARNOCK AND EUR/P - CLEAR
GENEVA FOR LABATT HARE
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ELAB ICFTU ILO SHUM UR
SUBJECT: ICFTU INITIATIVE WITH ILO RE ALLEGED
USE OF FORCED LABOR ON PIPELINE

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ENTIRE TEXT.

2. INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE
UNIONS (ICFTU) RECENTLY TOOK UP THE QUESTION
OF FORCED LABOR IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE
NATURAL GAS PIPELINE BETWEEN SIBERIA AND
WESTERN EUROPE WITH THE ILO, REQUESTING THAT IT
RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.
ON AUGUST 20, ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY OTTO KERSTEN
SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL
BLANCHARD:

3. BEGIN QUOTE. DEAR MR. BLANCHARD,
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE
UNIONS IS VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THE RECENT
INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SAKHAROV
COMMITTEE AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS
INDICATING THAT FORCED LABOUR IS USED IN THE USSR
FOR THE BUILDING OF THE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FROM
SIBERIA TO WESTERN EUROPE.

- THE INFORMATION REFERRED TO ALSO STATES
THAT IN VIEW OF THE GAS PIPELINE PROJECT, A
NUMBER OF LABOUR CAMPS HAVE NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED
IN SIBERIA AND THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS MIGHT BE
TRANSFERRED OVER THERE AND FORCED TO PERFORM
VARIOUS TYPES OF WORK IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF
THE PIPELINE.

- MOREOVER, A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE FREE
TRADE UNION OF SOVIET UNION (SMOT), MRS. YAKOREVA,
HAS INDICATED THAT ACCORDING TO HER ORGANISATION,
90 PERCENT OF PEOPLE WORKING ON THE PIPELINE
PROJECT ARE PRISONERS. MRS. ALBINA YAKOREV
G

EDVSTATEMENT.

- IN VIEW OF THE GRAVITY OF THESE ALLEGATIONS,
WE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE
UVSEOF EXPERTS ON THE APPLICA-
TION OF STANDARDS.
- LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU ON THIS
MATTER. END QUOTE.

4. ON SEPTEMBER 2, G. VON P

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DECISIONS CONCERNING THE PERIODICITY OF REPORTS
ON THE APPLICATION OF RATIFIED CONVENTIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY AT ITS 201ST
SESSION (NOVEMBER 1976), WE ARE TRANSMITTING A
COPY OF YOUR LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USSR
AND INVITING ITS OBSERVATIONS ON THE MATTER.
YOUR LETTER AND ANY OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM
THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE PLACED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE
OF EXPERTS ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND
BT

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NLRR F06-114/9 #10783

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 13107

RECOMMENDATIONS AT ITS NEXT SESSION, IN MARCH 1983.
- AS YOU ARE NO DOUBT AWARE, THE USSR HAS RATI-
FIED THE FORCED LABOUR CONVENTION, 1930 (NO. 29),
BUT IS NOT A PARTY TO THE ABOLITION OF FORCED
LABOUR CONVENTION, 1957 (NO. 105). YOURS FAITH-
FULLY, FOR THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL. END QUOTE.

5. WHILE AWAITING AN EVENTUAL SOVIET RESPONSE
TO THE ILO AND THE PROJECTED DISCUSSION OF
THE MATTER BY THE ILO COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
IN MARCH 1983, THE ICFTU IS CONTINUING TO

-
MONITOR THIS QUESTION AND GATHER ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION ON FORCED LABOR USE. THE ICFTU
PUBLICIZED THE FACT THAT IT HAD INITIATED ITS
REQUEST WITH THE ILO IN ITS INTERNATIONAL
TRADE UNION NEWS OF SEPTEMBER 6 BUT IT DOES
NOT INTEND TO MAKE THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS
PUBLIC. ICFTU OFFICIALS HAVE LEARNED THAT
ILO D-G BLANCHARD DID MAKE A RECENT PUBLIC
STATEMENT ON THE MATTER BUT THEY HAVE NOT SEEN
THE TEXT OR AN APPARENT REUTERS TICKER ITEM
ABOUT IT. VEST
BT

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NSC/S PROFILE

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ID 8206832

(forced labor -
Resolution,
etc.)

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TO CLARK

FROM BREMER

DOCDATE 09 OCT 82

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White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997

By JS NARA, Date 7/24/02

KEYWORDS: HUMAN RIGHTS

USSR

CONGRESSIONAL

MEDIA

CSCE

SUBJECT: STRATEGY TO SHARPEN ISSUE OF FORCED LABOR IN SOVIET UNION

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR CLARK

DUE: 14 OCT 82 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

LORD

PIPES

DOBRIANSKY

MYER

BLAIR

SOMMER

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October 9, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WILLIAM P. CLARK
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Soviet Forced Labor

We have been developing a strategy to sharpen the issue of forced labor in the Soviet Union--particularly that of political prisoners-- before world public opinion and to discover as much information as we can on the issue. The steps taken thus far and those suggested here have been developed in a number of informal interagency meetings which have included NSC staff members, representatives of the intelligence community and officials of the Department of Labor.

As you are aware, the Department issued an official statement on this issue on September 22 (TAB 1). This put on the public record USG concern over the issue and our belief that the international community has a responsibility to investigate the charges which have been made. Our statement focussed on Soviet forced labor as a human rights issue--particularly in regard to the use of political prisoners--and treated the pipeline project as one facet of the broader issue. There are some 4-5 million prisoners in the Soviet Union and a well documented practice of subjecting them to forced labor. We believe this approach is most likely to bring a positive international response, particularly given the state of evidence concerning the pipeline itself. Our statement also included reference to the growing use, under apparently questionable circumstances, of Vietnamese laborers in the USSR.

We have also sent instructions to US posts worldwide (Tab 2) conveying USG interest in the issue, providing information obtained from private sources as well as the text of our 9/22 statement and asking our Embassies in Western and other friendly countries to pursue the issue with host governments and selected media representatives.

By a vote of 80-1 on September 24, the Senate passed a resolution (TAB 3) asking the Administration to submit within 30 days an interim report on how we are pursuing the issue of forced labor on the pipeline project and to submit by January a full report. We are working now to meet the 30-day deadline, and we will make use of the Senate action as a useful vehicle for keeping the issue alive. Our proposed approach in responding to the Senate will be to provide under an appropriate covering statement a packet consisting of:

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NLRR F06-114/9 #10784

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

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-2-

- A summary of USG actions, including our 9/22 statement, and information and testimony received from private sources;
- A paper giving the history of the Soviet forced labor issue in the ILO, including the recent ICFTU approach to the ILO;
- A description of actions taken by other governments, as well as private human rights groups.

There are several additional tracks on which we will pursue this issue. First, with discretion, we will encourage--in coordination with the AFL-CIO--action on the issue by the ICFTU, ILO and other international labor bodies. Second, we will try to arrange a meeting within the next month with the President's Committee on the ILO(which includes representatives of organized labor and business), and possibly use such a meeting as the occasion for a follow-up statement on the issue. Third, since the use of forced labor as a punishment for exercising basic human rights is also a violation of Soviet commitments in CSCE, we are providing all of our materials on the issue to Ambassador Kampelman so that he can continue to pursue at the Madrid Review Conference these and other Soviet labor violations.

