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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.

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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

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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

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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-Mansiiskii. 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 Sochvlag near Medveshnye, Salechard nearby and 36 camps in the area of Syktyvkar in Mikun. There are also camps in Ust-Ussa, Workuta and Kotlas between Vuktyl and Salechard, 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).

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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

railway

railway

crane

barbed wire fence

water

SCETCH

the camp JaZ-34/2

(Tyumen)

scale: 1mm - 4,2m

North

South

- barracks
- washroom
- laundry

storage magazine

work zone

factory

factory

factory

work zone

living zone

gate to factory

penalty block

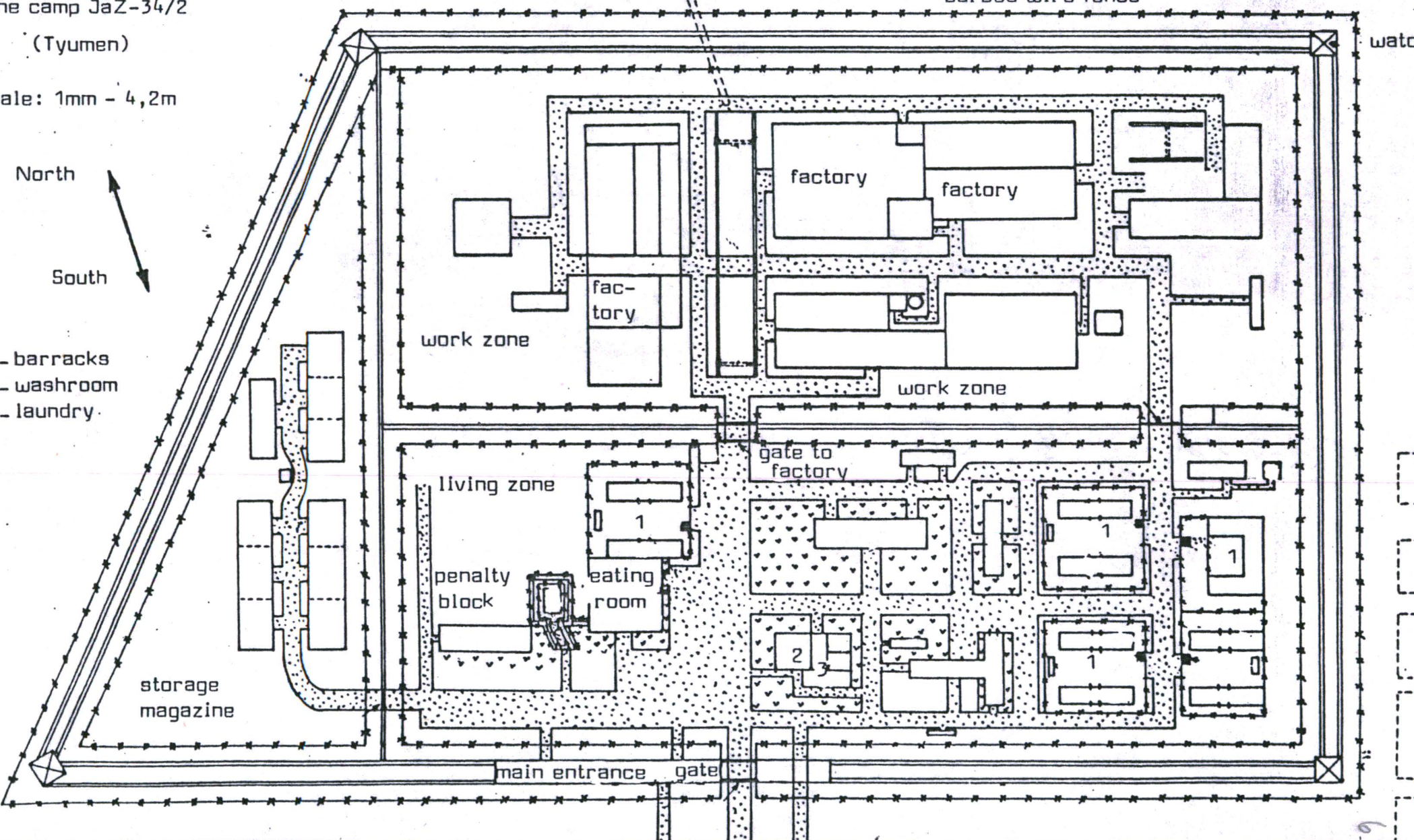
eating room

main entrance gate

street

to Tyumen

the village



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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

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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 ever 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

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 great 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 on 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,

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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.

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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).

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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.

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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 naivité. 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.

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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.

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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 unjustly 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.

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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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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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Mr. Helmut Schmidt
Konrad-Adenauer-Allee
D-5300 Bonn

Kaiserstr. 72
D-6000 Frankfurt/Main 1
Tel. 06 11-236971/72

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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 IGMF, 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
Generalfederalanwalt a. D.
Prof. Andrej Sacharow,
Friedensnobelpreisträger, UdSSR
Ehrenpräsidium:
Ludmila Alexeieva, USA
Prof. Dr. Urs von Balthasar, Schweiz
Prof. Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, Polen
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Bundeskanzler a. D. Prof. Dr. Ludwig Erhard 1
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Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Lohkowitz

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Prof. Laszlo Révész, Schweiz
Prof. Dr. Gotthold Rhode
Dr. Peter Sager, Schweiz
Vladimir Skutina, Schweiz
Niklas Frhr. von Schrenck-Notzing
Dr. Josef Stimpfle, Bischof von Augsburg
Werenfried van Straaten o. praem.
Raymond Marie Tchidimbo, Erzbischof/Vatikan

Vorstand des Vereins:

Vorsitzender:
Dr. med. Reinhard Gnauck
Geschäftsf. Vorsitzender: I. I. Agrusow
Schatzmeister: Leonid Müller
Sprecher des Vorstandes:
Jörn Ziegler
Beisitzer:
Katrin Bommüller, Wittlich
Hans-Jürgen Caspar, 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!

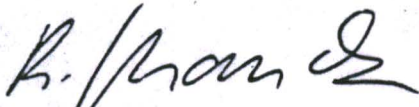
Therefore, we request the Federal Government to cancel the gas-pipe deal with the Soviet Union out of solidarity with the suppressed people in that country.

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

Daily Telegraph,
14.8.1982

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

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 eingeschaufelt 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 Polithäftlinge 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.

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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

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 Ysya, the statement said.

In the camps, prisoners are accommodated

in camps un suitable 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 Prizewinner 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." ■

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 a 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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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-Addresses for further information:

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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

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address 12 a Golden Square, London W 1 R 3 AF - Tel. 01-439 8719
for contacts

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

FRANKFURT (AP) — The Soviets use about 100,000 persons, at least 100 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.

The pipeline is a giant gas for hard currency deal, grossly opposed by President Reagan. 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 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 Irkutsk, Tavadra, Tyumen, Irbit and Ufa, the statement said.

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

The forced labor was made up of about 100 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 is finished, were Western journalists allowed in to inspect the construction sites, 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 byggandet 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

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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Washington, D.C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

THE SOVIET FORCED LABOR SYSTEM

SUMMARY

Forced labor is at the core of the Soviet penal system and we currently estimate that it encompasses some 4 million Soviet citizens in its ranks, at least half of whom are incarcerated in over a thousand heavily-secured forced labor camps scattered throughout the USSR. Most of the remainder are parolees and probationers--unconfined in the strictest sense, but forced to work, usually at construction projects far from their homes. Recent trends indicate an increase in unconfined forced laborers while the number of confined prisoners remains about the same as during the last decade. (U)

Unconfined forced laborers are sentenced (in the case of probationers) or are released (parolees) to perform mostly low skill labor on large construction projects, often in remote regions where labor is scarce and incentives for attracting and keeping free laborers are expensive. Thousands of these unconfined forced laborers, for example, were used on construction of the huge Kama River truck plant (the world's largest) and the Baykal-Amur Mainline (BAM) railroad. Recent evidence--including reports from the International Society for Human Rights--confirms the present use of parolees and probationers on large domestic pipelines, in particular for construction of compressor stations. (U)

Because of the use of forced laborers in the past and because of current labor shortages in the USSR, it is likely that forced laborers will be used on almost any large construction project in the USSR, including pipelines such as the West Siberia-to-Europe natural gas export line. In addition, because of their widespread distribution, forced labor camps can be found near most major construction projects or pipeline routes. For example, 90 to 100 camps are close to the proposed route of the export pipeline (see Map 1). Heavily secured prisoners could be tapped for work because of their proximity, even though the problems of controlling and guarding them would be difficult and there is little historical precedent for their use. The International Society for Human Rights alleges that this is so, but we cannot independently confirm their reports. (U)

While large-scale use of forced laborers on the export pipeline is unlikely because many of the jobs require special skills, some forced labor will probably be used unless the Soviets depart from their usual practice because of the exposure the issue has received in the Western media. If historical precedent is followed, the unskilled forced laborers will be used in construction of compressor stations and auxiliary buildings--most of which are in an early stage of construction. Recent estimates by the International Society for Human Rights that 100,000 forced laborers are being used to construct the pipeline are exaggerated in view of the limited numbers of unskilled workers required for such tasks. (U)

GI M 82-10241
November 1982

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THE SOVIET FORCED LABOR SYSTEM

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1. Crime and Sentencing
2. Regimes in Effect in Correctional Labor Facilities
3. Types of Prisons
4. Eligibility for Parole

Maps

1. Soviet Union: Forced Labor Camps and Selected Pipelines
2. Soviet Union: Economic Utilization of Prisoners

Figure 1

Sketch of Typical Corrective (Forced) Labor Camp

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PREFACE

To enable observers of the Soviet Union to better assess the reports of use of forced labor in the USSR, especially reports of its use on the gas export pipeline to Western Europe, this study has been prepared on the overall system of forced labor in the Soviet Union. Various aspects of the system as outlined in Soviet official documents, such as the The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR) Criminal Code, are examined in the light the accounts by former prisoners and other emigres that have been published in Western news media about the realities of the system. The report has been prepared from a broad array of documents, scholarly studies, and other source materials relating to the subject of the Soviet penal system in general and forced labor in particular.

