

Case No.: 2012-0109

Date Rec'd: 1-9-12

Specialist: Kilgore

Related Case: _____

FOIA Resource

From: Bill Streifer (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2012 12:58 AM
To: FOIA Resource
Subject: FOIA Request
Attachments: Hungnam_uranium_mine_Oct_16_1950_New_York_Times.pdf

Dear FOIA officer,

According to the attached New York Times article dated October 26, 1950, a uranium processing plant was discovered by the South Korean Army in Hungnam, North Korea. The article also says that the Atomic Energy Commission knew about the plant for a "long time," and that an American military advisor to the South Koreans and a United Press (UP) correspondent saw the facility.

1. I am requesting all information related to this uranium processing plant in Hungnam including its location and the location of the uranium mine where the uranium ore originated.
2. I am also requesting any documents that refer to the American military advisor to the South Koreans and the UP correspondent (eyewitnesses) who witnessed the uranium processing plant and were able to describe it.
3. I am also requesting any documents regarding the Atomic Energy Commission's knowledge of the uranium processing plant prior to its discovery in October 1950 by the South Korean Army.

If these documents remain classified, I am requesting a classification review so that the material may be released.

I am willing to pay \$25.00 for this information. Please inform me if the fee exceeds \$25.00.

Thank you.

Bill Streifer
(b)(6)

NORTH KOREAN PLANT HELD URANIUM WORKS
New York Times (1923-Current file): Oct 26, 1950;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times (1851-2007)

NORTH KOREAN PLANT HELD URANIUM WORKS

HUNGNAM, Korea, Oct. 25 (UP)
—A vital Russian research-supply project, believed by United States atomic energy experts to have been a Soviet uranium ore processing plant, has been captured by the South Korean army near this northern east coast port.

Authoritative sources in Washington said the United States Atomic Energy Commission had known about the plant for a long time. They indicated it would not surprise them to learn if a second plant like it were found in North Korea.

The huge factory was strongly fenced in and guarded by electric barriers. An American military adviser to the South Koreans and a United Press correspondent saw a building constructed along the lines of a Kansas City grain elevator. Behind it was a compound 100 yards long, 50 yards wide and crowded with a great concentration of high voltage wiring which apparently powered two huge machines that seemed to be the center of the intricate set-up.

Sand bags had been piled around the machines and apparently they had been unhurt by United States air raids.

Washington emphasized that an uranium ore processing plant cannot produce atomic explosives. Literally mountains of ore must be processed to get small amounts of the refined uranium metal. This then must be shipped to the intricate nuclear reactor plants that produce the U-235 or plutonium atomic fuel.