

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	[REDACTED]	25X1
SUBJECT	Import Situation in DEZ Chemie	DATE DISTR.	15 April 1955	
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		This is UNEVALUATED Information		25X1

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

[REDACTED] 25X1

1. The situation regarding imports which are in the area of responsibility of DEZ Chemie has become so acute for a number of critical items that DEZ Chemie is required to report weekly to the Sales Division (Absatzabteilung) of the Ministry for Heavy Industry on imports of these items. The Sales Division is subdivided into several desks (Fachabteilungen) which receive pertinent elements of the DEZ Chemie weekly reports. After the desks have processed the reports, the Sales Division correlates the figures with a new report which is submitted to Fritz Selbmann, Minister for Heavy Industry, to Heinrich Rau, Deputy Minister President, and to Otto Grotewohl, Minister-President.
2. The reasons given for the critical situation are as follows:
 - a. Some of the Soviet Bloc states, [REDACTED] refuse to deliver goods because East Germany has not met its [REDACTED] 25X1 payment or export obligations of previous years. After these obligations have been met, the suppliers will again sell goods to East Germany.
 - b. There are instances, however, where export orders could be completed in a very short time, if small parts, in themselves unimportant, could be imported. An example of this is the case of a number of [REDACTED] 25X1 air purification masks which are almost ready except for a small valve that must be imported [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] supplier refuses to ship these valves because he has not received payment for earlier shipments. 25X1
3. The various separate desks (Fachabteilungen) of the DEZ Chemie make delivery plans in the form of contracts for chemicals and chemical products to consumer plants in East Germany, based on the overall chemical import plan. [REDACTED] 25X1 Because of import difficulties, the delivery plans and contracts cannot be kept. Furthermore, the Ministry for Heavy Industry, at times, orders the actual importing agency, DIA - Chemie, to ship products to consumer firms, disregarding the delivery plans and contracts. DEZ Chemie, however, is seldom notified of these delivery changes.

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