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THE SOVIET FORCED LABOR SYSTEM

The Soviet penal system is remarkable for its huge size and its systematic employment of labor. The labor camps so vividly described by Solzhenitsyn are only one element of a system that also includes prisons as well as a growing cadre of forced labor without confinement. The Soviets have an ideological commitment to the rehabilitative role of labor in the social adjustment of the individual, and accordingly refer to the forced labor camps as "correctional" labor colonies.*

Correctional labor colonies were first established in 1919 on the Solovetskiy Islands in the White Sea, but until Stalin assumed power the system grew rather slowly. Stalin's forced labor system reached a peak of perhaps 15 million persons in 1947. After Stalin's death liberal reforms reduced the camp population, and in 1957 P.I. Kudryavtsev, Deputy Procurator General of the Soviet Union, asserted that the number had been reduced to about 800,000 to 900,000, 1 to 2 percent politicals. Toward the end of the Khrushchev era, criminal penalties were toughened, and the camp system began to expand again. Although many of the old camps in Siberia and the Far East were abandoned, others were built closer to population centers.

In addition, an extensive system of forced labor without confinement had its inception in the early 1960s and has grown rapidly in scope since then; the number of non-confined forced laborers now more than equals the number of those confined, and it is continuing to rise. Given the worsening labor shortage in parts of the Soviet Union, this relatively efficient, flexible method of deriving some economic benefit from an increasing crime rate is

*The term forced labor camps is used in this report as a general appellation for correctional labor colonies, educational labor colonies, and correctional labor colony settlements; the specific terms will be used when particular types of facilities are being discussed.

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likely to continue to grow.

In the Soviet Union nine out of every 10 persons convicted of crimes (see Appendix 1) more serious than misdemeanors receive sentences that include forced labor. About half of these sentences also include confinement. Although approximately half of all criminals sentenced to confinement are paroled from confinement, they continue in the forced labor system until they finish their terms.

How Many Forced Laborers?

We currently estimate that some 4 million Soviet citizens--about 1.5 percent of the population--are now serving sentences of forced labor.

- About 2 million of these are confined, 85 percent in forced labor camps--of which there are over 1,100--and the remainder in prisons.
- Approximately 1.5 million, convicted of crimes for which they could have received sentences of confinement, have been sentenced instead to probation with "compulsory involvement in labor." Most of them are working at construction jobs far from their homes.
- About 500,000 have been paroled from confinement but remain obligated to perform forced labor for the remainder of their terms. Many of them also are working at construction sites.
- In addition an undetermined number are sentenced to "correctional tasks" without confinement; they are working at their own jobs for reduced pay or in more menial jobs for low pay while continuing to live at home.

Among these forced laborers are dissidents (political prisoners) whose numbers may reach as high as 10,000, the figure claimed by Sakharov and Amnesty International. A former Soviet official reports that Ministry of

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Internal Affairs (MVD) records listed 10,358 political prisoners at the beginning of 1977. Aleksandr Ginsburg, a prominent political dissident, estimated that there were 5,000 political prisoners in 1979.

Forced Labor With Confinement

The Correctional Labor Code of the RSFSR establishes four basic types of confinement facilities: correctional labor colonies, educational labor colonies (for juveniles), colony settlements, and prisons. Each type of facility is differentiated by the amount of freedom and privileges granted to the prisoners; the degree of supervision, regimentation, and restraint to which they are subjected; the difficulty of their labor; and the conditions under which they must live and work. The regimes (see Appendix 2) in effect at prisons are the most harsh; the ones in effect at correctional labor colonies and educational labor colonies somewhat less harsh; and the regime at colony settlements is the mildest in the system.

The gravity of the offender's crime and whether or not he is a recidivist determines in which of the following facilities incarceration will occur.

- Correctional labor colonies constitute the bulk of the traditional Soviet confinement system where convicts are closely guarded, supervised, and regimented. Labor colonies are enclosed by as many as six or seven fences and walls with towers on each corner manned by armed guards (Figure 1). A typical one-story wooden barracks houses a detachment of 140 to 160 prisoners divided into two sections. The legal minimum living area per prisoner (2.0 square meters in prisons; 2.5 square meters in camps) is not much larger than an American-style twin bed.

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- Educational labor colonies are correctional institutions for juvenile criminals aged 14 through 17. Inmates of educational labor colonies are usually transferred to correctional labor colonies when they reach age 18. Those who have less than two years of a sentence remaining and who seem well on the way to rehabilitation however, may be allowed to remain at the educational labor colony.
- Correctional labor colony settlements are milder forms of confinement that were introduced in 1977. Often referred to by prisoners as the "fifth regime", these colony settlements are located in areas where new industries are being built and at other construction sites. Many regular camps--especially in Kazakhstan, Siberia, the Far East, and the Far North--have associated colony settlements. Colony settlements are the least onerous facilities in the penal system and the only ones in which the sexes are not segregated. For instance, prisoners must observe a curfew and perform the labor designated for them, but they may wear ordinary clothing, and few restrictions are placed on their private behavior or their privileges.
- Soviet prisons are urban facilities, most of which have been expanded and reconstructed since Czarist times, and present the harshest confinement in the system. All major cities have at least one large prison. Major prisons number about 300 and house some 300,000 inmates at any one time. Prisons are differentiated by primary function; four types may be distinguished: penitentiaries, transit prisons, investigatory prisons and psychiatric prisons (see Appendix 3).

Payment of Prisoners

Soviet law stipulates that inmates in prisons and labor colonies are to be paid at least the minimum wage for their work. Since inmates are not

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permitted to keep money in their possession (a rule constantly abused), wages are credited to the prisoners' accounts. Theoretically, after deductions for their upkeep have been made, the balance is credited to their accounts and paid to them when they depart; however, many prisoners reportedly have no money when they are released.

Prisoners are allowed as much as 5 rubles monthly in credit at the prison or colony commissary on what are termed "food items and basic necessities." Soap, tooth powder, envelopes, postage stamps, tobacco, cigarettes, black bread, margarine, candy, jam and canned fish are typical commissary items, but reportedly many of these are frequently unavailable. There are no restrictions placed on the amount of money a prisoner may spend on books, educational supplies, and stationery. The number of letters prisoners may send and receive and the number of packages and parcels they may receive are closely regulated.

Incentives and Penalties

The Correctional Labor Code specifies incentives that "may be employed to encourage convicts' good behavior and honest attitude toward work and training." These incentives include the granting of additional privileges--perhaps permission to spend an extra couple of rubles in the commissary. More significant measures entail transfer of prison inmates to labor colonies, or transfer of inmates of labor colonies of other than special regime to colony settlements. Such transfers may not take place until at least half the sentence has been served.

The Correctional Labor Code also specifies penalties that "may be applied to convicts for violating the requirements of the regime." Not surprisingly, most of the penalties are mirror images of the incentives: a warning or reprimand, withdrawal of privileges, and transfer to harsher confinement

conditions. For major infractions, inmates of both labor camps and prisons may be put in "punitive isolation." First offenders are sentenced for as long as 15 days to a punishment isolation cell, better known as the shizo, or cooler.

Working Conditions

The RSFSR Correctional Labor Code provides guidelines on the general work conditions of prisoners, while specific conditions are established by the prison and colony administrators. Work is compulsory, and those who do not work receive a reduced food ration and no pay. Inmates are required to work eight hours per day, six days a week. Prisoners who must travel to work sites, such as those in logging or construction areas, "donate" this extra time to the state. Most camps work two shifts, from 0800 to 1700 and from 1700 to 0100.

According to many former prisoners from many different camps, violations of good safety and health practices are common throughout the system, even though the Correctional Labor Code stipulates that "convicts' work is organized so as to observe labor protection rules and industrial safety measures as established by labor law." At a sawmilling camp in Riga, for example, serious accidents were reported to occur frequently. Prisoners in this camp work without helmets, gloves, or safety goggles.