Finally, we will explore the possibilities of raising this in the UN context, and we will do what we can (discreetly) to be helpful to the International Society for Human Rights in Frankfurt, Germany, which has announced that it will hold its own hearings on the issue in November.


L. Paul Bremer, Jr.
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- TAB 1 - DOS Statement on Forced Labor of 9/22/82
- TAB 2 - DOS Cable on Forced Labor
- TAB 3 - Senate Resolution

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PRESS STATEMENTForced Labor in USSR

We have received a growing number of reports that the USSR has used a large number of prisoners -- including thousands of political prisoners -- to work on massive labor projects. According to at least one such report, for example, at least 100,000 such forced laborers are being used on the heavy infrastructure work of clearing swamps, cutting timber and building access roads for the Yamal gas pipeline. These forced laborers reportedly include religious dissidents and other prisoners of conscience.

These reports have come from a wide variety of individuals and organizations, in Europe, Asia and the US. The sources include human rights organizations; labor organizations; laborers who have managed to emigrate from the Soviet Union after working under these conditions; and letters reaching Asia and the West from the USSR.

We are not claiming to have evidence resembling a "smoking gun." Given the closed nature of Soviet society and the official control of the Soviet media, moreover, there may never be a "smoking gun." But the information being released by this wide range of knowledgeable individuals and organizations spanning three continents, some with first hand experience of these labor conditions, goes into considerable detail and deserves serious examination.

Reliable estimates place the total number of forced laborers in the Soviet Union today at approximately 4 million. Further, it is well established that the Soviet Union has a history of using forced labor on a mass scale -- including political prisoners -- on major projects, particularly in Siberia -- where the official press has acknowledged that it is difficult to persuade Soviet workers to go there voluntarily. To cite only two examples, some 250,000 forced laborers are believed to have perished during the 1930's while working on the construction of the Bielomorsk Canal. And in the 1970's thousands of forced laborers were reported to be building the Baikal-Amur railway extension in Southeastern Siberia.

As regards foreign laborers, the official Soviet media itself has admitted that several thousand Vietnamese and other Southeast Asian laborers have been imported into the USSR and has intimated that many thousands more are likely to be imported in the near future. Information on the nature of this program is fragmentary. We do not know whether or not the Vietnamese laborers are working on the Siberian pipeline. But

we are very concerned about indications that Vietnamese may be coerced into working in the USSR and Eastern Europe and that a portion of the salary paid to them might be deducted to offset Vietnam's debts to the host country. In addition, we have received reports that the Soviet authorities are placing limitations on the ability of these workers to communicate with their families and friends outside the USSR. We believe it is important that international attention be given to this situation, given the obvious possibility of exploitation of these workers.

The Soviet Government could contribute to establishing the truth about these very serious charges by permitting an objective examination of labor conditions on its various Siberian projects, and the conditions in which Soviet political prisoners live and work. We would welcome such an independent international investigation, but the prospects for obtaining this are probably not bright. For example, charges of use of forced labor have been made in the past against the USSR in the International Labor Organization (ILO). However, the Soviet authorities have consistently refused to allow an ILO mission to visit the USSR to investigate these charges.

Because of the seriousness of these charges, and the massive human rights violations which they imply, we believe the international community has a responsibility to investigate them. The USG, for its part, is thoroughly examining the information being brought to bear on this issue, and we understand that several other governments have indicated similar intentions. As our examination proceeds, we will -- wherever possible -- make our findings available to the public. We hope that other governments and private organizations will do the same.

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 269372

INFORM CONSULS: ALSO FOR PAOS

E.O. 12356: DECL: 9/20/92

AGS: SHUM, PINS, UR

SUBJECT: ISSUE OF FORCED LABOR AND THE SOVIET GAS PIPELINE

1. (C) SINCE MID-SUMMER, THE ISSUE OF FORCED LABOR, INCLUDING POLITICAL PRISONERS, ON THE USSR-EUROPE GAS PIPELINE AND OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE USSR HAS APPEARED IN WEST EUROPEAN AND OTHER MEDIA. MOST REPORTS HAVE EMANATED FROM THE FRANKFURT-BASED INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. NONE OF THESE REPORTS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED. FRENCH AND FRG GOVERNMENTS HAVE PUBLICLY STATED THAT THEIR EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW HAVE BEEN ASKED TO INVESTIGATE THESE ALLEGATIONS. THE U.S. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO THE SAME. THE LIKELIHOOD OF OUR DISCOVERING DIRECT EVIDENCE OF THE USE OF FORCED LABOR ON PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION IS REMOTE, CONSIDERING RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON EMBASSY TRAVEL AND SOVIET DESIRE TO COUNTER THESE CHARGES, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVELY SEEK TO DISCOVER THE FACTS, AND THAT THE ISSUE REMAIN ALIVE.

2. (C) GIVEN THE TRADITIONAL SOVIET USE OF FORCED LABOR ON MAJOR PROJECTS IN REMOTE AREAS REQUIRING CONSIDERABLE MANUAL INPUT, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PRISON LABOR IS BEING USED, OR THAT IT WAS USED IN THE PRELIMINARY STAGES. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE USED. WHILE THIS ISSUE IS OF EQUAL CONCERN TO EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS, WE SHOULD AVOID GIVING IT A "MADE IN USA LABEL." U.S. OFFICIALS SHOULD ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP IT CAREFULLY, FOCUSING APPROPRIATE ATTENTION NOT ONLY ON THE QUESTION OF FORCED LABOR ON THE PIPELINE PROJECT, BUT ALSO ON THE BROADER HUMAN-RIGHTS ISSUE REPRESENTED BY THE APPROXIMATELY FOUR MILLION SOVIET PRISONERS UNDERGOING SOME FORM OF INVOLUNTARY LABOR.

3. (C) PARA 5 CONTAINS EXCERPTS FROM DOCUMENTATION RELEASED IN MID-AUGUST BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. WHILE IT IS IMPRACTICABLE TO VERIFY THE DETAILED ASSERTIONS, SOME OF WHICH APPEAR TO BE EXAGGERATED, WE BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE WORTHY OF ATTENTION.

4. (C) ACTION REQUESTED.

ALL POSTS IN WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHER POSTS WHERE, IN YOUR JUDGMENT, YOU ARE LIKELY TO RECEIVE A FAIR HEARING, SHOULD EXPRESS IN APPROPRIATE CONVERSATIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING UNIONS, AND MEDIA: A. OUR CONCERN OVER THIS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE; B. OUR BELIEF THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO INVESTIGATE THESE CHARGES. YOU MAY MAKE AVAILABLE TO THEM TESTIMONY IN PARA 5 BELOW, POINTING OUT ITS ORIGIN, AND EXPRESS OUR WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION WE ARE ABLE TO UNCOVER ON THIS ISSUE. YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE WOULD WELCOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THEY MAY HAVE.

5. (C) "SELECTED TESTIMONY FROM THE SOVIET UNION" WRITTEN ACCOUNT BY MRS. A.P. FROM MOSCOW, JULY 1982

MY UNCLE IS AN OFFICER IN THE SOVIET ARMY AND SERVES IN THE NORTH IN THE HANTY-MANSSIYSKIY AUTONOMOUS REGION.

AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, MY UNCLE ARRIVED UNEXPECTEDLY IN MOSCOW SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN DISMISSED FROM THE ARMY FOR HEALTH REASONS. IN THE COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATIONS I LEARNED THE FOLLOWING:

IT WAS TRUE THAT MY UNCLE HAD PARTICIPATED AS A CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER IN VARIOUS PROJECTS FROM THE NEW PORT ON THE YAMAL PENINSULA TO PERM IN THE URALS. THE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS HAD BEEN TOLD QUITE OPENLY THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GAS PIPELINE FROM SIBERIA TO WESTERN EUROPE WOULD GREATLY CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING THE DEFENSE OF THE NORTHERN U.S.S.R. FOR ONE THING, IT INCREASES THE INFUX OF WORKERS TO THE NORTH AND SECONDLY, THE GAS PIPELINE WILL FACILITATE THE SUPPLY OF FUEL TO THE VARIOUS MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE NORTH. IN THIS AREA WE NEED NOT BUILD ANYTHING OURSELVES ANYMORE -- ALL PREPARATORY WORK IS COMPLETED BY PRISONERS, AND ONLY AFTER THAT, VOLUNTEER LABOR BRIGADES ARRIVE ON THE SCENE.

TELEPHONE REPORT BY MR. P.S. FROM MOSCOW, JULY 1982

"I WAS FIRED FROM THE MOSCOW MINING INSTITUTE BECAUSE I HAD CRITICIZED THE REGIME, AND NOW NO ONE IN TOWN WILL HIRE ME.

THE KGB TOLD ME: 'YOU CAN VOLUNTEER NOW TO WORK ON THE GAS PIPELINE, BEFORE WE SEND YOU THERE BY FORCE. AT THIS POINT, YOU STILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO WORK THERE AS A VOLUNTEER.'

SO I WENT TO TYUMEN, WHERE I WAS ORDERED BY CONSTRUCTION HEADQUARTERS TO REPORT TO THE URENGOY DISTRIBUTING STATION AS AN ELECTRICIAN. I WORKED IN URENGOY, A DIRTY SMALL TOWN OF HASTILY PUT UP PRIMITIVE SHACKS, FOR A YEAR, SHARING WITH THREE OTHER WORKERS A SMALL ROOM IN A DORMITORY.

ON THE VERY FIRST DAY I WAS TOLD THAT THERE WERE ALSO PRISONERS WORKING AT THIS SITE, AND THAT I WAS NOT TO SPEAK WITH THEM OR TELL ANYONE ABOUT THEM IF I DID NOT WANT TO BE LOCKED UP WITH THEM.

FOR ELEVEN MONTHS I WAS ABLE TO DESERVE HOW BADLY AND UNFAIRLY THE PRISONERS AND DEPORTEES WERE BEING TREATED. THEY WERE SUPERVISED BY THE VOLUNTEERS WHO, OF COURSE, ONLY DID THE EASIER JOBS. THE DANGEROUS JOBS WERE DONE ONLY BY PRISONERS; SOMETIMES THEY WERE PROMISED THAT THEY WOULD BE RELEASED EARLY.

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NLRREF06-114/9 # 16785

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BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

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DURING THE ELEVEN MONTHS, I WITNESSED NUMEROUS FATAL ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY EXPLODING GAS AND GAS POISONING. DURING THE SUMMER, CONCRETE WAS DELIVERED BY OPEN TRUCKS; EN ROUTE IT HAD HARDENED TO THE POINT WHERE THE PRISONERS HAD TO HACK IT OUT BIT BY BIT SO THAT THEIR HANDS STARTED BLEEDING.

THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT ARRIVING FROM ABROAD ALSO HAD TO BE UNLOADED AND TRANSPORTED MANUALLY BY THE PRISONERS. AGAIN AND AGAIN, THERE WERE ACCIDENTS DURING THE TEST RUNS; BECAUSE OF MISTAKES IN THE OPERATION OF THE EQUIPMENT, IT KEPT BREAKING DOWN AND THE PRISONERS HAD TO MOVE THE HEAVY PIPES AGAIN AND AGAIN, WITHOUT PROPER MECHANICAL AIDS; OFTEN THE ROPES, WHICH WERE NOT STRONG ENOUGH, WOULD BREAK, CAUSING MORE LIVES TO BE LOST. I TRIED SEVERAL TIMES TO LODGE A COMPLAINT ABOUT THIS WITH THE TRADE

UNIONS, BUT I WAS TOLD: "YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL SORRY FOR THESE PEOPLE, THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED LONG AGO. THEY SHOULD BE GLAD TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFORM."

THE PRISON CAMP WAS NOT LOCATED IN URENGOY BUT TWO KILOMETERS AWAY, IN THE TAIGA, SO THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE CITY HAD NO IDEA THAT IT WAS THERE. BUT I HAD OCCASION TO TALK TO THE SOLDIERS ASSIGNED TO THE CAMP, AND THEY NOT ONLY TOLD ME OF THE HIGH MORTALITY RATE AMONG THE PRISONERS, BUT ALSO OF THE FREQUENT SUICIDES COMMITTED BY DESPAIRING YOUNG SOLDIERS WHO COULDN'T TAKE ALL THAT MISERY ANYMORE AND KILLED THEMSELVES WITH THEIR OWN WEAPONS IN THEIR WATCH TOWERS.

THE SADDEST SIGHT WERE THE MANY FEMALE PRISONERS WHO HAD TO DO THE SAME WORK AS THE MEN AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITES. COMPLETELY FILTHY OR SOAKING WET THEY RETURNED TO THEIR HUTS IN THE EVENING; THEY WEREN'T ABLE TO CHANGE OR WASH THEIR CLOTHES.

DURING THE WINTER, THE MVD GUARDS WOULD BE STANDING AROUND A FIRE IN HEAVY SHEEPSKIN COATS, WARMING THEIR HANDS, WHILE IN THE PRISONERS HAD TO WORK IN THE COLD, DRESSED IN THIN WORK PANTS AND SHORT COATS WITH HARDLY ANY LINING.

TELEPHONE REPORT BY MR. I.P. FROM TYUMEN, JUNE 1982

ON JUNE 15, 1982, MR. I.P. TELEPHONED AN ACQUAINTANCE IN THE WEST WITH THE FOLLOWING REPORT:

"WHILE I WAS STILL AT THE CAMP, I HEARD OF THE POSSIBILITY OF WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GAS PIPELINE FOR EUROPE.

BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULT LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE CAMPS, MANY PRISONERS ARE WILLING TO EXCHANGE LIFE IN A CAMP FOR THE LIFE OF FORCED LABORERS, WHO WORK UNDER MINIMUM SECURITY CONDITIONS.

THUS I VOLUNTEERED AND, ALONG WITH APPROXIMATELY 50 MINIMUM-SECURITY PRISONERS FROM VARIOUS CAMPS, WAS TAKEN TO THE FACILITY FOR PRISONERS IN TRANSIT IN TYUMEN, WHERE WE REMAINED FOR TEN DAYS, UNTIL THE MILITIA AND THE MVD HAD DECIDED WHERE TO PUT US. WITH SEVERAL OTHERS I WAS ASSIGNED TO "SPECIAL WORKFORCE NO. 7" IN KIRPICHNY, A SMALL PLACE NEAR TYUMEN, WHERE I REPORTED TO THE COMMANDANT FOR MINIMUM-SECURITY PRISONERS AND DEPORTEES.

