

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SECURITY INFORMATION
INFORMATION REPORT

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DIA Supervision

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. In May 1953, in the course of an administrative reorganization of the VEB Carl Zeiss firm in Jena, the following persons were put in charge of the three sales offices of the firm:

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a. Starke (fnu) was made Acting Chief of the Eastern Sales Office, called Disp VD (Volksdemokratien), which is responsible for export to Russia, China and Soviet satellites. The former head of the Eastern Sales Office, Gerhard Rommel, is at present on an extended visit to China where he will represent the Zeiss firm at the Peking, Shanghai and Mukden fairs.

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c. Siegfried Kessler was made head of the firm's Sales Office for Foreign Capitalist Countries, called Disp KA (Kapitalistisches Ausland).

2. According to a decision made by the Central Committee of the SED and approved by the government, the above-mentioned three Sales Offices are scheduled to be taken over entirely by DIA by 1 January 1954. They will, however, remain located in the Zeiss firm even after their transfer under the exclusive authority of DIA. At present, the offices are in a transitory stage in view of the approaching transfer under DIA authority. Heinz Bastian (SED), a DIA official who some time ago was a member of the East German Trade Delegation in Cairo, now has a permanent office in the Zeiss firm on the same floor as the three offices mentioned above.

3. As a result of insufficient sales of Zeiss products in all Western countries [redacted] DIA intends to terminate all Zeiss contracts with the present representatives of the firm in Western countries unless these representatives will be able to boost their sales considerably in the immediate future. In cases where contracts actually are terminated, DIA will select new representatives for the firm.

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