

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY East Germany/USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT 1955 Deliveries of Television Receivers to the USSR

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1. During 1954, VEB Sachsenwerk Radeberg, one of the enterprises under the Main Administration for Radio and Telecommunications Technology (HV RFT) in Production Area General Machine Construction of the East German Ministry for Machine Construction, received an order for the export of 41,500 television receivers to the USSR. The order specified that the sets should be delivered in a certain kind of container, each holding eight sets with their antennae and other accessories. During 1954, HV RFT intervened several times with the Soviet Trade Delegation in East Berlin to have the USSR drop the special containers and accept delivery of the receiving sets in ordinary wooden boxes. The Soviets, however, refuses to do so. When in August 1954 the Technical Head of the Radeberg enterprise went to Moscow for negotiations, it was pointed out to him by the Soviets that the containers were practically of more value to them than the receiving sets.
2. There is only one enterprise in East Germany able to deliver the required containers: VEB Maedrescherwerk Weimar. While the negotiations with the Soviets were going on, the East German State Planning Commission gave production orders to this enterprise which took up its entire capacity. At the end of November 1954, the Soviets definitely refused to accept the television sets without the specified containers. Since the capacity of the Weimar enterprise is fully disposed of for 1955 by the State Planning Commission, the containers cannot be produced there. In early December 1954, a conference was called with representatives of HV RFT, the State Planning Commission, and the State Committee for Material Procurement, in order to discuss the situation which threatens to idle 6,000 workers of VEB Sachsenwerk Radeberg in 1955 if the Soviet order should be withdrawn.

Note: Harvesting and threshing machinery manufacturing company.

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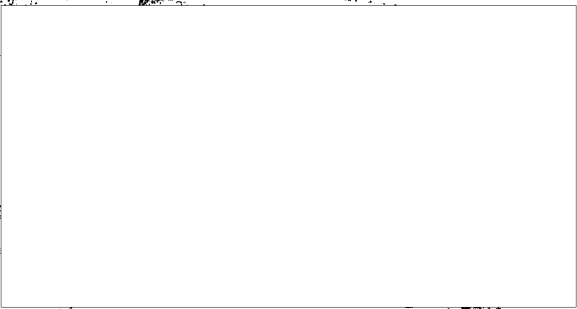


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Thirolf, of the State Committee for Material Procurement, indicated that 750 tons of rolling products and 9,200 cubic meters of special wood are needed for the production of the containers; these items are not available in East Germany. It was decided that the State Planning Commission should release the Weimar enterprise from as many production orders as necessary to enable it to produce the containers. Furthermore, DIA is to try to import the needed materials

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