ALONG WITH FOUR OTHERS, I WAS HOUSED IN AN EMPTY FREIGHT CAR WHICH HAD BARELY ENOUGH ROOM FOR FOUR COTS. WE HAD

ELECTRICITY, BUT NO WATER. OTHERS LIVED IN HUTS WHICH DATED BACK TO THE CAMPS BUILT UNDER STALIN, OR IN HASTILY ERECTED DORMITORIES, TWO-STORY BUILDINGS WITHOUT ANY

AMENITIES.

THESE SETTLEMENTS RARELY HAVE A NAME; IN MOST CASES THEY ARE REGISTERED UNDER "SPECIAL WORKFORCE NO." ALONG WITH THE DESIGNATION OF THE CAMP ADMINISTRATION FOR THE REGION IN QUESTION.

ARRIVING MINIMUM-SECURITY PRISONERS MUST IMMEDIATELY BEGIN WORK ON THE TASKS ASSIGNED TO THEM BY THE COMMANDANT.

IN ADDITION TO THE MINIMUM-SECURITY PRISONERS, THE WORKFORCE INCLUDES DEPORTEES AND PEOPLE SENTENCED FOR "PARASITISM"; IN KIRPICHNY, THEIR NUMBERS TOTALED APPROXIMATELY 6,000.

FOR THE MOST PART, THE WORK INVOLVED PREPARATION OF GLASS WOOL, WRAPPING OF PIPES, EXCAVATION, MOUNTING OF INSTRUMENTS AND PIPE SUPPORTS, LAYING OF ELECTRIC AND TELEPHONE CABLES, AND VARIOUS CHORES IN THE PETROCHEMICAL FIELD.

SOME CONSTRUCTION AREAS, WHERE THE WORK INVOLVED PERMA-FROST, REMOVAL OF GROUND WATER AND BLASTING OF ROCKS ARE SURROUNDED BY WOODEN FENCES AND BARBED WIRE AND GUARDED BY ARMED SOLDIERS AND GUARD-DOGS. THIS IS WHERE THE PRISONERS FROM CAMP NO. 34/2 ARE TAKEN BY CLOSED CARS EACH DAY. THEY KEEP MOVING FROM ONE SITE TO THE NEXT ALONG THE ROUTE WHERE THE GAS PIPELINE IS TO BE LAID.

THE FOOD IS POOR, THERE IS NO MEDICAL CARE WHATSOEVER, THE HUTS AND FREIGHT CARS ARE COLD, DRUNKENNESS IS COMMON AMONG THE WORKERS. IT ALSO HAPPENS THAT MINIMUM-SECURITY PRISONERS ARE SENTENCED AGAIN, SENT BACK TO THE PRISON CAMPS, AND HAVE TO WORK BEHIND BARBED-WIRE FROM THEN ON.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE TYUMENLAG COMPLEX CONSISTS OF FOURTEEN CAMPS, LOCATED IN NIZHNAYA TAVDA, USSETSK, YALUTOROVSK, ZAVODOUKOVSK IMPIM, MALITSA, TOBOLSK (2) AND TYUMEN (2).

THE HARDEST JOBS SUCH AS EXCAVATION OF TRENCHES, LAYING OF RAILROAD TRACKS, MIXING OF CONCRETE, AND CONSTRUCTION OF RAILINGS FOR SCAFFOLDING ARE DONE NOT ONLY BY MEN, BUT ALSO BY DEPORTED WOMEN AND MINORS FROM REFORMATORIES.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, MORE THAN 100,000 FORCED LABORERS ARE ASSIGNED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GAS PIPELINE FOR

EUROPE IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES. THEIR WORK INCLUDES MANUFACTURE OF WORK CLOTHES--THIS IS ONE BY FEMALE PRISONERS OR INMATES OF PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF WORK CLOTHES; FOR INSTANCE, PROTECTIVE GLOVES ARE ISSUED ONLY EVERY SIX MONTHS. THE WORKERS WRAP RAGS AROUND THEIR HAND, BUT INJURIES AND ECZEMA ARE A FREQUENT OCCURRENCE AMONG THE WORKERS HANDLING BARBED WIRE, CONCRETE, GLASS WOOL, OR ASBESTOS. ACCIDENTS ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY, BUT WHEN PEOPLE CALL THE EMERGENCY STATION THE MEDICS WANT TO KNOW FIRST WHETHER THE INJURED PERSON IS A VOLUNTEER OR A ZEK (THAT IS WHAT THEY CALL THE CAMP POPULATION, I.E., MINIMUM-SECURITY PRISONERS AND DEPORTEES). IF THE INJURED PERSON IS A ZEK, THE MEDICS USUALLY TAKE THEIR TIME ARRIVING."

C POSTS SHOULD ALSO DRAW UPON, AND MAKE AVAILABLE TO APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT OF 9/22/82 ON FORCED LABOR ISSUE. TEXT FOLLOWS:

7. U: PRESS STATEMENT

FORCED LABOR IN USSR

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U, WE HAVE RECEIVED A GROWING NUMBER OF REPORTS THAT THE USSR HAS USED A LARGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS -- INCLUDING THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS -- TO WORK ON MASSIVE LABOR PROJECTS. ACCORDING TO AT LEAST ONE SUCH REPORT, FOR EXAMPLE, AT LEAST 100,000 SUCH FORCED LABORERS ARE BEING USED ON THE HEAVY INFRASTRUCTURE WORK OF CLEARING SWAMPS, CUTTING TIMBER AND BUILDING ACCESS ROADS FOR THE BAMAL GAS PIPELINE. THESE FORCED LABORERS REPORTEDLY INCLUDE RELIGIOUS DISSIDENTS AND OTHER PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE.

U THESE REPORTS HAVE COME FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS, IN EUROPE, ASIA AND THE US. THE SOURCES INCLUDE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS; LABOR ORGANIZATIONS; LABORERS WHO HAVE MANAGED TO EMIGRATE FROM THE SOVIET UNION AFTER WORKING UNDER THESE CONDITIONS; AND LETTERS REACHING ASIA AND THE WEST FROM THE USSR.

U, WE ARE NOT CLAIMING TO HAVE EVIDENCE RESEMBLING A "SMOKING GUN." GIVEN THE CLOSED NATURE OF SOVIET SOCIETY AND THE OFFICIAL CONTROL OF THE SOVIET MEDIA, MOREOVER, THERE MAY NEVER BE A "SMOKING GUN." BUT THE INFORMATION BEING RELEASED BY THIS WIDE RANGE OF KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS SPANNING THREE CONTINENTS, SOME WITH FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE OF THESE LABOR CONDITIONS, GOES INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL AND DESERVES SERIOUS EXAMINATION.

U, RELIABLE ESTIMATES PLACE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FORCED LABORERS IN THE SOVIET UNION TODAY AT APPROXIMATELY FOUR MILLION. FURTHER, IT IS WELL ESTABLISHED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS A HISTORY OF USING FORCED LABOR ON A MASS SCALE -- INCLUDING POLITICAL PRISONERS -- ON MAJOR PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY IN SIBERIA -- WHERE THE OFFICIAL PRESS HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE SOVIET WORKERS TO GO THERE VOLUNTARILY. TO CITE ONLY TWO

EXAMPLES, SOME 250,000 FORCED LABORERS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE PERISHED DURING THE 1930'S WHILE WORKING ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BIELOMORSK CANAL. AND IN THE 1970'S THOUSANDS OF FORCED LABORERS WERE REPORTED TO BE BUILDING THE BAIKAL-AMUR RAILWAY EXTENSION IN SOUTHEASTERN SIBERIA.

