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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

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SUBJECT Aluminum Production in the Soviet Zone

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1. An aluminum production of 61,450 tons has been set for the Soviet Zone in 1954 by the Ministry of Heavy Industry. It is highly improbable however that this quantity can be produced because production stoppages already have occurred in January 1954 due to failure of Hungarian deliveries of bauxite. On its side, the Soviet Zone has not been able to meet, in specified time, Hungarian requirements for larger quantities of machinery for the power industry.

2. Raw material supplies are not the only difficulties hampering production. There have also been technical difficulties. The Bautzen aluminum works were promised six new filter presses in 1954, but they have not yet arrived. The Lauta works are having power supply difficulties.

3. The production quota for 1953 was only 78.9 percent filled. This caused considerable production difficulties in the electric and motor vehicle industries. Should it not be possible to increase aluminum production considerably in 1954, there will be difficulties in increasing the supply of so-called staple goods. In 1953 there were still reserves of aluminum available, but because of increased demands by the Soviet Union upon the electro-chemical industry it will hardly be possible to make a larger quantity of magnesium available in 1954. In addition, there are difficulties with the coke supply.

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