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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY : Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT : Special Soviet Projects at the Leuna Plant

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

[redacted]

1. The Soviets frequently assign special projects to the Leuna Plant which are in no way connected with normal production activities. Normally these projects are supervised by special Soviet personnel, responsible directly to the USSR, and brought in from outside agencies to direct the program; occasionally the projects are administered by the Soviet personnel regularly stationed at Leuna. Special projects are financed by the Soviet ministries which sponsor them. Such projects are assigned high security classifications, and all German personnel are enjoined not to discuss their participation in these assignments. [redacted] three special projects were assigned to the Material Testing Bureau.

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2. In the fall of 1947, the Soviet Central Office for Paints, [redacted] at temperatures of 200-300°C, but was not to be exposed to internal or external moisture. [redacted] it may have been designed for use in rockets, rocket-propelled aircraft, or in heating plants. [redacted] a heated pipe would inevitably be exposed to moisture from condensation. However, [redacted] a paint, which consisted of 50% solvent (ethyl or methanol alcohol), 30% resins, and 20% aluminum powder. For carrying out this work, [redacted] awarded premiums in the form of extra food rations.

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3. [redacted] 1950, [redacted] assignment:

25X1 (a) Collect all available literature on the protection of metals against corrosion.

25X1 (b) Develop a corrosion-resistant paint to be used on above-ground installations, such as metal towers for electric transmission lines, radio masts and towers, and industrial facilities.

(c) Develop a paint for the protection of underground pipes and tubes.

(d) Develop a protective paint for the sheet steel walls of harbor installations.

It was specified that all paints synthesized under this project must offer protection at temperatures from -60°C to +60°C. DM 200 thousand were made available to finance the entire project. [redacted], explaining that the literature requested was unavailable in the Soviet Zone of Germany, and that my department had neither the time, personnel, nor the necessary test equipment to undertake the work. The actual reason for [redacted] refusal was that [redacted] participation in the project might jeopardize [redacted], since failure might possibly have resulted in accusations of sabotage. [redacted] The Soviets will take "No" for an answer if sufficiently emphasized. However, it is not easy for German personnel to refuse the acceptance, or question the priority, of a special project.

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4. In the spring of 1951 [redacted] directed, through the Soviet supervisor of the Material Testing Bureau, to devise a method for protecting the inside surface of cast iron or steel water pipe against corrosion. In accomplishing this, [redacted] further directed to:

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(a) Develop a paint which would have good adhesive properties and offer permanent protection against corrosion, yet which would not affect the purity of the water.

(b) Use only non-critical materials in plentiful supply.

The paint was to be synthesized and tested in the laboratory in 1952; practical tests on an experimental pipeline were to be conducted in 1953. DM 50 thousand were allocated for the research work in 1952, and an additional DM 200 thousand were promised for practical tests in 1953. For this project [redacted] the Soviet supervisor of the Material Testing Bureau was well informed regarding the facilities and capabilities of the Bureau. [redacted]

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[redacted]

5. Soviet special projects are particularly disliked at Leuna because of the concomitant reports. The head of the department to which the project has been assigned must submit monthly progress reports, quarterly reports, and extremely detailed annual reports.

6. The experimental laboratory at the Leuna Plant is supervised by the Soviets, and independent of the regular plant administration. The experimental laboratory equipment, which was removed by the Soviets during the dismantling operation in 1946, has been replaced by the Soviets, using Soviet funds. The urea plant and the plant for the production of concentrated nitric acid and concentrated hydrogen peroxide, are being rebuilt at Leuna as Soviet subsidized projects. The Soviets have supplied an inferior structural steel for these facilities, which [redacted] will cause the failure of the entire reconstruction program. The V-2A steel supplied by the Soviets contains only 3-5% chromium, and in my opinion, contains too much carbon, and is too brittle to withstand the high pressures involved in the nitric acid plant. The urea plant is of great importance to the Soviets because of the need for urea in the manufacture of Iporka, a spongy resin which has excellent insulating properties. Iporka is used to line all Soviet railroad passenger and refrigerator cars, as well as to protect pipes and tubes against the sub-zero temperatures in Siberia.

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