Forced Labor Without Confinement

Persons sentenced to forced labor without confinement fall in two categories: those assigned to correctional tasks without confinement, an administrative penalty that amounts to little more than a fine, and those sentenced to correctional labor without confinement. The latter comprises two

sub-categories: parolees (also known as khimiki*) and probationers with compulsory labor.

The penalty of correctional tasks without confinement is meted out to offenders whose crimes are deemed not serious enough to justify sentences of confinement. The compulsory tasks may be performed either at the offender's regular workplace or at some other nearby place so that he may continue to live at home. The offender's pay is docked as much as 20 percent, and the time spent performing correctional tasks (maximum sentence: one year) may not count towards his job seniority. The number of Soviet citizens who receive such sentences annually is difficult to estimate but could number about a half million, judging from fragmentary information.

In 1964 the Supreme Soviet of the USSR decreed that certain prisoners then under confinement could be released--in effect, paroled--from penal institutions and sent to construction sites to work out the balance of their sentences without confinement. Article 44 of the Criminal Code was amended to establish eligibility requirements for this program. Those not eligible include prisoners undergoing compulsory treatment for alcoholism, drug addiction, or venereal disease; foreign prisoners, and prisoners "who systematically or maliciously" violate the terms of their confinement. All others were eligible--those confined for the most serious offenses (intentional homicide, crimes against the state) after serving three-quarters of their time, and those serving for lesser offenses after lesser amounts of time (See Appendix 4).

*When the parole program started, most parolees were sent to construction sites of the chemical industry, which was then undergoing a major expansion. The prisoners therefore referred to the program as khimiya--chemistry--and to the parolees (and, later, also to the probationers) as khimiki--chemists. The term khimiya remains in use to this day.

The MVD serves as a clearing house—a kind of employment agency—keeping track on the one hand of requests from other ministries for forced laborers, and on the other of eligible prisoners who might be paroled to fulfill these requirements. Periodically (perhaps two or three times a year), groups of eligible prisoners are freed from confinement in what are called "amnesties" and sent in guarded batches to the forced labor sites. Until recently, prisoners convicted of especially dangerous crimes against the state had little chance of being granted parole. However, demands for forced laborers have become so insistent that even some political prisoners are being allowed to take part in the program. Overall, roughly one-half of all persons under confinement are now being paroled before the end of their terms and are serving an average of two years at compulsory labor without confinement. Approximately 500,000 parolees are currently performing forced labor under this system.

In 1970, another decree of the Supreme Soviet authorized courts to issue sentences of "probation with compulsory labor" as an alternative to "confinement with compulsory involvement in labor." In such sentences, the confinement portion is suspended but the labor portion remains. The new decree greatly widened the scope of the program of forced labor without confinement, for now the entire sentence could be so served. The stated intent of the decree was to allow courts more latitude in determining the sentence when they decided that an offender could be reformed without confinement. Perhaps not coincidentally, however, treating offenders in this way permits the state to extract maximum economic benefit from their labor at minimum cost.

Estimating the number of persons serving sentences of probation with compulsory involvement in labor is difficult. In 1973 the Chief Justice of

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the Lithuania Supreme Court commented that nearly 20 percent of the court sentences issued in Lithuania fell into this category and that this percentage was rising. A Ukrainian court lawyer until 1979 estimated at least 30 percent of all criminal court cases received sentences to compulsory labor. Recent information suggests that this has risen to about half of current sentences. Assuming this is correct, and that the average sentence is 3 to 4 years, there are now 1.4 million to 1.8 million persons on probation with compulsory involvement in labor.

Persons sentenced to correctional tasks without confinement never leave home and suffer minimal disruption in their lives, but the parolees and probationers sentenced to correctional labor without confinement may be sent to large construction sites far from their homes. When assigned to work outside their immediate home areas, parolees are usually transported to their assigned work sites in guarded groups on trains, and if they travel long distances, they spend several periods in transit prisons en route. Probationers are usually permitted to make their own travel arrangements and travel to their assigned work sites unescorted.

At the work sites the forced laborers live in barracks similar to those in correctional labor colonies. The facilities are not guarded, but the convicts must observe a daily curfew, normally at 2200 hours. As a rule a laborer's special skills will be utilized as much as possible at the work site, but there are reports that some laborers are required to perform heavy manual labor regardless of their skills. They are paid the Soviet minimum wage for such labor and after paying for room and board (no more than 50 percent) are allowed to keep or spend the rest of their money as they wish. They are permitted to eat wherever they wish. It is not unusual for such convicts, especially probationers, to be granted permission to leave the work

site to visit relatives, conduct personal business, or even to take vacations.

The time spent at forced labor without confinement counts toward fulfillment of the confinement sentence at the rate of one day for one day. But if the parolee or probationer violates the terms of his sentence or commits a new crime at his work site, he is sent back to the penal institution from whence he came (or would have gone, in the case of a probationer) and forfeits all of the time spent outside confinement. Authorities apparently try to avoid applying this drastic punishment to convicts nearing the ends of their sentences.

Role of Forced Labor in the Economy

Forced laborers engage in nearly all forms of economic activity. They constitute about 3 percent of the total Soviet labor force, which now is estimated at 147 million. In the 1980s, labor force growth will be less than half of what it was in the 1970s. Forced labor is thus likely to become a more important means of relieving serious manpower shortages, particularly in inhospitable areas, and there is likely to be much greater use of forced laborers who are not confined. Unconfined forced labor provides a flexible and inexpensive source of labor for hazardous or unhealthy duty or for work in remote locations.

Most inmates of prisons, correctional labor colonies, and colony settlements work full time in a broad variety of economic activities, including manufacturing, construction, logging and wood processing, mining, producing building materials, and agriculture (Map 2).

Construction. Under Stalin, forced labor was used heavily in the development of remote areas of the Far North, Siberia, and the Far East. Cities such as as Noril'sk, Vorkuta, Magnitogorsk, and Magadan were built

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largely by forced labor. Major construction projects such as the Baltic-White Sea and Volga-Don Canals, as well as parts of the Trans-Siberian and Kotlas-Vorkuta Railroads, relied heavily upon forced labor.

In recent years, more than 100 camps, or approximately 10 percent of the total, have been associated with construction activities. Construction camps are scattered throughout the USSR, most of them in or near cities. The heaviest concentrations are in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. The inmates usually work at sites throughout the cities in which the camps are located; hence they are more visible to the general populace than those in other kinds of camps. One source reported watching 40 trucks, each loaded with 40 prisoners, drive off daily from the labor colony at Nizhnekamsk to nearby sites where a petrochemical complex, a large automotive repair facility, and a concrete products plant were under construction. In many large cities apartment houses, hotels, hospitals, government office buildings, and the like have been built by convict labor.

The practice of using forced labor for the clearing and construction work for entire new towns continues. Examples include Shevchenko, a showplace city on the Caspian Sea containing a nuclear-powered desalination plant, and Navoi, a petrochemical city in Central Asia near a large deposit of natural gas. Both cities still contain major concentrations of forced labor.

Forced laborers on probation or parole from confinement are being employed at a multitude of major construction projects throughout the country. Especially large concentrations of them, numbering in the thousands, have been used in construction of the huge Kama River truck plant (the world's largest) and the Baykal-Amur Mainline (BAM) railroad. Parolees and probationers are also employed in industrial production and other economic activities, including pipeline construction.

Pipeline Construction. Forced labor has been used as an integral part of pipeline construction work crews in the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and the central RSFSR. The forced laborers in pipeline construction have come largely from parolees and probationers, and have been used in unskilled jobs such as clearing forests, draining swamps, and preparing roads. Forced labor crews are usually removed before skilled workers arrive, minimizing contact between the groups. In some areas, however, unconfined forced laborers have worked directly with free workers doing low-skilled jobs. Parolees are usually released to a specific work site, for example, a construction site for a compressor station, where they must remain until completion of their assignment. They often live in trailers or barracks similar to those of other workers. If local labor is not available, construction authorities may appeal to the oblast executive committee and the local organs of the MVD to assign paroled prisoners to a work site. Paroled prisoners and probationers are not generally employed in laying pipe, which requires mobile crews. They reportedly are used in the construction and repair of gas compressor stations, service roads, and workers' housing. Many of these unconfined forced laborers are young people who have been convicted of petty crimes and are serving relatively light sentences.

Siberian Gas Export Pipeline

In view of the past use of unconfined forced laborers and the current shortage of labor, it seems that some forced labor would be used along the export pipeline route for compressor station and auxiliary construction unless the Soviets depart from their usual practice because of the exposure in the Western media. There are about 100 heavily secured forced labor camps close to the proposed route, all of which existed before the start of construction of the export pipeline. Prisoners in the camps are engaged in a variety of

activities, but they could be tapped for pipeline construction work if needed. However, it is more likely that forced laborers will come from the ranks of parolees and probationers.

