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INFORMATION REPORT



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Area, USSR

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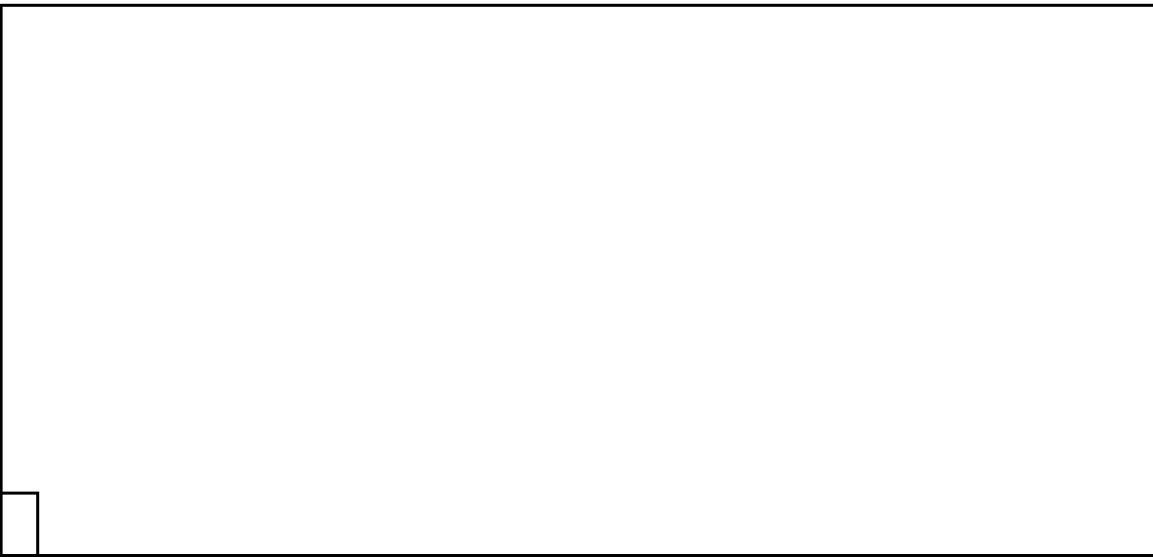
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The Soviet Military Administration (SMA) Laboratory at Leuna

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2.

[redacted] the SMA laboratory was established in order to gather German scientists in preparation for their transfer to the USSR. [redacted] sent to the SMA laboratory in early September 1946 and [redacted] all forcibly transferred to the USSR ten weeks later. Since it took almost five weeks to set up the laboratory, the authorities could not have expected positive results before [redacted] departure. The entire laboratory was designated Me-24-C.

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25X1

25X1

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25X1

-2-

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"Me" was the symbol for Merseburg as "Le" was used for  
Leverkusen; the figure referred to the building

Whos  
Whos

3. The SMA laboratory was under the supervision of two Soviet scientists: Ryabkov, an engineer and Servyelski, a chemist, both of whom followed us to Leningrad. There were three main divisions of this project, a physical laboratory, a heavy water laboratory and an analytical laboratory.

(a) The physical laboratory was under the direction of Dr Franz Scheuer, a physicist, whose chemical laboratory assistant was Harry Klemt.

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25X1 [redacted] Scheuer was to make measurements on German rocket fuels, in particular to test: ignition times with oscillographs, viscosity at -60° C, 25X1 coagulation points and specific heat measurements. 25X1 [redacted] Scheuer [redacted] made the apparatus for testing the "ignition delay time" on these rocket fuels. 25X1 [redacted]

25X1 Scheuer made daily reports to the Soviet scientist Servyelski who later went to the GIPKh Institute in Leningrad where he was in charge of the two laboratories conducting research on ethylamines (Laboratories 579 and 604). While still working in Leuna, Scheuer frequently visited the Siebel aircraft group in Halle an der Saale (Soviet Zone), who also did research work on amines. Many of the Siebel scientists were taken to the USSR [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] Scheuer was sent to Moscow. [redacted] in Leuna, in June 1951, he said that he had done little practical research.

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[redacted]

(b) The following German scientists were employed in the heavy water laboratories: Heinrich Elm, Paul Herold, Geib, and Asinger. They were instructed to make exact analyses and density measurements of heavy water produced in those Leuna installations which still existed after 1945. Their laboratory was in the vicinity [redacted] and under strict Soviet supervision.

