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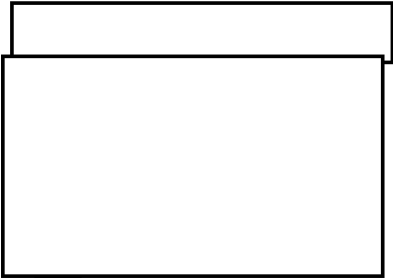


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Leunawerk "Walter Ulbricht"



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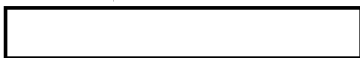
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1. Groundwork for the large scale production of phenol was carried out during October 1953 in the Leuna works at Merseburg. The purpose is to overcome the bottleneck in the plastics industry, especially the Soviet Zone production of urea, carbamide and other molded resin plastics. A great increase in the production of Duroplast resin is planned.
2. Along with this, large quantities of fiberglass laminated material are being manufactured. This is required primarily by the Soviet Zone automobile and shipbuilding industries, on account of its resistance to high temperatures. A new pressure compression method for molding fibers for this manufacture was developed by the MEWA works. The machines are capable of exerting pressure up to 5,000 tons. A pressure of at least 350 kg per square centimeter in shaping parts is called for. For the sheets a pressure of 70 kg per square centimeter is satisfactory.
3. The Leuna works have been making phenol since 1946. In recent years special attention has been directed to the synthetic resins. The production however was in large part for reparations work. During the past year, for example, a mica substitute has been developed, which however has not been made available to the Soviet Zone VEB industries because it is all delivered to the Soviet Union. It is a silicon mixed with glass fiber.



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- 10. Production of phenol resin heretofore has been about 18,000 kg monthly. This output is to be doubled after Jan 54. Increased production of other resins and synthetics is also planned. Lately, molded plastics produced by M&WA have been used as substitutes for babbitt metal, especially in the manufacture of ball-bearing housings. These are reported to have first shown signs of fatigue after 1.6 billion revolutions under load.

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