Manufacturing. Well over half of the USSR's forced labor camps and numerous large prisons contain some type of manufacturing facility. These institutions associated with manufacturing are most heavily concentrated in the western USSR, especially in the Ukraine. Industrial camps tend to be larger and more complex than the other types, and there is a great diversity of manufacturing activities, for example:

- 17 camps in the Mordovskaya ASSR Complex produce a variety of manufactures including metal products, clothing, clocks, automotive parts, furniture, and souvenirs;
- 12 Latvian camps produce metal goods, wooden furniture and souvenirs, clothing, footwear, and electrical equipment;
- eight camps in Lithuania produce electrical sockets and plugs, home appliances, clothing, plastic and rubber products, and furniture;
- in a Siberian camp near Ulan-Ude, 1,500 prisoners produce furniture, glass, and clothing.

Typically, the prisoner work force at a manufacturing camp is supplemented by free laborers, some of them former prisoners, who may account for as much as 15 percent of the total. Most of this latter group serve as foremen, technicians, engineers, and quality control experts.

Logging and Other Activities. About 350 camps are engaged in logging, sawmilling, and related activities. These operations are concentrated in the Urals, the Northwest, the Volga-Vyatka, and the Siberian economic regions. Most logging camps are by nature temporary and crude in construction; they are abandoned as surrounding areas are depleted of trees. In the past, abandoned

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logging camps were usually replaced by new ones elsewhere. Now, however, the use of forced labor in logging and wood processing seems to be declining, and relatively few new camps of this type are being constructed.

Approximately 50 camps are associated with mineral extraction, far fewer than in former years when forced labor was extensively used in mining, especially in the Kolyma Basin, where gold mining and some lead and coal mining were carried on by prisoners. Coal mining was also pursued in Kazakhstan and in the Russian North at Vorkuta and on Novaya Zemlya. Today coal is still mined by forced laborers at Vorkuta and Karaganda as is uranium at Zheltyye Vody in the Ukraine, gold at Zarafshan in Central Asia, iron ore at Rudnyy, and bauxite at Arkalyk--the last two in Kazakhstan. At Vasalemma, Estonia, prisoners work a large limestone deposit.

Camps producing construction materials have in recent years increased slightly, to about 60, and are scattered throughout the USSR. Camps in this category engage primarily in producing bricks and blocks used in the construction industry.

Agricultural camps number about 20 and play a small and decreasing role in the Soviet forced labor system. Conditions in agricultural camps are less severe than in other camps: the work is less strenuous, and agricultural camps are located in more hospitable regions of the USSR, such as the North Caucasus.

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APPENDIX 1

Crime and Sentencing

Crime is a major problem in the Soviet Union, and it appears to be getting worse. These conclusions are supported by many sources--diplomats, businessmen, tourists, emigre accounts published in the West, and even Soviet journals and news media. The most prevalent crimes are hooliganism and theft of state and personal property. Juvenile crime is reaching serious proportions. Alcoholism has reached epidemic proportions and is blamed for much crime, especially the violent forms. The murder rate (in 1976, 6 per 100,000 people) is below that in the US, but much higher than in Western Europe. The crime rate is generally higher in urban areas than in rural areas, with the exception of several of the largest cities such as Moscow and Leningrad, where ex-convicts are denied residence permits. It is highest of all in the remote cities of Siberia and the Far North, where many convicts have been forced to resettle after completing terms of forced labor.

Crimes that are categorized as "especially dangerous crimes against the state" are considered among the most serious in the USSR; they include treason, terrorism, sabotage, and anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda--the last an offense with which political dissidents are often charged. Persons convicted of such crimes receive some of the harshest punishment the penal system offers. Legal punishments range from a public expression of censure or a small fine to death by shooting. The death penalty is authorized for some 25 crimes, including a number of economic offenses. Several hundred executions are carried out annually.

Some of the most comprehensive data were provided by a former official of

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the Procurator's office in Moscow who has published in the West what appear to be official records on criminal convictions in the USSR: in 1976, Soviet courts sentenced 976,000 persons for serious crimes, and another 1,684,355 lesser crimes and misdemeaners were handled administratively or by comrades courts (see table below).

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TABLE

USSR Criminal Convictions, 1976

<u>Serious Crimes - Tried by Peoples' Courts</u>	<u>No. Sentenced</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Hooliganism	235,215	24.1
Crimes against persons	168,013	17.2
Theft of state and public property	156,451	16.0
Crimes against personal property	151,934	15.6
Motor vehicle crimes	97,388	10.0
Economic crimes	43,653	4.5
Crimes against administrative order	38,445	3.9
Malfeasance in office	37,669	3.9
Crimes against justice	13,892	1.4
Other serious crimes	<u>33,430</u>	<u>3.4</u>
Total serious crimes	976,090	100.0

Minor Crimes (petty larceny, moonshining, poaching,
petty hooliganism, and others)

Handled administratively	879,265
Reviewed by comrades' courts	<u>805,070</u>
Total minor crimes	1,684,335
 TOTAL CRIMES	 2,660,425

Source: The official described in the previous paragraph.

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APPENDIX 2

Regimes in Effect in Labor Colonies and Prisons

Correctional Labor Colonies

Correctional labor colonies are by far the dominant form of incarceration in the USSR. Four confinement regimes are in effect at correctional labor colonies; in order of increasing severity they are defined as the general, intensified, strict, and special regimes.

- general regime: for adult male first offenders who have been sentenced to confinement for three years or less for premeditated felonies or for more than five years for crimes of negligence; and for all adult female offenders except especially dangerous recidivists, women whose death sentences have been commuted, and those who have committed especially dangerous crimes against the state;
- intensified regime: for adult male first offenders who have been sentenced to terms of confinement for more than three years for premeditated felonies;
- strict regime: for men and women who have committed especially dangerous crimes against the state, men who have previously served sentences of confinement (recidivists), especially dangerous female recidivists, and women whose death sentences have been commuted;
- special regime: for especially dangerous male recidivists and men whose death sentences have been commuted.

Educational Labor Colonies

These colonies are correctional institutions for juvenile criminals aged 14 through 17. Only two regimes are in effect.

- general regime: for male first offenders who have been sentenced to confinement for three years or less and all females;
- intensified regime: for males who have previously served sentences of confinement and first offenders who have been sentenced to confinement for more than three years.

Prisons

Persons temporarily confined in investigatory and transit prisons live under a light regime akin to the mildest of the regimes in effect at correctional labor colonies. But criminals serving sentences of confinement in penitentiaries live under much harsher conditions.

- general regime: inmates live in communal cells from which they are released only to work or to exercise outside, the latter activity limited to one hour a day. Privileges are very limited.
- strict regime: inmates also live in communal cells (in special cases, in individual cells), but their privileges are more restricted than under general regime. Prisoners under the strict regime are kept separate from prisoners under general regime.

APPENDIX 3

Types of Prisons

Prisons in the Soviet Union are differentiated by primary function; four types may be distinguished:

- Penitentiaries serve primarily as places of incarceration for criminals and political prisoners specifically sentenced to terms of confinement in prison--an exceptional punishment which may be assigned by the courts only to persons convicted of especially dangerous crimes against the state or certain other grave crimes, and to persons serving in correctional labor colonies who maliciously violate camp rules. Examples of such prisons are the ones at Vladimir and Chistopol', both associated with male political prisoners. The central prison for women is in Minsk. Prisoners are required to perform labor full time in industrial facilities in the prison complex.
- Transit prisons where prisoners are organized into groups for shipment to their destinations are located at regional transportation hubs such as Sverdlovsk, Novosibirsk, and Irkutsk. The Correctional Labor Code limits to 10 days the time a person sentenced to forced labor without confinement or to exile may be held in any transit prison, but a trip from the European USSR to the remote regions of Siberia or the Far East may entail several sojourns in transit prisons. According to some former prisoners the huge facility at Sverdlovsk (which is also a penitentiary) can hold thousands of prisoners when, as is common, it is filled beyond legal capacity.

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- Investigatory prisons are used to incarcerate suspects awaiting trial on serious charges and other persons already sentenced to confinement in correctional labor colonies who are needed to testify as witnesses at upcoming trials. Lefortovo Prison in Moscow is an example of such a prison; the regime in an investigatory prison is less harsh than that at other prisons.
- Psychiatric prisons, otherwise known as "special psychiatric hospitals" (SPHs), are used to hold and treat persons who have been declared criminally insane. (They are to be distinguished from "ordinary psychiatric hospitals"--OPHs--run by the Ministry of Health.) Some SPHs have been repeatedly associated with maltreatment of dissidents.

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APPENDIX 4

Eligibility for Parole

In 1964 the Supreme Soviet of the USSR decreed that certain prisoners then under confinement could be released--in effect, paroled--from penal institutions and sent to construction sites to work out the balance of their sentences without confinement. Article 44 of the Criminal Code was amended to establish eligibility requirements for this program.