C, AS REGARDS FOREIGN LABORERS, THE OFFICIAL SOVIET MEDIA ITSELF HAS ADMITTED THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND VIETNAMESE AND OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN LABORERS HAVE BEEN IMPORTED INTO THE USSR AND HAS INTIMATED THAT MANY THOUSANDS MORE ARE LIKELY TO BE IMPORTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. INFORMATION ON THE NATURE OF THIS PROGRAM IS FRAGMENTARY. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THE VIETNAMESE LABORERS ARE WORKING ON THE SIBERIAN PIPELINE. BUT WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT INDICATIONS THAT VIETNAMESE MAY BE COERCED INTO WORKING IN THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE AND THAT A PORTION OF THE SALARY PAID TO THEM MIGHT BE DEDUCTED TO OFFSET VIETNAM'S DEBTS TO THE HOST COUNTRY. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE PLACING LIMITATIONS ON THE ABILITY OF THESE WORKERS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OUTSIDE THE USSR. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO THIS SITUATION, GIVEN THE OBVIOUS POSSIBILITY OF EXPLOITATION OF THESE WORKERS.

U, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO ESTABLISHING THE TRUTH ABOUT THESE VERY SERIOUS CHARGES BY PERMITTING AN OBJECTIVE EXAMINATION OF LABOR CONDITIONS ON ITS VARIOUS SIBERIAN PROJECTS AND THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH SOVIET POLITICAL PRISONERS LIVE AND WORK. WE WOULD WELCOME SUCH AN INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION, BUT THE PROSPECTS FOR OBTAINING THIS ARE PROBABLY NOT BRIGHT. FOR EXAMPLE, CHARGES OF USE OF FORCED LABOR HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE PAST AGAINST THE USSR IN THE

INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO). HOWEVER, THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO ALLOW AN ILO MISSION TO VISIT THE USSR TO INVESTIGATE THESE CHARGES.

U, BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THESE CHARGES, AND THE MASSIVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHICH THEY IMPLY, WE BELIEVE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO INVESTIGATE THEM. THE USG, FOR ITS PART, IS THOROUGHLY EXAMINING THE INFORMATION BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THIS ISSUE, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT SEVERAL OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE INDICATED SIMILAR INTENTIONS. AS OUR EXAMINATION PROCEEDS, WE WILL, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, MAKE OUR FINDINGS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. WE HOPE THAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS WILL DO THE SAME. SHULTZ

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97TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 449

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to human rights violations in connection with the construction of the trans-Siberian pipeline.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 17, 1982

Mr. ARMSTRONG submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to human rights violations in connection with the construction of the trans-Siberian pipeline.

Whereas the Soviet Union is proceeding with its plan to build the trans-Siberian pipeline, known as the Yamal pipeline;

Whereas there is Senate testimony that massive use of forced labor may be used by the Soviet Union to complete its construction;

Whereas there are first-hand dissident reports that there are four to seventeen million Soviet citizens now being held in some two thousand work camps in the Soviet Union and that there are persistent published reports of agreements to deport forcibly up to a half-million laborers from Vietnam to Soviet Union concentration camps in direct violation of international agreements;

Whereas the Vietnamese Government under the 1973 Paris Peace Agreements which were signed by former Secretary of State Rogers and North Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh guaranteed freedom of residence and freedom of work;

Whereas there is concern that political prisoners from Poland and other Soviet satellite countries may also be forced to work on the Yamal pipeline;

Whereas there have been estimates by Soviet dissidents of enormous loss of lives of workers forced to do the heavy, dirty, dangerous work in Soviet labor camps under subhuman conditions;

Whereas if allegations of forced labor prove to be true, the participation of the West in furnishing either technology or financing to make the construction of the pipeline possible is tantamount to unwitting collaboration by the West in one of the most massive abuses of human rights in history;

Whereas the United States stands, as it has always stood, in the forefront of the struggle for freedom and dignity of every human being: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) the Secretary of State should—

3 (A) investigate the extent to which forced
4 labor will be employed and human rights violated
5 in the construction of the trans-Siberian pipeline
6 and to cooperate with other Western nations
7 which also seek to investigate such violations; and

1 (B) report back to the Congress within thirty
2 days with his preliminary findings and with a final
3 report by January 1, 1983;

4 (2) the heads of the appropriate Federal agencies
5 should take the steps necessary to assure that the
6 United States is abiding by existing treaties respecting
7 the importation of goods produced with slave labor.

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R219R 10-21BYLZQTIYC
AM-PIPELINE-VIETNAMESE

MOSCOW, OCT 13, REUTER -- A MOSCOW GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL SAID TODAY THAT 11,000 VIETNAMESE WERE WORKING IN THE SOVIET UNION BUT DENIED THAT ANY OF THEM WAS INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION OF THE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FROM SIBERIA TO WESTERN EUROPE.

VLADIMIR LOMONOSOV, CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR LABOR AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS, WAS QUOTED BY TASS NEWS AGENCY AS SAYING THAT NOT A SINGLE VIETNAMESE WAS WORKING ON THE PIPELINE PROJECT.

U.S. AND WESTERN EUROPEAN OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THEY WERE LOOKING INTO CHARGES THAT SOVIET PRISONERS WERE BUILDING PARTS OF THE PIPELINE. SOME WESTERN NEWS MEDIA HAVE SAID THAT VIETNAMESE WORKERS ALSO HAVE BEEN DRAFTED IN.

LOMONOSOV SAID THE VIETNAMESE ALL WERE WORKING IN SOUTHERN AREAS OF THE SOVIET UNION WHERE THE CLIMATE WAS MOST LIKE THEIR OWN. BUT THE FIGURES HE GAVE DIFFERED FROM A REPORT IN THE GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER IZVESTIA LAST MAY.

IZVESTIA, RESPONDING TO EARLIER REPORTS OF VIETNAMESE WORKING IN SIBERIA, SAID THERE WERE 7,000 OF THEM IN THE SOVIET UNION.

REUTER 1525 AL

R220R 13825BYLBYLC7C

AM-PIPELINE (2 TAKES)

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

BONN, OCT 13, REUTER -- SOVIET DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LEONID KOSTANDOV PLEDGED TODAY THAT MOSCOW WOULD START TO DELIVER NATURAL GAS THROUGH THE SIBERIA-WESTERN EUROPE PIPELINE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, DESPITE U.S. MOVES TO DELAY IT.

"THE GAS WILL BE DELIVERED SOONER THAN PLANNED," HE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE IN BONN.

THE PIPELINE IS DUE TO BECOME OPERATIONAL IN 1984.

WASHINGTON HAS IMPOSED SANCTIONS ON U.S. AND WESTERN EUROPEAN FIRMS SUPPLYING TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PIPELINE, IN ORDER TO SLOW DOWN THE PROJECT, CAUSING A TRANSATLANTIC ROW.

