

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Development of a Hearing Aid using Transistors and Printed Circuits

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1. In late December 1954, the Zentrallaboratorium fuer Fernmeldetechnik (Central Laboratory for Telecommunications Technology - ZLF) in Berlin-Treptow received an order from the Ministry for Machine Construction to develop an audio device for the hard-of-hearing. The ZLF accepted the order, which is expected to be completed during 1955.
2. Although the instrument itself is of no particular economic importance, the fact is reported because this development will be the first one in East Germany which makes use of transistors and printed circuits. The ZLF will use transistors made by VEB Werk fuer Bauelemente der Fernmelde-technik (formerly Dralowid) in Teltow. In addition, printed circuits and carbon layer resistors, also produced by the enterprise mentioned, will be used.
3. The Ministry for Machine Construction has assigned the development of printed circuits to Dr. Matthias Falter of the Dralowid firm, who is also responsible for transistor development there. The Ministry for Heavy Industry accepted the obligation to deliver the germanium needed for the transistors. This germanium is expected to be obtained from East German waste heaps. According to the Ministry for Heavy Industry, 12 to 14 kg. of germanium can be obtained in this way in 1955.

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