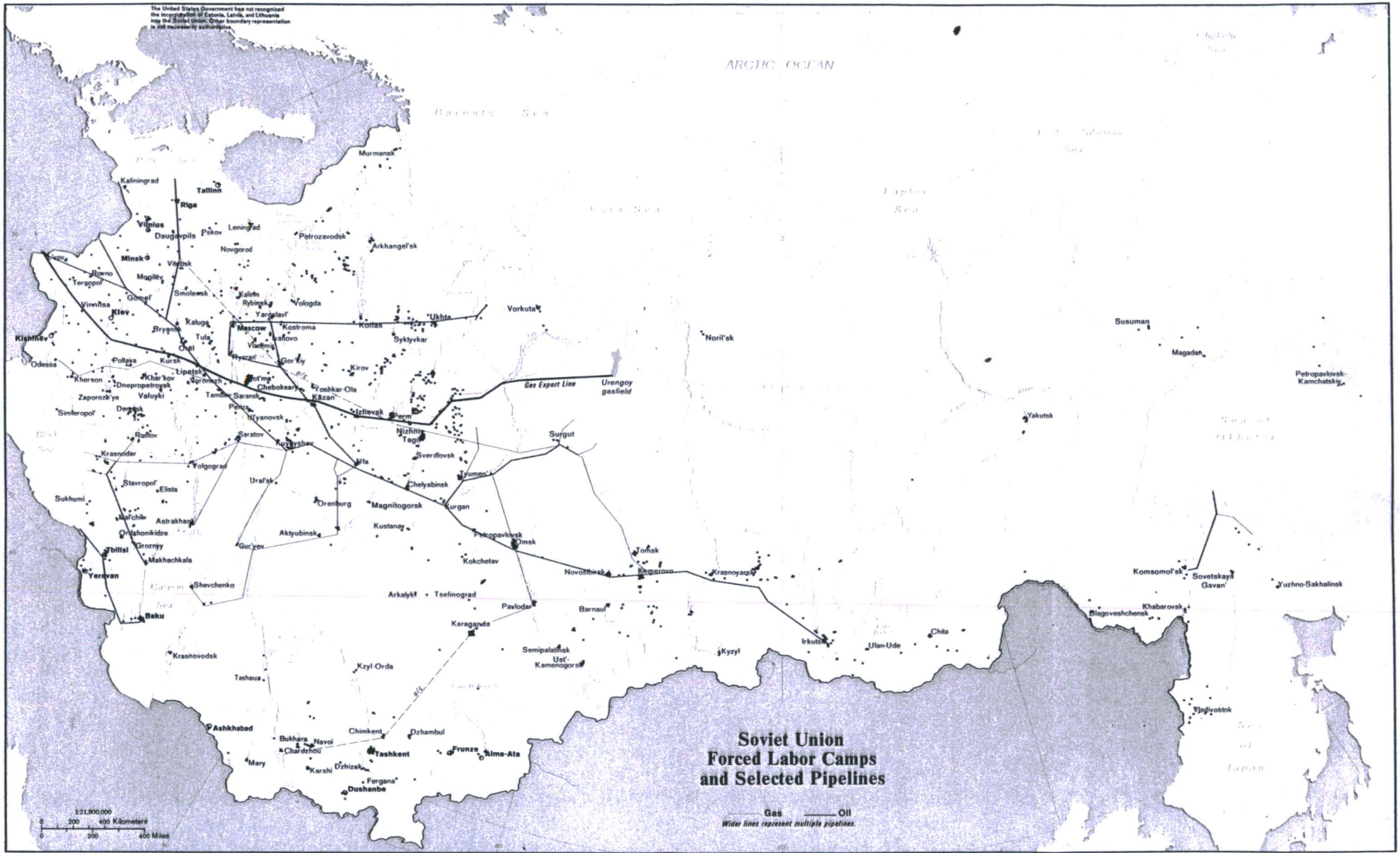
- Not eligible: prisoners undergoing compulsory treatment for alcoholism, drug addiction, or venereal disease; foreign prisoners, and prisoners "who systematically or maliciously" violate the terms of their confinement.
- Eligible after serving three-quarters of the confinement sentence: especially dangerous recidivists; prisoners convicted of especially dangerous crimes against the state; prisoners convicted of intentional homicide under aggravating circumstances; prisoners whose death sentences have been commuted.
- Eligible after serving two-thirds of their confinement sentences: prisoners convicted of certain serious crimes (especially if committed under aggravating circumstances) including counterfeiting, currency speculation, embezzlement, taking or giving bribes, banditry, robbery, endangering the life of a policeman, disrupting a penal institution, hijacking, rape, drug trafficking, and particularly malicious hooliganism.
- Eligible after serving half of their sentences: prisoners, other than those listed above, sentenced to confinement for more than 10 years.

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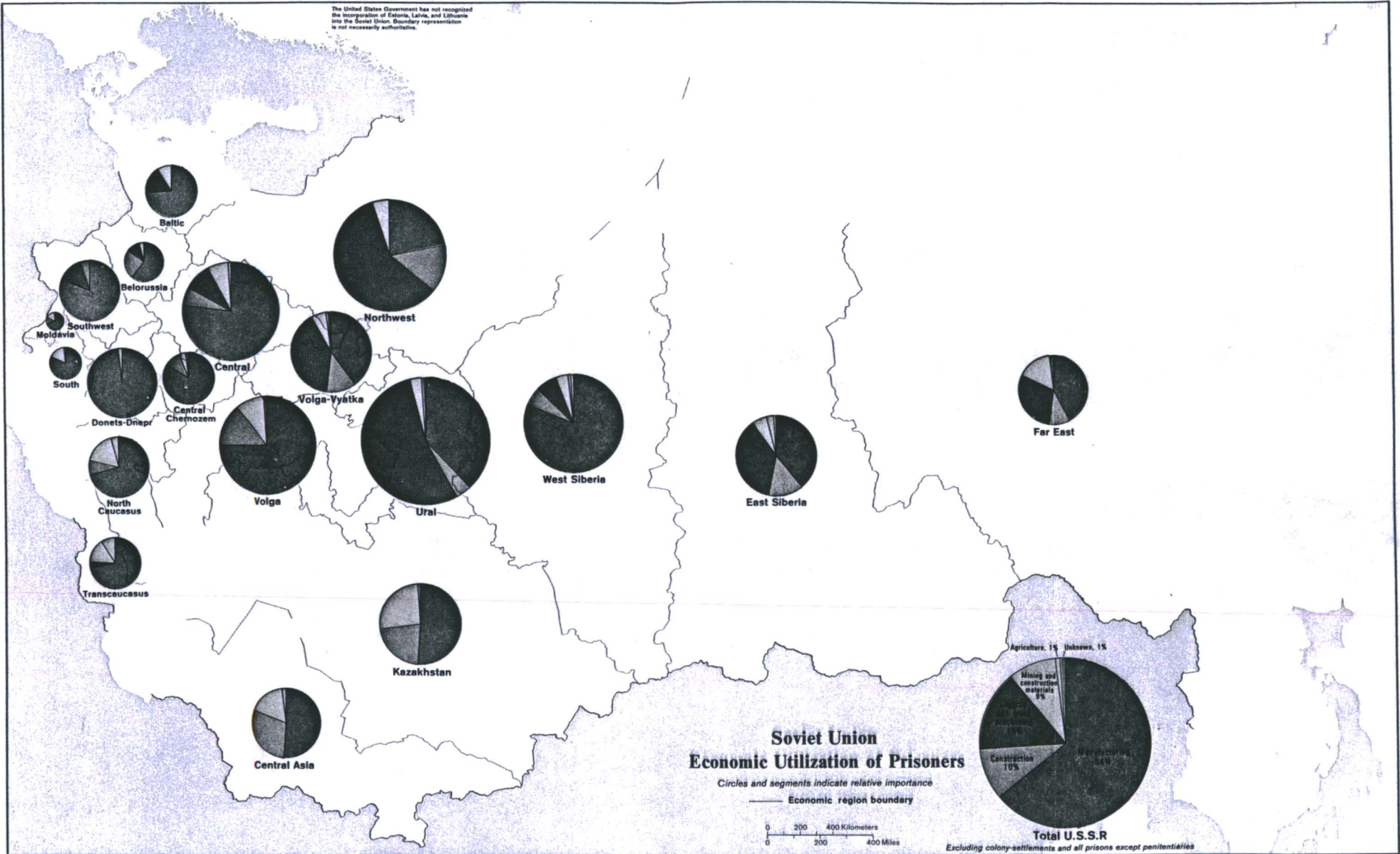
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-- Eligible after serving one-third of their sentences: prisoners, other than those listed above sentenced to confinement for not more than 10 years.

The United States Government has not recognized the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. It has recognized the Soviet Union. Other boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.



