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EGBW-14856

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PERTINENT INFORMATION

14. FBIS #244, 16 December, 1959, East Germany (FF/p.5), from DIE WIRTSCHAFT issue of 2 December 1959, speech by Walter Ulbricht to the conference of the GDR Research Council in Leipzig, 26 Nov.1959:

"A few years ago, we would not yet show any results worth mentioning in the field of automatic calculation. In the meantime, several automatic calculation machines have been developed and put into practice, among others the Oprema calculating machine developed by scientists and workers of the state-owned Carl Zeiss Jena enterprise, which represented a considerable progress in the speedier solution of the scientific-technological problems. A research team of the Research Council under the leadership of Dr. KORTUM has now developed a new automatic calculating machine which in its kind is equivalent to world standards and whose operational reliability is unique in the world. Whereas the Oprema machine completes 100 calculations in one minute, the new Zar I machine requires only one second for these 100 calculations. It thus surpasses the performance of the Oprema sixtyfold. Moreover, unlike the Oprema, this machine can be utilized for all required programs. The technology for the completion of this calculating machine was prepared simultaneously with the development of the functional sample so that the zero-series ran parallel with the production of the functional sample."

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Dr. Herbert KORTUM				1. RI FILE NO.	BR-7012130			
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14. (REG Debriefing Report)

"Information of Projects in Dr. Herbert KORTUM's private Laboratory, Zeiss, Jena from []

[] in Loppob, near DANZIG. From summer 1955 to Dec.1955 she worked directly under Wilhelm POEL and Dr. Wilhelm KAEMMERER on the technological development of the OPREMA, a relay program twin computer for optical lens computations.she then worked for several weeks under POELL on preliminary research for the development a computer using the ring magnet principle; this computer was to replace the already obsolete OPREMA. Source left East Germany on 22 August 1958. (Note: POELL defected prior to source, in May 57, and was also debriefed on his research in KORTUM lab.) POELL is REG 371.)

Source stated that all infrared cell development projects were protected by strict security regulations, but source believed that these regulations were established because of the fear of Dr. Herbert Kortum that infrared cell manufacturing processes would fall into the hands of commercial competitors. Infrared cell development was Dr. Kortum's privileged project, from which he derived substantial financial benefits. (Footnote notes also that Wilhelm POELL, REG 371, had stated that after his arrival in West Germany he was telephoned by Kortum, who pleaded with Poell not to divulge details of infrared cell development to any West Ger. manufacturers.)

"Unidentified Project in Dr. Kortum's Laboratory"

"11. A project was conducted in Dr. Herbert Kortum's private laboratory between May 1957 and November 1957. Source was not a participant in this project but it aroused her curiosity because of the secrecy surrounding it. Source reiterated her previous statement that the strict security regulations governing projects under the supervision of Dr. Kortum did not necessarily indicate that they were of great military significance, such regulations could merely indicate that Dr. Kortum was protecting actual or potential financial interests. The project was being carried out by Dr. Kortum, Prof. Karl ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Papello, who died in Nov.57, and Dipl. Ing. Erich Wolf, who left East Ger. in Dec.1957. Several times during the period May-Nov.57, equipment was brought into the source's lab., and all personnel, including source, were required to leave the lab. A short while later

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a violent explosion would be heard by the personnel waiting outside the lab. Source is unable to describe the equipment, other than that it contained much electrical wiring, small glass tubes filled with unidentified liquids and various control instruments."

"Source had no direct contact with the main plant of Zeiss, Jena. She has no knowledge of projects being carried out at the main plant, or of Dr. Kortum's activities outside the development of infrared cells. She heard from friends working in the main Zeiss plant that the ring-magnet computer had not been completed there by August 1958."

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