25X1

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

-3-

25X1 [redacted] in October 1946 this installation  
 25X1 was moved to the USSR [redacted]  
 25X1 [redacted]

(c) A number of chemical specialists were employed at  
 25X1 the analytical laboratory: Gerhardt Geiseler,  
 25X1 Andreas, Kleinert, and some others [redacted]  
 25X1 In this laboratory the amines and other rocket  
 25X1 fuels were made which were tested in the physical  
 laboratory [redacted]

Transfer to the USSR

4. [redacted] forty Leuna specialists [redacted] shipped to the  
 USSR in October 1946 with [redacted] families and possessions. Thirty  
 scientists from other firms, mostly construction engineers,  
 were transported by separate trains on the same day. [redacted]  
 [redacted] following people from Leuna:

25X1	Andreas	Gemassmer, Gerhardt	Luebecke, Ernst
25X1	Asinger	Herold, Paul	Otto, Ernst
25X1	Eckoldt, Hans	von der Horst, Dieter	Peinze, Georg
25X1	Elm, Heinrich	Jahrman	Pohl, Franz
25X1	Falkenberg	Jochinke, Helmut	Scheuer, Franz
25X1	Froehlich	Kaufmann, Hermann	Schmidt
25X1	Geib	Kosterhon, Kurt	Scholz, Walter
25X1	Geiseler, Gerhardt	Lorenz, William	Smeykal, Karl
			Wyzsomiński, Ernst

25X1 While crossing Poland [redacted] transport was joined by four other  
 trains. The first two were occupied by aircraft specialists from  
 Junkers/Dessau and Halle a S (Siebel group). There was one train  
 from Jena (Zeiss) and one from Kiel and Berlin (Siemens) which  
 carried shipbuilders. It took us about five days to cross Poland.  
 The lines were jammed with trains carrying dismantled equipment.  
 [redacted] locomotives had frequent breakdowns and there was a great  
 shortage of coal. When stopped, the trains were often attacked by  
 bandits who broke into the baggage cars. There was no medical  
 25X1 service whatsoever until [redacted] Moscow. Dr Smeykal was very  
 25X1 sick and [redacted] had a severe attack of pneumonia. Efforts  
 were made to keep up [redacted] morale by the distribution of cigarettes,  
 food, and canned goods.

5. In Moscow, the various trains were broken up and the Leuna  
 employees were divided into three groups:

(a) The Leningrad group, which included: Drs Kaufmann,  
 25X1 Smeykal, Wyzsomiński, Peinze, Eckoldt, Pohl, Geiseler,  
 25X1 von der Horst and engineers Otto and Scholz, Lorenz  
 25X1 [redacted] group was also joined by some  
 25X1 constructors from Siemens and shipbuilders from Berlin  
 25X1 and Kiel. These people who were not from Leuna stayed  
 25X1 [redacted] at Sestroretsk until about May 1947 and were  
 25X1 then transferred to Oranienbaum, USSR. [redacted]

(b) The Moscow group, which was given accommodations  
 somewhere outside of the city but assigned to an  
 institute within Moscow. The only member of this  
 group [redacted] was Dr Franz Scheuer.

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25X1

-4-

25X1 (c) The Ukraine group, which was also formed at Moscow.

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Activity in Sestroretsk

6. [redacted] Sestroretsk, USSR (60° 06' N - 29° 58' E) [redacted] about 40 km northwest of Leningrad. There were a number of small summer cottages which served both as living quarters and offices. 25X1 It was evident that our arrival had not been expected as practically no preparations had been made. Most families were assigned 25X1 a single room in three-four room houses. There was a great deal of shifting around and my family was moved four times in the next 25X1 six months. [redacted] all very annoyed by these poor accommodations which not only caused considerable personal discomfort, but made 25X1 any serious work impossible. The furniture which [redacted] had brought from Germany stood in open sheds, exposed to the weather and the 25X1 plundering of soldiers, in spite of the navy guards on duty. After some time, a large villa was established which housed a mess and 25X1 a community hall. [redacted] some films and dances were organized, but in spite of this [redacted] morale remained very low.
7. [redacted] preliminary work began shortly before Christmas when the following officers of the Soviet North Fleet were introduced [redacted] 25X1 Admiral Bukhanov, who seemed to be in charge of the whole project and three Korvette Captains: Ghernov, Yefimov, and 25X1 Titov. Two interpreters were [redacted] Major Sakharov and Lieutenant Stefanov. Sakharov remained with the group of 25X1 chemists [redacted] and returned to Germany [redacted] in 1951. [redacted] all believed that he was a member of the MGB who had 25X1 been instructed to keep [redacted] under surveillance. Admiral Bukhanov set up three general study groups and each scientist was asked to 25X1 make a report on his specialty. According to Moscow instructions, these reports were to be completed by the end of January 1947. 25X1 Because of poor working conditions, however, they did not get finished until the end of April. [redacted] lacked everything, including 25X1 chairs, drawing tables and even paper and pencils. There was no technical literature available and all the scientists could do 25X1 was to draw on their memory for the required reports. Because of this long delay, Admiral Bukhanov was transferred, reportedly 25X1 to Murmansk. [redacted] Bukhanov rated as "pro-German". No one took his place. After his departure, all 25X1 directives for our work came directly from Moscow to another admiral who lived in Leningrad. [redacted]