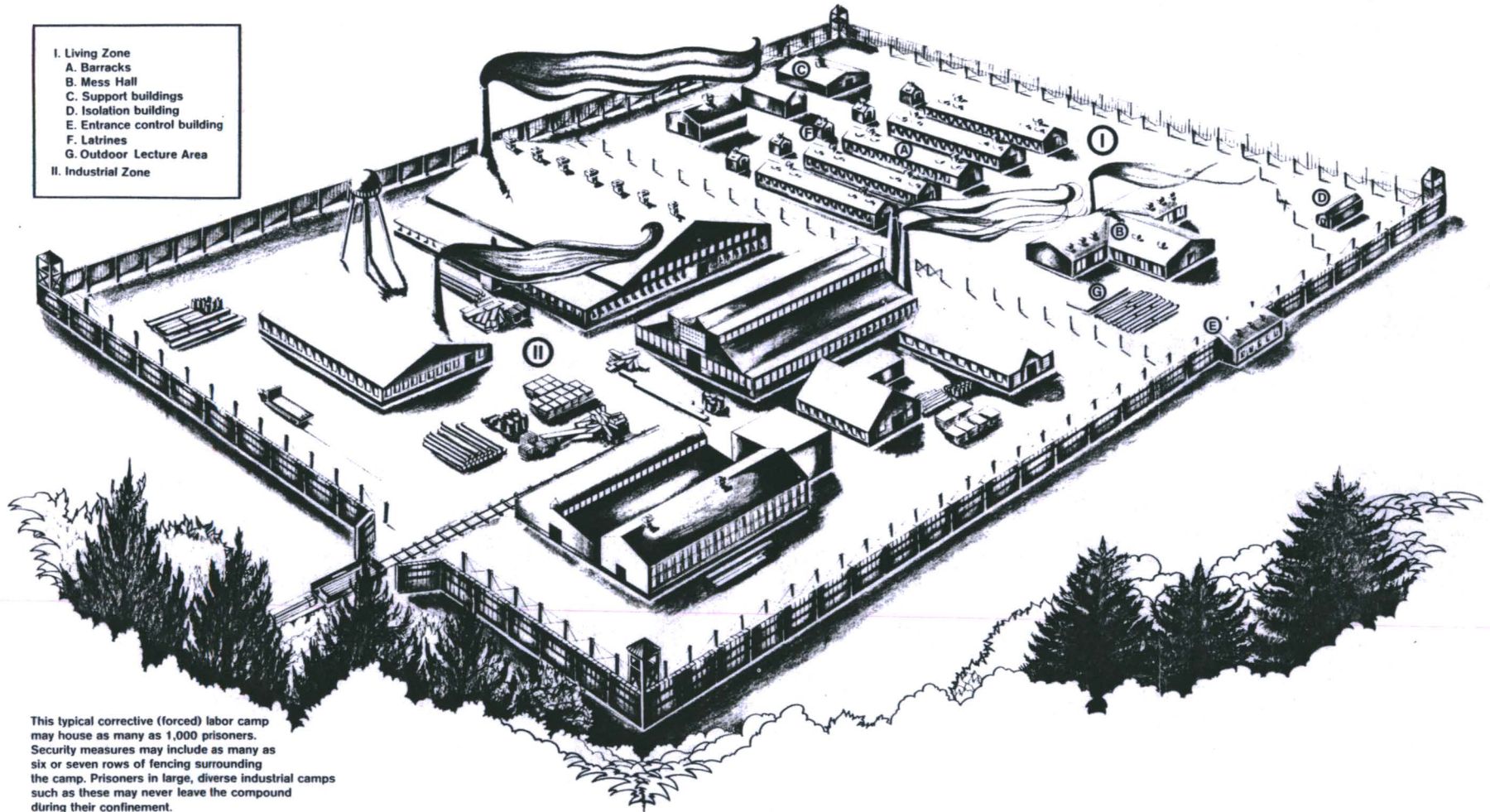
The United States Government has not recognized the incorporation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the Soviet Union. Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.



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- I. Living Zone
 A. Barracks
 B. Mess Hall
 C. Support buildings
 D. Isolation building
 E. Entrance control building
 F. Latrines
 G. Outdoor Lecture Area
 II. Industrial Zone



This typical corrective (forced) labor camp may house as many as 1,000 prisoners. Security measures may include as many as six or seven rows of fencing surrounding the camp. Prisoners in large, diverse industrial camps such as these may never leave the compound during their confinement.