KOSTANDOV WAS SPEAKING AFTER SIGNING A TRADE PROTOCOL WITH WEST GERMAN ECONOMICS MINISTER OTTO LANBSDORFF AT THE END OF A TWO-DAY SESSION OF THE SOVIET-WEST GERMAN COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION.

- A JOINT COMMUNIQUE REAFFIRMED BOTH SIDES' SUPPORT FOR COMPLETION OF THE PIPELINE, AND CALLED FOR THE EXPANSION OF ALREADY EXTENSIVE BILATERAL TRADE, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON COOPERATION IN ENERGY AND ENGINEERING AND IN BROADENING THE RANGE OF SOVIET MANUFACTURED GOODS SOLD TO WEST GERMANY.

MORE 1402 AL

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PIPELINE 48

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TAGS: EEC, EP, PEPR, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS CANNOT CONFIRM USE OF SLAVE
LABOR IN BUILDING SIBERIAN GAS PIPELINE

1. SUMMARY. DURING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S OCTOBER 13
PLENARY IN STRASBOURG, DANISH MINISTER ELLEMANN-JENSEN
SAID THE EC-10 WERE AWARE OF CURRENT RUMORS THAT SOVIET
AUTHORITIES WERE USING PRISON LABOR TO BUILD THE
SIBERIAN GAS PIPELINE, BUT HE DECLINED TO SPECULATE
ON WHAT EC WOULD DO IF THE RUMORS WERE SUBSTANTIATED.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN STRASBOURG DURING EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT QUESTION
TIME ON OCTOBER 13 EURO-MP GERARD ISRAEL (FRENCH
GAULLIST) ASKED CURRENT EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND DANISH
FOREIGN MINISTER ELLEMANN-JENSEN WHETHER THE TEN
WERE AWARE OF RUMORS CIRCULATING THAT PRISON LABOR,
SOME OF WHICH MIGHT BE POLITICAL PRISONERS, WERE BEING
USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SIBERIAN GAS PIPELINE.

3. ELLEMANN-JENSEN REPLIED THAT WHILE THE EC-10 FORMERS
HAD DISCUSSED THE REPORTS THEY DID NOT KNOW WHETHER
THEY WERE TRUE. THE MATTER WAS NATURALLY A SUBJECT OF
CONCERN AND ALL MEMBER STATES WERE COMMITTED TO WORK
IN THE MADRID CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE AND IN OTHER
FORA FOR FULL COMPLIANCE WITH ALL PROVISIONS OF THE
HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

4. ELLEMANN-JENSEN DECLINED TO ANSWER AS HYPOTHETICAL
A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION ON WHAT ACTION THE TEN FOREIGN
MINISTERS MIGHT CONSIDER SHOULD THE RUMORS OF PRISON LABOR
BE CONFIRMED. BARRACLOUGH
BT

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*EUR-106 (10/25/82)

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(EXCERPTS) REPORTS ON SOVIET USE OF FORCED LABOR
EYEWITNESSES CITE SYSTEMATIC RIGHTS VIOLATIONS (2,500)

*

RECENT REPORTS THAT THE KREMLIN IS USING DOMESTIC AND IMPORTED
FORCED LABOR IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS --
INCLUDING THE YAMAL NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FROM SIBERIA TO WESTERN EUROPE
-- HAVE ADDED TO THE CONCERN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ABOUT
SYSTEMATIC SOVIET VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE
HELSINKI ACCORDS.

EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT NOT ONLY CRIMINAL INMATES OF SOVIET PENAL
CAMPS, BUT ALSO THOUSANDS OF SOVIET PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE -- BOTH
POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS DETAINEES --
AND VIETNAMESE LABORERS IN THE USSR ARE PERFORMING MANDATORY LABOR.

ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, SOVIET PRISONERS WORK IN SUB-ZERO
TEMPERATURES AND HAZARDOUS, UNSANITARY CONDITIONS WITHOUT ADEQUATE
CLOTHING, FOOD OR MEDICAL CARE.

DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET INFRINGEMENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS
BEING MONITORED, COMPILED AND RELEASED BY INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS
IN EUROPE, ASIA AND THE UNITED STATES. THE ISSUE OF FORCED LABOR IN
THE USSR HAS BEEN PUBLICLY RAISED BY HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS SUCH AS THE
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN FRANKFURT AND THE
INTERNATIONAL SAKHAROV COMMITTEE IN COPENHAGEN, AND BY LABOR BODIES

(MORE)

SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) IN BRUSSELS AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO) IN GENEVA.

"BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THESE CHARGES, AND THE MASSIVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHICH THEY IMPLY," THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT SAID SEPTEMBER 22 THAT "WE BELIEVE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO INVESTIGATE THEM. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, FOR ITS PART, IS THOROUGHLY EXAMINING THE INFORMATION BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THIS ISSUE...."

THE U.S. SENATE, MOREOVER, HELD A HEARING ON THE "HUMAN RIGHTS CONSEQUENCES" OF THE PROPOSED TRANS-SIBERIAN PIPELINE. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A SEPTEMBER 24 SENATE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A STATE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS USING CONSCRIPT LABOR AND ABUSING HUMAN RIGHTS TO BUILD THE YAMAL PIPELINE.

THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OBJECTIVE ON-SITE INSPECTION OF LABOR CONDITIONS IN THE USSR IS REMOTE, CONSIDERING MOSCOW'S RECORD OF REJECTING ALL SIMILAR ILO REQUESTS. IN ADDITION, INTERVIEWING MORE WITNESSES IS SCARCELY FEASIBLE NOW THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE INTENSIFIED THEIR REPRESSION AND INTIMIDATION OF ALL DISSIDENTS -- INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS SOVIET GROUPS SET UP TO MONITOR OFFICIAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT RUSSIAN LABOR UNION (SMOT).

IN AN EFFORT TO HALT THE FLOW OF INFORMATION OUT OF THE SOVIET UNION, MOSCOW HAS SEVERELY RESTRICTED TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD, AND HAS INCREASED HARASSMENT OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. ALSO, THE TRICKLE OF SOVIET EMIGRANTS HAS BEEN STEMMED.

IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT LARGE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN THE SOVIET UNION

(MORE)

CONSCRIPT LABOR SINCE THE 1920'S. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PRISONERS HAVE WORKED AND DIED IN CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY AND MINING IN AREAS TOO INHOSPITABLE TO ATTRACT THE LABOR OF FREE WORKERS. THE BELOMOR CANAL IN THE EARLY 1930'S AND THE BAIKAL-AMUR RAILROAD IN THE 1970'S ARE ONLY TWO EXAMPLES FROM A LONG LIST OF SOVIET PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTED BY GULAG LABOR.

IT IS, THEREFORE, DIFFICULT TO IGNORE THE CUMULATIVE WEIGHT, PERSISTENCE AND PLAUSIBILITY OF TESTIMONY THAT THE SOVIET UNION CURRENTLY USES FORCED LABOR -- A STANDARD PRACTICE SINCE THE DAYS OF LENIN.