8. The study groups set up by Bukhanov consisted of the following:

- (a) Chemistry group, which was attached to the Ministry of 25X1 Chemical Industries and which worked at the State Institute for Applied Chemistry (GIPKh) in Leningrad. 25X1 [redacted]
- (b) Fuel and Oil group, which was placed under the Ministry 25X1 of Petroleum Industries (NAF A) and worked at the KHIMGAS Institute. 25X1 [redacted]

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-6-

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- 25X1 [ ] can remember only one film, "The Fall of Berlin" in which the last scene showed Stalin making a speech at Tempelhof. [ ] only foreign newspaper was the "Taegliche Rundschau", the official organ of the Soviet Administration in East Germany. It came in bunches, about two weeks late. The GIPKh Institute had an excellent library, containing at least ten times as much technical literature as the library at the Leuna Plant. All the literature was translated into Russian. The German books which were available were almost exclusively political, published in Moscow. [ ] in the second hand book stores in Leningrad, there were so many German books dating from the end of the 19th century, mostly German fairy tales.
- 25X1 13. Contacts within [ ] and with other German groups were very limited. For one thing, [ ] exile in the USSR did not break down German social barriers. For example, when the scientists organized social parties, [ ] a simple mechanic, was seldom invited to attend. In summer, when [ ] swimming and spent the day on the beaches, [ ] were kept separate from other groups. The Zeiss group, for example, which consisted of approximately 50 scientists working in Leningrad-Chemilovskita, came to the same beaches [ ] but [ ] were not permitted to meet them. About the only contact [ ] with Germans was at the theater or ballet where supervision was less strict. Some news of arrivals or departures was carried by Helga Fischer, a typist who worked in the GIPKh Institute. Helga Fischer was originally from Danzig and had been moved to Leningrad in 1945. She had a regular Soviet pass and got around more freely; occasionally she did some shopping [ ] did not really trust her as we all had the impression that she was a Soviet agent.
- 25X1 14. At Sestroretsk [ ] contacts with the Soviet population were extremely limited, particularly after 1948 when the Soviets became afraid to be seen talking [ ] During the first two years [ ] the school children were quite embarrassing. They ran behind us and shouted, "Hitler pigs", or simply "Hitler". By the winter of 1950 such insults stopped. However, at the GIPKh Institute in Leningrad, particularly in the workshops, the Soviets became quite friendly and [ ] even joked together occasionally. Except for their reserve on political matters, they were just like ordinary German workers. [ ]
- 25X1 15. [ ] children attended a special German school in Leningrad (Spezial Schule No 1); all subjects were taught in German. The text books were printed in Moscow. [ ] do not think these texts were the same as those used in the Soviet Zone since all the material concerned Soviet life. For example, arithmetic problems concerned distances between cities in the USSR. [ ] children had one hour of Russian daily and learned to speak the language quite fluently. The school had about 90 pupils. The very young were sent to the regular Soviet elementary schools in Sestroretsk where all instruction was in Russian.

Departure

- 25X1 16. On 19 May 51 [ ] told that within three days [ ] would be sent home with four other specialists: Eckoldt, Geiseler, Wyzsomiński and von der Horst. [ ] had been in poor health for some time, apparently from mercury poisoning, and could no longer work as before. Sarwielski, a Soviet student, protested several times

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25X1

-7-

25X1 against [ ] leaving but to no avail. The decision as to which  
 25X1 people were to be returned to Germany was made in Moscow and no-  
 25X1 one knew about it. Major Sakharov had gone to Moscow and  
 25X1 on his return he said, "Tomorrow you go" [ ] had absolutely  
 25X1 no choice in the matter. Before leaving [ ] wives and  
 25X1 children, were forced to sign a paper certifying [ ] would  
 25X1 not tell anyone exactly where [ ] worked or what [ ] done.  
 25X1 [ ] were only to say that [ ] worked in Leningrad. Further-  
 25X1 more, when [ ] took leave of the people at the Institute, they  
 25X1 said they would all come visit [ ] in 1955 because then there  
 25X1 would no longer be any borders between Germany and Poland. The  
 25X1 Institute employees had said several times before, that the borders  
 25X1 would fall and that it could be possible to travel without a pass.  
 25X1 This was said seriously, not as a joke, and it seems to be almost  
 25X1 an article of faith among members of the Communist Party of the  
 25X1 USSR. [ ]  
 25X1 belief [ ]  
 25X1 [ ]  
 25X1 [ ]