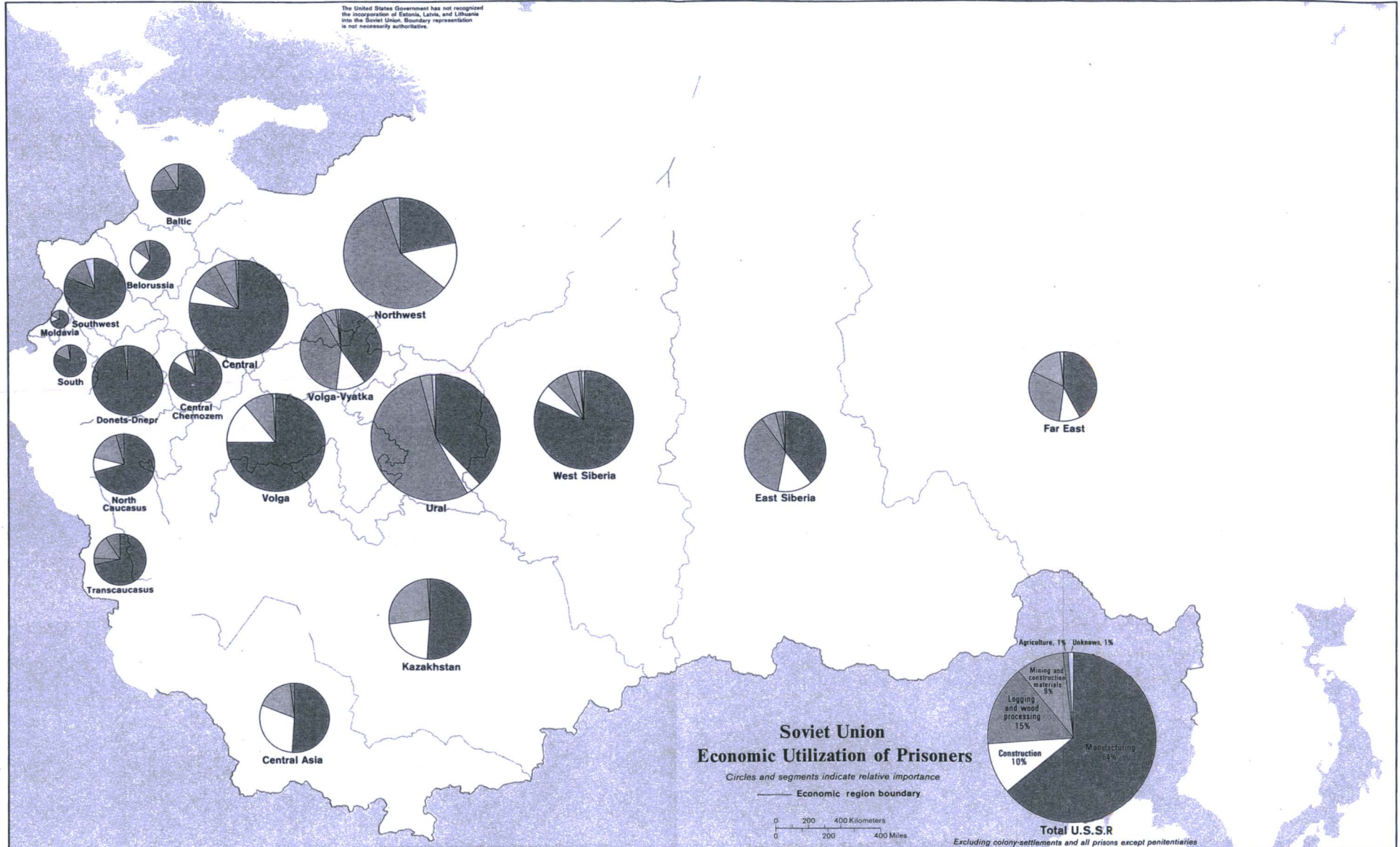
Figure 1



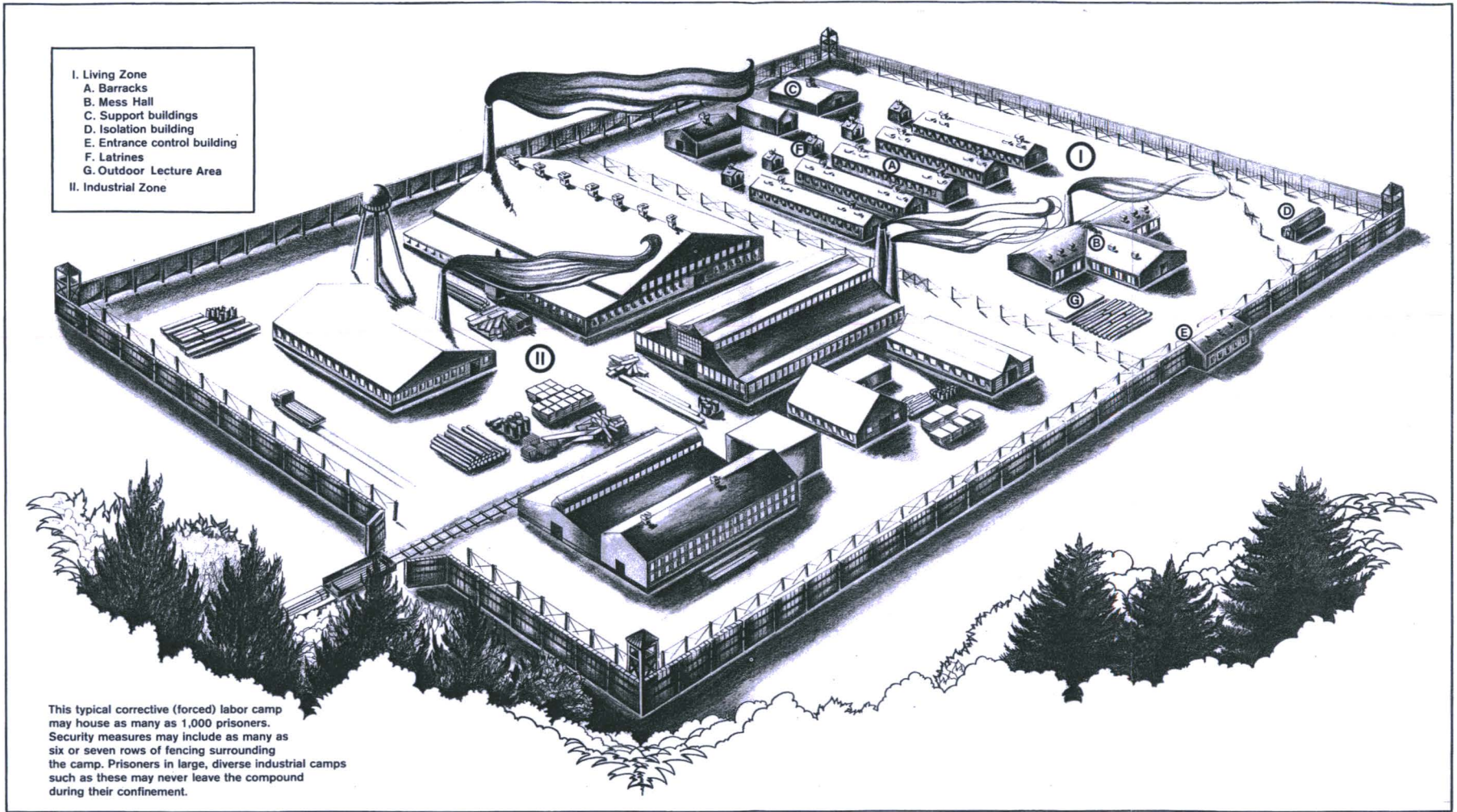
MAP 1



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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Figure

October, 1982



The International Labor Organization:
FORCED LABOR IN THE SOVIET UNION

For close to thirty years the Soviet Union has been under more or less constant pressure from the International Labor Organization (ILO) to bring its law and practice into line with international treaties on forced labor. (See attached chronology.) The ILO is the only UN agency with tripartite representation (i.e., governments, workers and employers). At times, ILO pressure has taken the form of outright censure of Soviet policies. Today, the primary points of contention in the ILO are Soviet laws concerning persons "leading a parasitic way of life" and those concerning membership on collective farms (kolkhoz). These laws are viewed by the ILO as legislative mechanisms for sustaining and legitimizing a system of forced or compulsory labor.

UN Ad Hoc Committee on Forced Labor

The first time forced labor in the Soviet Union was raised as a serious issue came in 1948 when the AF of L proposed that the ILO initiate a survey of forced labor in all member countries. However, since the USSR had been expelled from the ILO in December 1939 following its invasion of Finland, but was a member of the fledgling UN, responsibility for the survey was partly assumed by ECOSOC. The survey was finally conducted in 1952 by an independent Commission of Inquiry (appointed jointly by the ILO and ECOSOC), and completed in 1953.

Generally, the Commission found little evidence of forced labor in non-communist countries. But the Commission left no doubt that in both law and practice the Soviet Union employs forced labor for the interests of the national economy and as a means of political coercion:

"Given the general aims of Soviet penal legislation, its definitions of crime in general and of political offenses in particular, the restrictions it imposes on the rights of the defense in cases involving political offenses, the extensive powers of punishment it accords to purely administrative authorities in respect of persons considered to constitute a danger to society, and the purpose of political re-education it assigns to penalties of corrective labour served in camps, in colonies, in exile and even at the normal

place of work, this legislation constitutes the basis of a system of forced labor employed as a means of political coercion or punishment for holding or expressing political views and it is evident from the many testimonies examined by the Committee that this legislation is in fact employed in such a way."

"Soviet legislation makes provision for various measures which involve compulsion to work or place restrictions on the freedom of employment; these measures seem to be applied on a large scale in the interests of the national economy, and considered as a whole, they lead, in the Committee's view, to a system of forced or compulsory labour constituting an important element in the economy of the country."

(Italics added. Source: Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Forced Labour, Geneva (1953), p.98)

The report was adopted first by ECOSOC in 1954, and later by the ILO in 1956, two years after the USSR renewed ILO membership. Needless to say, the Soviet bloc vehemently opposed adoption of the Commission's conclusions. Perhaps in an effort to strengthen its denial of the Commission's conclusions, that same year (1956) the USSR ratified ILO Convention 29 concerning Abolition of Forced Labor. Convention 29 was formulated by the ILO in 1930, and is primarily aimed at the abolition of forced labor in colonial territories. (See attached summary of Convention 29 for definition of forced labor.)

ILO Regular Supervision

While ratification may have been important to improve its political image, this step brought the USSR under the purview of ILO regular supervisory machinery. As a signatory, the USSR became legally bound to report annually (now biennially) on its implementation of Convention 29.

The ILO's regular supervisory process is composed of two steps: the first is a legal review of government reports by a 19-member independent Committee of Experts (COE), the second a more political review by a Conference Committee on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CACR). While the COE currently has two members from the Soviet bloc (USSR and Poland), it has gained a solid reputation of objectivity and impartiality which rests on the fact that its members are highly respected international lawyers and jurists who, in theory, act independently of their governments.

Every year, in March, the COE issues an analysis of how well member States are living up to their treaty obligations. This report is then passed to the CACR which meets during, and is part of, the annual ILO June Conference. Here, governments are called on -- mainly by the workers and employers groups -- to explain discrepancies between the Convention and their law and practice. Depending on whether or not the workers and employers groups are satisfied with government explanations, the case can be "adjourned" until the next review session or it can be highlighted in the CACR's report on a so-called "special list."

ILO Censure of Soviet Forced Labor

Fifteen years after ratification, in 1971, the Committee of Experts issued its first public report on the USSR's application of Convention 29. Its report explained the ILO's long silence: since 1962 the Experts had been sending direct requests to the Soviet government for information on compulsory labor of persons "evading socially useful work and leading an anti-social, parasitic way of life." Since the information received from the Soviet government had been unsatisfactory, repeated requests were made over a period of ten years.

Nevertheless, the 1971 report marked a renewed ILO interest in public examination of Soviet forced labor policies. While the Experts' report did not lead to a full-blown discussion at the 1971 ILO Conference, in subsequent years the ILO did highlight in the "special list" and "special paragraphs" of the CACR report the continuing Soviet failure to uphold Convention 29. Such censure of Soviet policies by the ILO Conference is the most forceful means available to the ILO to bring pressure to bear on the government.

In its 1971 report the Experts concluded that under a "Ukase" (decree) of 1961, as amended in 1965 and again in 1970, compulsory labor could be ordered by an administrative body (the Executive Committee of a Soviet of Working People's Deputies), non-compliance being punishable by imprisonment or corrective labor. Since labor is exacted under a menace of penalty, not performed voluntarily, the Experts view Soviet law as contravening Convention 29.

The next year, in 1972 the COE noted that the new Labor Code of the RSFSR adopted in 1971 no longer contained a provision permitting the call-up of labor for "carrying out important state work." However, the Experts reiterated their call for the abolition of compulsory labor involving so-called "parasites."

In 1974, for the first time, no report had been received from the Soviet government. Nevertheless, the COE issued a report that took public issue with (a) the obligations imposed on collective farms with regard to planning of agricultural production, (b) the restrictions preventing termination of membership on a collective farm, and (c) anti-parasite legislation.

What happened at the 1974 ILO Conference broke a long, tacit moratorium on public denunciation of the Soviet Union. The CACR, working from the Experts' report, formally took up the issue of forced labor in the Soviet Union, resulting in a protracted and heated debate. The Soviet government representative adamantly refused to admit any of the Experts' findings or to accept the need for any remedial action. In an historic decision, the CACR decided by vote to impose the most severe form of censure on the USSR for violating Convention 29: criterion 7 of the "special list." 1/

When the CACR report came up for adoption in the plenary Conference, quorum was not reached, due primarily to a configuration of political issues bringing together the Soviet and Arab blocs. This lack of formal endorsement, however, did not nullify or abort the supervisory process. The Soviet government was still required to report the next year on its progress toward upholding forced labor standards.

