

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	Elektrochemisches Kombinat Bitterfeld: Difficulties in Marketing Ferroalloys	DATE DISTR.	25 April 1955	
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1. The Elektrochemisches Kombinat Bitterfeld is experiencing difficulties in marketing its ferroalloys. As a result of this situation, the proposal has been made in the East German Ministry for Heavy Industry that either the State Reserve take over a certain amount from each plan position, or that the ferroalloys be offered for export. (The latter suggestion however, cannot apply to ferrochrome, which foreign customers have refused, nor to ferrotungsten, which cannot be exported profitably.) In either event, an alteration of Bitterfeld's quarterly plan is considered absolutely necessary.
2. With ferrochrome (Plan Position 1317300), Bitterfeld has a planned production for the 1st quarter of 1955 of 295 tons but orders on hand for only 35 tons. There is no market as yet for the additional 260 tons. Customers, for the most part, refuse to take the Bitterfeld production. In addition, the Karl-Marx-Werk, Magdeburg (belonging to the Ministry for Machine Construction) has a surplus stock on hand of 200 tons from 1954 which it will process during the course of 1955. As a result the plant will require only about 55 tons during 1955.
3. Ferrotungsten production (Plan Position 1317910) at Bitterfeld is planned at 80 tons for the 1st quarter of 1955, but only 1.7 tons have been contracted for. Thus, 78.3 tons are yet to be marketed in the 1st quarter; 43.5 tons of ferrotungsten originally designated for Doehlen were cancelled, since Doehlen had to alter its planned production completely, because the Finow Rolling Mill ordered no high-speed steel billets (Schnellstahlkneuppel).
4. Production of Ferromolybdenum (Plan Position 1317920), was planned in the amount of 37 tons for the 1st quarter of 1955, but orders are on hand for only 5.6 tons; 31.4 tons remain unmarketed. Meanwhile the State Committee for Material Procurement allocated 12 tons of ferromolybdenum to the Ministry for Heavy Industry and 25 tons to the Ministry for Machine Construction for the 1st quarter of 1955, although these two ministries had ordered only 2.6 and 3 tons respectively. These allocations later had to be changed and brought more into line with the ministries' requirements.

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5. Ferrovandium (Plan Position 1317930) production was set at 12 tons for the 1st quarter of 1955, but contracts for only 2.9 tons exist. The total production for the 1st quarter was designated for the Ministry for Heavy Industry. However, Doshlen cancelled its orders because of the changes in its own planned production (no production of high-speed steel wire billets for the Finow Mill), so there are no orders for Bitterfeld's remaining 9.1 tons. Despite this, the 1955 plan calls for the importing of 20 tons of ferrovandium during each quarter of 1955.
6. Production of ferrotitanium (Plan Position 1317940) is planned for the 1st quarter of 1955 at 37 tons, although only 4.925 tons have been ordered; 32.075 tons remain to be marketed. Allocations for the 1st quarter of 1955 give the Ministry for Heavy Industry 12 tons and the Ministry for Machine Construction 25 tons. However, the Ministry for Heavy Industry has ordered only 4.925 tons and the Machine Construction Ministry none at all.

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