Trip Home

17. [ ] allowed three days in which to pack [ ] belongings in  
 25X1 Sestroretsk. A special sleeper was assigned us as were some  
 25X1 baggage cars for family possessions. This train was very clean  
 25X1 and newly painted. The trip was slow, however, as [ ] cars  
 25X1 were hitched to freight trains. [ ] passed through Vilna, Minsk,  
 25X1 Brest (where [ ] changed to a German train), Warsaw and Frankfurt/  
 25X1 Oder. Major Sakharov and the Chief of Personnel at the GIPKh  
 25X1 Institute, Klukov, accompanied [ ] this journey. [ ]  
 25X1 they both belonged to the MVD. There was also a military guard  
 25X1 on the train, an officer and three soldiers. Although no  
 25X1 restrictions [ ] during the journey, [ ] saw very  
 25X1 little besides woods and swamps. [ ]  
 25X1 [ ] the track [ ] was much better than in 1946. In  
 25X1 some places it was single, in others double. At Brest [ ] changed  
 25X1 to the narrower gauge (when [ ] transferred to the German  
 25X1 train). From there [ ] traveled third class, one family to a  
 25X1 compartment. At Reppen, the last station in Poland, [ ] were held  
 25X1 up for two days because Klukov had left the original [ ]  
 25X1 papers at Brest. [ ] a courier was sent to get them.  
 25X1 There was one large sheet for each person except for the children  
 25X1 who were listed with their mothers. [ ] first reception was  
 25X1 given at Frankfurt/Oder [ ] greeted by a representative  
 25X1 of the German Democratic Republic.

Arrival

18. From Frankfurt/Oder [ ] train was routed through Wittenberg to  
 25X1 Wolfen, where the transport was broken up. At Wolfen [ ]  
 25X1 picked up by a bus which took [ ] the last 50 km to Leuna. Dinner  
 25X1 was waiting [ ] and the next day [ ] assigned a house. This  
 25X1 house was better than the one in [ ]  
 25X1 Germany; it had steam heat. About a week [ ] an  
 25X1 official reception was given. A series of speeches was made by  
 25X1 Eckhardt, Director of the Leuna Plant, the Soviet manager of the  
 25X1 plant, representatives of the trade unions and by members of other  
 25X1 SED sponsored organizations. Eckhardt promised [ ] many things and  
 25X1 gave [ ] many warnings. In fact, his speech consisted primarily of  
 25X1 warnings -- cautioning [ ] not to do foolish things. Rather than  
 25X1 going West, he suggested [ ] let him know of our wishes and needs.  
 25X1 Dr Wyzsomirski made a general answer for all of us.

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-8-

19. After this reception, [ ] invited to make speeches to the Soviet Friendship Society and some other groups, but, for the benefit of the shop groups, [ ] were interviewed over the factory loudspeakers. At first this created considerable embarrassment since the people [ ] did not know that [ ] had signed a paper promising not to reveal anything [ ]. The interviewers, suspecting the cause of [ ] reticence, quickly changed their questions to ones more general in scope. Some of the questions asked concerned [ ] faith in the German Democratic Republic and its leaders. Most of the discussions were obviously held for propaganda reasons rather than to inform the listeners.

Escape

20. On returning to Leuna [ ] given my old job in the plant. [ ] in no financial difficulties because [ ] had accumulated East Marks 20 thousand in Leningrad which were transferred to a blocked account in Leuna. Dr Eckoldt was the first who left for the West. He went about the end of June. Then Schmidt, Jochinke and Kosterhon disappeared. The Soviets are very careful to hide facts concerning those who escape as it is unfavorable propaganda. Workers get very suspicious when they hear that these scientists who have been in the USSR are in such a hurry to go West. In October 1951 [ ] approached several times by Soviet agents who wanted [ ] to find out about the men who had disappeared but [ ] would not think of betraying [ ] comrades. Moreover, they kept asking [ ] if [ ] health permitted departure. [ ] became extremely worried, fearing that the Soviets wanted to send [ ] back to the USSR in order to help in setting up plants there. On 8 Dec 51 [ ] escaped to Berlin.

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