The ILO continued to apply pressure on the Soviet Union, particularly in 1976 and 1977 when the CACR criticized the USSR in a special paragraph of its report for not respecting Convention 29. In 1977 there was a repeat of the 1974 events, with the CACR report not being adopted due to the lack of a quorum.

Since 1977, the ILO has not formally censured the USSR on the forced labor issue. But almost every year at the June Conference the CACR continues to examine, question and probe the Soviet delegation for admissions, concessions, promises. Despite this pressure the Soviet response remains unsatisfactory.

1/ The "special list", developed in 1964, included seven criteria, arranged into two separate groups. The first six concerned the supply of reports and information to the Experts and ILO Conference, not matters of substance. The seventh criterion, listed under a separate heading "Application of Ratified Conventions", was applied to governments that had demonstrated a "continued failure to implement fully the Conventions concerned." The "special paragraph" was considered to be a somewhat less severe form of censure. The "special list" system was revised in 1980.

Current Issues: Persons "Leading a Parasitic Way of Life"

The history of this aspect of the Soviet forced labor issue has been marked by a total reluctance on the part of the Soviet government to concede that its legislation infringes Convention 29. When in 1975 earlier anti-parasite legislation was repealed, following pressure from the Experts and Conference Committee, it was immediately replaced by Section 209 of the Penal Code of the RSFSR to which the COE has taken exception ever since. Specifically, under current legislation a "parasite" is defined as someone living off unearned income, unemployed, earning money through illegal means, or evading socially useful labor.

In their current observations, the Experts cover familiar ground: the Soviet government persistently claims that Section 209, and Ordinances of 1973 and 1976 which also define vagrancy, can be applied only to gamblers and fortune-tellers. However, the Experts argue that these laws do not specify "only" gamblers and fortune-tellers, and can therefore be applied to any physically capable person who is unemployed.

The use of Section 209 (whether actual or potential) is viewed by the Experts as a means of directly or indirectly compelling all citizens to work. The Experts argue that if the Penal Code provision is indeed aimed at illegal income from fortune-telling or gambling, then it should be amended to reflect this fact.

The Conference Committee has often taken the issue one step further, discussing how legislation has been applied in practice. A frequent example submitted by the CACR is that of dissidents who are fired, unable to find employment within their allowed district of employment due to "troublemaker" status, then arrested several months later for leading a "parasitic way of life". The charge may involve imprisonment, exile, or detainment in a corrective labor camp. In other words, CACR discussions lead one to the conclusion that Soviet legislation on parasites plays a central role in administrative control of dissidents and of those refused Soviet exit permission.

Recently, in 1980 when the Soviet government was under extreme pressure from the CACR, the Soviet representative unexpectedly agreed that the legislation on parasitism should be clarified, and he stated that new formulations could be

expected before the next Conference. Indeed, he claimed that discussions and consultations with the ILO Secretariat were already underway. However, subsequent Soviet positions at the 1981 and 1982 Conferences revealed that no new legislation would be forthcoming.

Termination of membership on collective farms

Although the Soviet position has appeared to be somewhat less rigid in regard to this issue, its implications in terms of Soviet agriculture are far-reaching.

As in the case of "parasites", the Soviet legal position is straightforward: members of a collective farm cannot presently leave it unless its management committee and general meeting consent. This inhibition of freedom of movement is tightened further by a requirement that collective farmers cannot take up other employment unless they produce their work books which must be maintained by the farm management. This too is a restriction on the choice of work.

The CACR has frequently pointed out the problems with this legislation. If management denies a request to leave the farm or refuses to hand over the workbook, the worker is either forced to stay on the farm or risk unemployment and subsequent arrest for leading a "parasitic" way of life. The ILO Experts have repeatedly asked the Soviet government to amend its legislation so that workers on farms may terminate their membership, or employment, by simply giving management sufficient notice of their intention to leave.

Five times in recent years the Soviet government has promised that the problem was being solved. In 1977 the government stated that "measures (to) put the legislation formally into line with (Convention 29)" would be taken "before the next session of the Committee of Experts and maybe even earlier." In 1978, the government indicated that "consultations which were under way...(with the ILO were) well advanced and that it could be hoped that they would lead to a solution in the near future." Again in 1979, its report referred to these consultations, prompting the COE to express hope that "the government will soon be able to indicate the solution adopted."

In 1980, the USSR representative claimed that his government understood the COE's point of view, adding that: "consultations were under way aiming not at the establishment

of the right to leave a collective farm but at clearly spelling it out. It was therefore not a question of substance but of formulation." In other words, the Soviet government appeared to be claiming that legislation already granted the right to leave a collective farm, but just needed to be further clarified.

Finally, in 1982 the Soviet government reiterated that consultations are being held with the Soviet employer and trade union organizations concerned. In addition, it pointed to a decree adopted on March 4, 1982 concerning timely consideration of a member's request to leave a farm as evidence of Soviet compliance with Convention 29. However, a question was raised by the US worker delegate about Order No. 597 adopted by the Central Committee of the Council of Ministers on July 10, 1980 and which amended the model rules for collective farms. This issue remains unresolved and further discussion can be expected at the 1984 Conference.

Limitations on ILO Supervision of Soviet Forced Labor

The means available to the ILO to exert pressure on the Soviet Union, despite the efforts noted above, is necessarily limited. Convention 29 is by no means the only, or most important treaty formulated by the ILO on forced labor. Indeed, in 1957 the ILO adopted a Convention (No. 105 concerning the abolition of forced labor) which is in many ways more applicable to the modern state, and certainly more relevant to the use of forced labor in the Soviet Union.

Convention 105 prohibits a government from employing forced labor for purposes of: political coercion or discipline; economic development; racial, social, national or religious discrimination; labor discipline; or punishment for having participated in strikes. This Convention, however, cannot be applied to the USSR because the USSR it is not a signatory state. Consequently, the ILO is only able to pursue the issue of Soviet forced labor under the provisions of Convention 29, which is not as relevant or powerful an instrument as would be Convention 105.

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1940 USSR no longer an ILO member. Expelled from ILO in December 1939 following its invasion of Finland.
- 1948 AF of L proposes survey of forced labor.
- 1952 Joint ILO and ECOSOC Committee conducts survey on forced labor (UN Ad Hoc Committee on Forced Labor).
- 1953 ECOSOC approves forced labor survey.
- 1954 USSR rejoins ILO.
- 1956 ILO approves forced labor survey.
USSR ratifies ILO Convention 29 concerning abolition of forced labor.
- 1962-1970 ILO Committee of Experts (COE) requests information from Soviet government on its application of Convention 29.
- 1971 COE's first report on Soviet adherence to Convention 29.
- 1974 ILO Conference Committee on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CACR) censures Soviet Union for non-compliance with Convention 29 under criterion 7 of the "special list"; report not adopted by the Conference.
- 1976 CACR highlights Soviet failure to adhere to Convention 29 in a special paragraph of its report; report is adopted by the Conference.
- 1977 CACR again highlights Soviet Union in a special paragraph of its report; report is not adopted by the Conference.

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ILO CONVENTION NO. 29

Convention Concerning Forced or
Compulsory Labor, 1930

Convention 29 defines "forced or compulsory labor" as "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily." States which ratify Convention 29 undertake to suppress the use of forced or compulsory labor in all its forms, and within the shortest possible period.

The Convention specifically prohibits forced or compulsory labor imposed for the benefit of private individuals, companies or associations, exacted as a tax, or used to punish a community for crimes committed by any of its members. Convention 29 also requires the abolition of forced labor for the transport of persons or goods (e.g. porters and boatmen) and for work underground in mines. Compulsory cultivation may only be authorized as a precaution against famine or deficiency of food supplies, and only under the conditions that the produce remains the property of those producing it.

Five kinds of work or service are exempted from the Convention's definition of forced labor: compulsory military service, certain civic obligations, certain forms of prison labor, work exacted in emergencies and minor communal services. Prison labor is allowed provided that it is supervised by a public authority, and not used by private companies or individuals.

However, before resorting to forced or compulsory labor, the highest civil authority of the territory must have determined:

- (a) that the work is of important direct interest to the community called upon to do the work;
- (b) that the work is of present or imminent necessity;
- (c) that it has been impossible to obtain voluntary labor by offering wage rates and working conditions not less favorable than those prevailing for similar work;
- (d) that the work will not lay too heavy a burden on the present population, taking into consideration the labor available and its capacity to undertake the work.

Other selected provisions of the Convention include:

- (a) no person may be subject to forced or compulsory labor for more than sixty days per year, including the time spent traveling to place of employment.
- (b) such persons shall be paid prevailing wage rates, including overtime.
- (c) such persons shall work normal hours, including days of rest and holidays.

Other articles of the Convention set out standards governing workmen's compensation, safety and health, and age limits.