

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	[Redacted]	25X1
SUBJECT	Priority Requirements of Ferrous Metals Industry in the Use of Raw Nickel	DATE DISTR.	26 July 1955	
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1. The Main Administration for Radio and Telecommunications Technology (HV RFT) of the East German Ministry for General Machine Construction has urgent requirements for finished and semi-finished nickel products such as wire, rods, nickel sheet and nickel tubes which are necessary for the production of high vacuum tubes and measurement devices produced in enterprises subordinate to HV RFT. During the first five months of 1955, the nickel requirements of HV RFT were insufficiently filled. An analysis made by HV RFT showed that, as of 30 May 1955, the Main Administration had obtained only 30% of its approved allotments.
2. The two main delivery firms for nickel products to enterprises under HV RFT are VEB Walswerk fuer Buntmetalle in Hettstedt and VEB Halbseugwerk Auerhammer, both under the Main Administration for the Nonferrous Metal Industry of the Ministry for Heavy Industry. The failure of these two enterprises to deliver the required nickel products was caused by the shortage of raw nickel.
3. In early June 1955, HV RFT intervened with the Ministry for Heavy Industry in order to clarify the situation. It was found that the two enterprises mentioned can use only 42% of their capacity for the production of finished and semi-finished nickel products. This situation arose after an order was issued by the Minister for Heavy Industry, Fritz Selbmann, to the effect that raw nickel imported into East Germany was to be used first for the fulfillment of the requirements of the ferrous metal industry (Schwarzmetallindustrie) and only then for the requirements of other industrial branches. The ferrous metal industry needs the raw nickel for the hardening of iron and steel.

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