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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

COUNTRY Switzerland

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR 23 December 1954

SUBJECT Shortages of Lignite Briquettes and Pit Coal in East Germany

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. On 28 September 1954, the Marketing Department for Coal (Absatzabteilung Kohle), of the East German Ministry for Heavy Industry, [illegible] that a shortage of 800,000 metric tons of lignite briquettes existed during the period from 1 January to 30 September 1954. Instead of the 6,500 metric tons of pit coal which were planned, the Reichsbahn had received only [illegible] tons up to the end of September 1954; consequently, 12,000 additional metric tons of briquettes would have to be delivered to the Reichsbahn. As of 2 October, the Reichsbahn had only a four-days' supply of coal on hand.

2. A shortage of 240,000 metric tons of pit coal had existed since 1 January; this shortage was expected to increase by an additional 170,000 metric tons by the end of 1954. An additional 650,000 metric tons of briquettes, therefore, would be required, to compensate for the lack of pit coal.

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