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM TESTIMONY THAT IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN:
(BEGIN EXCERPTS)

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(MIKHAIL MAKARENKO -- SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, ARRESTED 1968 AND SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS FORCED LABOR; LEFT USSR 1978. TESTIMONY BEFORE U.S. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL FINANCE AND MONETARY POLICY, JUNE 18, 1982)

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"THE AIM OF HAVING THESE CAMPS IN THE SOVIET UNION BY THE SOVIET REGIME IS NOT ONLY TO HAVE FREE LABOR BY SLAVES. THE FIRST AND FOREMOST AIM IS TO COMPLETELY DO AWAY WITH THOSE WHO THINK DIFFERENTLY....

"...AFTER KHRUSHCHEV THE CAMPS STARTED GROWING AND MORE OF THEM WERE AROUND. I WITNESSED THAT MYSELF WHEN I WAS ONE OF THE INMATES.

"AND THE SECOND ELEMENT I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO IS THE DEATH RATE IN THE CAMPS, NOT ONLY FROM LACK OF PROPER FOOD BUT LACK

(MORE)

OF SAFETY IN WORK, BECAUSE THEY ARE POORLY DRESSED. I HAVE BROUGHT EXAMPLES OF CLOTHING, WHICH IS THE SAME IN THE SUMMER AND THE WINTERTIME. AND THIS IS THE MAIN MEANS BY WHICH THE REGIME ANNIHILATES THESE PEOPLE....

"THESE PEOPLE ARE SUPPOSED TO FULFILL A NORM...THEY RECEIVE FOOD LIKE THAT WHICH WAS GIVEN TO THOSE WORKING IN THE AUSCHWITZ CAMP BY THE NAZIS.

"AS LONG AS I WOULD REFUSE TO WORK FOR THE COMMUNISTS, I WAS RECEIVING ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF WHAT THE PRISONERS WERE GETTING IN BUCHENWALD AND AUSCHWITZ...."

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(MIKHAIL MAKARENKO INTERVIEW IN "THE WASHINGTON TIMES,"
MAY 19, 1982)

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"QUESTION: WHAT KIND OF LABOR WILL THE SOVIETS EMPLOY IF THIS PROPOSED NATURAL-GAS PIPELINE FROM SIBERIA TO WESTERN EUROPE PROCEEDS?

MAKARENKO: PRIMARILY PRISONER LABOR; THEY WILL BE THE ONES WHO WILL CLEAR THE FORESTS, BUILD THE ROADS AND THE FIRST LIVING QUARTERS FOR THE MORE SKILLED SPECIALISTS WHO WILL PUT THE PIPELINE IN PLACE....

Q: WILL THIS PRISON LABOR BE POLITICAL PRISONERS OR ORDINARY CRIMINALS?

A: ALL PRISONERS WILL BE PUT TO WORK ON THE PROJECT....
TODAY IN THE SOVIET UNION YOU HAVE 2,000 CAMP AND PRISONS; 150 CAMPS ARE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE ALONE. HUNDREDS OF OTHER CAMPS ARE FOR CHILDREN FROM 11 TO 18 YEARS OF AGE, AND MANY OF THESE PRISONERS IN THE CAMPS WILL BE WORKING ON THE PIPELINE....

(MORE)

Q: THIS PIPELINE PROJECT IS A HUGE UNDERTAKING. IN TERMS OF NUMBERS, HOW MANY WORKERS WILL THE SOVIETS REQUIRE?

A: IT WILL REQUIRE ENORMOUS QUANTITIES OF FORCED PRISON LABOR. I DON'T HAVE AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE, BUT SEVERAL YEARS AGO A RAILROAD PROJECT OF SIMILAR SIZE WAS COMPLETED. ON ONE SECTION ALONE, IT TOOK AN ENTIRE DIVISION OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY FORCES TO GUARD 200,000 PRISONERS. BUT WHATEVER NUMBERS THE SOVIETS NEED FOR THE PIPELINE, THEY WILL GET THEM."

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(JULIA VOSNESSENSKAYA -- SERVED TWO YEARS IN LABOR CAMP FOR BELONGING TO AN INDEPENDENT SOVIET WRITERS' MOVEMENT AND THEN FORCED TO EMIGRATE IN 1980. STATEMENT SIGNED IN WEST GERMANY, AUGUST 1982, AND RELEASED IN REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (ISHR), "THE USE OF FORCED LABOR ON THE SIBERIAN GAS PIPELINE: DOCUMENTATION," FRANKFURT, AUGUST 1982)

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"THE TOWN OF KUNGUR LIES ON THE ROUTE OF THE PIPELINE, AND THERE IS A PRISON CAMP FOR WOMEN NEAR THERE. THE CAMP IS DESIGNED FOR 800 BUT NORMALLY UPWARDS OF 2,000 WOMEN LIVE THERE. THERE IS A FACTORY PRODUCING WORK CLOTHES IN THE CAMP, WHOSE PRODUCT IS DESTINED FOR THE NEARBY CONSTRUCTION SITES AND THE WORKERS THERE....

"I MYSELF HAVE BEEN IN TWO PRISON CAMPS, AND HAVE GATHERED INFORMATION FROM DOZENS OF SUCH CAMPS.

"IN NO CAMP DO THE WOMEN WORK LESS THAN 12 HOURS A DAY, AND DO SO ON A DIET BETTER FITTED FOR A TWO-YEAR-OLD CHILD THAN AN ADULT. THE WOMEN CONSIDER IT A GREAT MISFORTUNE TO BE SITUATED NEAR A 'GREAT

(MORE)

ECONOMIC PROJECT' (OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE), FOR IN RUSSIA THINGS ARE BUILT THE WAY THE PYRAMIDS WERE: NOT SO MUCH WITH KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY BUT WITH HORDES OF SLAVES....

"CAMPS WITH CLOTHING FACTORIES ARE ALWAYS OVERFILLED AS A CONSEQUENCE. THERE ARE TOO FEW BEDS. WOMEN SLEEP ON THE FLOOR, UNDER THE BUNKS. THEY LIVE IN TENTS PITCHED BETWEEN THE BARRACKS. FACTORIES EVEN HAVE SEWING MACHINES SET UP IN THE CORRIDORS WHICH ARE NEVER SWITCHED OFF. THE NEXT SHIFT IS ALWAYS STANDING READY."

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(JULIA VOSNESSKAYA INTERVIEW IN THE DANISH "JYLLANDSPOSTEN," SEPTEMBER 5, 1982)

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"THE WEST IS AN ACCESSORY TO BREACHES OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY SIGNING THE GAS AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION. I HAVE SEEN THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF PRISONERS AND SLAVE LABORERS AT WORK ON THE GAS PIPELINE FROM SIBERIA TO WESTERN EUROPE. I WAS ONE OF THEM."

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(AVRAHAM SHIFRIN -- SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR POLITICAL REASONS 1953, SENTENCE COMMUTED TO 25 YEARS IN LABOR CAMP; SERVED TEN YEARS IN CAMP AND FOUR IN INTERNAL EXILE BEFORE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE. STATEMENT SIGNED IN ISRAEL, AUGUST 1982, IN REPORT OF ISHR, FRANKFURT, AUGUST, 1982)

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"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT FORCED LABOR IS USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SIBERIAN GAS PIPELINE. THIS WAS ALREADY THE CASE IN OTHER LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. BESIDES, IT IS OTHERWISE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND

(MORE)

SUFFICIENT WORKERS IN AREAS WITH UNPLEASANT CLIMATIC CONDITIONS, UNLESS THEY ARE OFFERED SPECIAL INCENTIVES, SUCH AS ABOVE AVERAGE WAGES....

