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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The production of ammonium nitrate at Bitterfeld is now up to capacity level. The plant will deliver 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate to Lignose, Schönebeck/Elbe in each of the second and third quarters of 1951.

2. The DDR urgently needs calcined alumina and HV Chemie (Chief Administration Chemistry) has agreed to release 1,000 tons of hydrochloric acid as an exchange item, if a barter agreement can thereby be reached.

3. The Bitterfeld metals production is advancing rapidly. The production of aluminum (99.99%) is being pushed vigorously, and the plant has been ordered to produce 20,000 tons annually, starting this year. Dr. Heyder, Bitterfeld, is in charge of both the special aluminum production and the small secret calcium production.

4. The phosphoric acid fertilizer situation in the East Zone of Germany is slowly becoming desperate. The farmers have been supplied with the necessary nitrogen and potash fertilizers, but only about one quarter of the necessary phosphoric acid fertilizers have been made available. Minister Rau spoke at several meetings of the Peasant Union demanding a higher output in crops; on each occasion he was countered by angry demands for more phosphoric acid.

5. The shortage of phosphoric acid fertilizers results from 1) the shortage of phosphate minerals for the production of phosphoric anhydride, 2) the shortage of sulfuric acid and crude phosphates for the production of superphosphates, and 3) the lack of adequate plant facilities for processing the raw materials. The DDR has been trying to alleviate this situation by various means. The Piesteritz plant is to be reconstructed, but this project will take at least two years to be completed. The phosphate plant of Rüdersdorf working on a sinter principle, has not been able to start actual production, because of furnace difficulties, but it is hoped that by June, 1,000 tons of phosphoric anhydride (P_2O_5) a month will be produced, although continuing furnace difficulties are anticipated.

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6. The DDR has obtained a Russian contract for kola apatite, but to date has not been able to obtain enough raw material to ensure production of more than 70,000 tons of phosphoric anhydride annually. The Eastern Zone needs a minimum of 150,000 tons of phosphoric anhydride annually for fertilizers to maintain the crops at the present level.

The sulfuric acid production has been increased as a result of plant repairs. The total capacity is now 28,000 tons of sulfur trioxide (SO_3) per month of which only about 25,000 tons are actually produced. The greatest obstacle in the sulfuric acid production is the continuous shortage of pyrites. The reconstruction of Gipsschwefelsäure Wolfen is being pushed, and the idea of sulfuric acid production by a Kieser principle in North Thuringia is also being advanced to offset the shortage of pyrites. Most of the sulfuric acid produced, however, is being used in the cellulose and rayon industries for the manufacture of textiles for export, and the use of sulfuric acid for superphosphate production necessarily becomes a secondary item.

8. A project is in the offing whereby 50,000 tons of crude appatite from kola (containing a low quantity of phosphoric acid and some soda bi-products) will be delivered to West German producers for the manufacture of a special phosphoric fertilizer called Rhenania-Phosphat. The finished product will be delivered to the East, and the DDR will pay the Russians for the original kola.

9. An immediate solution to the fertilizer situation is now being sought, and the DDR is negotiating with France for the import of 40,000 tons of superphosphate. In return, the DDR has offered various items including scarce chemicals. France has demanded large quantities of toluol.

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