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INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT

SUBJECT Development of Tropics-Proof Installations for East German Telecommunications Industry

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1. The East German Ministry for Machine Construction, in early January 1955, issued an order to the Central Laboratory for Telecommunications Technology (Zentrallaboratorium fuer Fernmeldetechnik - ZLF) in Berlin-Treptow to start immediately the development of an installation for the purpose of investigating the tropic climate resistance (Tropenfestigkeit) of non-automatic, semi-automatic and fully automatic telecommunications equipment. This order was issued because of the fact that the East German telecommunications industry had a relatively high number of export orders from Red China. All these orders specified that the equipment to be delivered was to be tropic-resistant. None of the East German enterprises engaged in the production of telecommunications equipment had an installation for investigation of tropic climate resistance. So far, the equipment destined for export to tropical regions had been made tropic-proof very superficially with the aid of an allegedly tropic-proof lacquer. The lacquer so far used in East Germany had turned out to be of no value.

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2. The main construction department of the ZLF, in compliance with the order from the Ministry, started to build an installation, in the form of a large aquarium. It was, however, doubted by experts that this installation would be able to fulfill its purpose. In mid-January 1955, representatives of the ZLF had a conference with officials of the Ministry for Machine Construction in order to find ways of achieving the required purpose. It was planned to call tropics experts to East Germany from abroad.

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