

JB
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BULGARIA

INDUSTRY (1700)
Heavy Industry (1704)
Power (1712)

BULGARIA'S ELECTRICITY NETWORK.

SOURCE ATHENS: Bulgarian electrician from DOLNO LEVSKI who escaped on December 11 1954.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: May 1951 until August 1954.

EVALUATION COMMENT: This report gives correct data about some electric power stations and enterprises of heavy industry, which were also confirmed by other sources.

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"While in my village of DOLNO LEVSKI after discharge from the army in May 1951, I was told by my cousin Marin Ivanof CUZOUNOV that there was a shortage of workers in Sofia. Traveling there right away, I was hired to work at the TEZ Republika electricity producing project built near the village of MOSHINO," source related. "I was hired as a digger but became friendly with an electrician there, called Alexander Stoijanof ARAROF, and helped him with his work. He was pleased because he couldn't handle the job himself and soon succeeded in having me transferred to his team, where I worked as an electrician although I was on the payroll as a digger."

Source said that in a little while he was officially recognized as an electrician and paid 410 leva (old currency) daily, later being transferred to the switching central, where he helped set up the switchboard controls for the power station.

"I had started to make my way ahead in a trade I loved," said source. "I worked at the Tez Republika switchboard until June 1952 when I was sent to SOFIA to a job in the Oblastni Electro-stroegi, or State enterprise of electrical firms. ARAROV had been transferred there some time before and had asked for me. As it

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happened the work that this enterprise wanted us to do was connected with the TEZ Republika. What we were required to do was to lay aerial electric cables between Tez Republika and the Rud-nik Republika mine three kilometers away from MOSHINO and seven and a half kilometers from DIMITROVO. Throughout this time I stayed in SOFIA and commuted to my work daily.

"Although announced statements say that the Tez Republika produces 60,000 kilowatts," said source, "in reality it only produces 50,000 which for the very greatest part is hooked up with the electric grid network of the country, chiefly centered in industrial areas around SOFIA. The power produced at Tez Republika is linked to the power grids of Tez Kurilo from whence it reaches the industries and cities. Tez Kurilo is about twenty kilometers North of SOFIA."

Source said that the following power stations were hooked into the nation's electric grid system centered chiefly in SOFIA:

Tez Republika

Tez Stalin (Kurilo)

Tez T. Dimitrof (Pernik)

Tez Stalin (Old name "Nadezhda")

Tez Maritsa (old name Chervekov)

Vez Rila (on mountain Rila near GORNA DZHUMAYA)

Vez Kitka

Tez Gorna Orehovitsa.

In addition to these, source states that ^{there} are four 4,000 kilowatt stations and "probably some smaller ones whose names and locations I do not know."

He added that at the Tez Republika the entire installation was underground.

Upon completion of the cable to the mine, source and his friend ARAROF were sent to NIKOLAEVO, District KAZANLEK, where there was a factory for the manufacture of porcelain insulators -- Lenin. "It was a small factory," said source, "only 200 meters square and within 200 yards of NIKOLAEVO. The intention was to extend the factory and expand its output. My friend and I worked twenty days extending the wiring.

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"After that we were transferred in February of 1953 to the D.M.Z. in LENIN (Dargaven Metalurgitzen Zavod) -- state metallurgical factory -- for electric installations. This factory lay near DIMITROVO on the West of the village of TSERKVA and although I have heard it said that it has been completed, it was not when I was there and I cannot vouch for inaccuracies that are often claimed. The intention was to set up a plant for transforming scrap iron into steel.

In September 1953 we were pulled out of TSERKVA and sent to the Karl Marx soda factory at DEVNYA REKA in the district of STALIN, where I worked on both machines and occasionally on electric installations. We hooked up this factory to STALIN's supply points but I heard tell that a special electric installation was to be put into operation. The civil director here, that is to say the director of "STEMS" (representative of the Communist Party) was called ZAHARIEF (fnu) but at the beginning of last year he was replaced by another man whose name I don't remember."

Source said that while working there he had complained about the theft of his over-norm pay and that this led to his dismissal, his subsequent unemployment, eventual working as a glazier and decision to escape the country.

In conclusion, he stated that the machines used at Tez Republika were Czechoslovak while those in use at D.M.Z. and DEVNYA were Russian.

End.