"...PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE ARE FOUND IN EACH CAMP DESTINED PURELY FOR COMMON CRIMINALS. THESE PRISONERS ARE MOSTLY MEMBERS OF VARIOUS NATIONAL MINORITIES, CHRISTIANS OR THEY ARE SIMPLY SEEKING PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE."

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(TELEPHONE ACCOUNT FROM MR. P.S., MOSCOW, JULY 1982, IN REPORT OF ISHR, FRANKFURT, AUGUST, 1982)

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"BECAUSE OF MY CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT I WAS RELEASED FROM MY POSITION AT THE INSTITUTE OF MINING IN MOSCOW. NO ONE IN THE ENTIRE CITY WAS PREPARED TO EMPLOY ME. THE KGB MAN SAID TO ME: 'YOU CAN ALWAYS VOLUNTEER TO WORK ON THE PIPELINE, BEFORE WE SEND YOU THERE ANYWAY....'

"SO I TRAVELLED TO TYUMEN, WHERE I WAS TOLD TO REGISTER AS AN ELECTRICIAN AT THE DISTRIBUTOR STATION AT URENGOY....
ON MY FIRST DAY AT WORK I WAS OFFICIALLY INFORMED THAT CAMP INMATES WERE ALSO AT WORK ON THE PIPELINE....

"IN THOSE ELEVEN MONTHS I WITNESSED MANY FATAL ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY EXPLODING GAS OR TOXIC FUMES. DURING THE SUMMER, CONCRETE WAS DELIVERED IN OPEN LORRIES. IT OFTEN BECAME SO HARD EN ROUTE THAT THE PRISONERS RECEIVED LACERATED HANDS AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO REMOVE IT. EVEN THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT FROM ABROAD WAS UNLOADED BY UNAIDED PRISONERS....

"POOR SERVICING LED TO MANY BREAKDOWNS AND THE PRISONERS WERE MADE,

(MORE)

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WITH INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, TO PUT THE DAMAGE RIGHT. THEY HAD TO MOVE THE HEAVY PIPES. IT OFTEN HAPPENED THAT WEAK ROPES BROKE AND KILLED SOMEONE. I OFTEN TRIED TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE TRADE UNION BUT ALWAYS RECEIVED THE ANSWER THAT: 'YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL SORRY FOR THEM -- THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED LONG AGO.'...

"THE WORST SIGHT TO BEAR WAS THAT OF THE MANY FEMALE PRISONERS, WHO WERE OBLIGED TO PERFORM THE SAME WORK AS THE MEN. EVERY EVENING THEY RETURNED FILTHY AND SOAKED TO THEIR BARRACKS, AND HAD NO CHANCE TO CHANGE OR WASH THEIR CLOTHES...."

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(DOAN VAN TOAI -- FORMER OFFICIAL OF THE COMMUNIST NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND AFTER FALL OF SAIGON SERVED BRIEFLY IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF NEW COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT. TESTIMONY BEFORE U.S. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE, JUNE 18, 1982)

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"THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS.... TODAY THEY EXPORT LARGE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE WORKERS TO SIBERIA....

"THE INITIAL NEWS OF THIS DEPORTATION WAS FIRST REPORTED IN THE LONDON ECONOMIST MAGAZINE ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1981, AND IT WAS THEN REPEATED BY THE FRENCH MASS MEDIA. THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT THE HANOI AUTHORITIES HAVING EXPORTED 500,000 VIETNAMESE WORKERS TO THE SOVIET UNION -- ALL OF WHOM WERE BETWEEN 17 AND 35 YEARS OF AGE.... THIS INFORMATION ALSO SAID THAT 60 PERCENT OF THEIR SALARIES WOULD PAY OFF HANOI'S DEBTS TO MOSCOW, THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE 20 PERCENT AND THE WORKERS WOULD RECEIVE ONLY THE REMAINING 20 PERCENT....

(MORE)

"I CAN GIVE YOU A SHORT LIST OF NINE VIETNAMESE WHO ARE FORCED TO GO AND WORK AS SLAVES IN SIBERIA TO HELP CONSTRUCT THE GAS PIPELINE. THESE NINE VICTIMS ARE PEOPLE I RECENTLY MET THROUGH MY FRIENDS AND THEIR RELATIVES STILL LIVING IN VIETNAM....

"LOOKING AT THE BACKGROUND OF THE VICTIMS, AND THEIR LETTERS TO THEIR RELATIVES, IT BECOMES OBVIOUS THEY ARE BEING FORCED TO GO TO WORK IN THE SOVIET UNION, AND ALSO IT IS CLEAR THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO DO NOT LIKE THE REGIME OR THE REGIME DOES NOT LIKE THEM. HANOI IS, IN FACT, USING ONE STONE TO KILL TWO BIRDS: IT SAVES ITSELF THE COST OF FEEDING HALF A MILLION MOUTHS AND IT ELIMINATES THE OPPOSITION AND THE DANGEROUS ELEMENTS AT HOME. AT THE SAME TIME, IT ASSISTS IN THE BUILDING OF A STRATEGIC PROJECT FOR THE SOVIET UNION...."

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(LE THI ANH -- WRITER, SCHOLAR AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST; CURRENTLY DIRECTOR OF THE VIETNAMESE INFORMATION BUREAU, WASHINGTON, D.C. TESTIMONY BEFORE U.S. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE, JUNE 18, 1982)

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"THE SOVIET UNION'S CHRONIC MANPOWER SHORTAGE AND RELIANCE ON FOREIGN WORKERS COMBINED WITH VIETNAM'S HUGE DEBT TO THE USSR AND SHORTAGE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE, ITS CONTINUING DEPENDENCY UPON SOVIET AID TO CONTINUE HER OCCUPATION OF CAMBODIA...ALL MAKE THE EXPORT OF VIETNAMESE LABORERS TO THE SOVIET BLOC NOT ONLY MANDATORY BUT THE MOST LOGICAL ARRANGEMENT FOR BOTH COUNTRIES....

"...FAMILIES IN VIETNAM RECEIVE LETTERS FROM THEIR RELATIVES WORKING IN SIBERIA. THAT IS THE PLACE WHERE THERE IS A GREAT DEMAND OF

(MORE)

MANPOWER BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENT OF OIL AND GAS FIELDS -- AND WHERE THE GAS PIPELINE IS BEING CONSTRUCTED....

"WHAT ALARMS THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN THE NEW PROGRAM IS THE HUGE NUMBER: 500,000 WORKERS WILL BE SENT IN FIVE YEARS, AND REPORTS OF THE USE OF CONCENTRATION CAMP MANPOWER AND ALL OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OF SLAVE LABOR IN FROZEN SIBERIA....

"RECENT INFORMATION GATHERED FROM VIETNAM, THAILAND AND CHINA ON THE SUBJECT OF LABOR EXPORT TO WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES REVEALS THAT AN ESTIMATED 16,000 PERSONS HAVE BEEN FORCIBLY SENT TO THE SOVIET BLOC SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW PROGRAM IN THE FALL OF 1981.... THE TOTAL FOR THE FIRST TRIMESTER OF 1982 (IS) CLOSE TO 6,600 PERSONS...."

(END EXCERPTS)

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Item ET

(END)