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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

25X1A2g

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT Lignose Sprengstoffwerke G.m.b.H.,
Schönebeck (Elbe)
ORIGIN 25X1A6a
25X1X6

DATE: 25X1X6
INFO. [REDACTED]
DIST. 18 February 1947
PAGES 2
SUPPLEMENT

EVALUATION OF CONTENT See below



25X1X6 [REDACTED] 25X1X6

a) The Lignose Sprengstoffwerke GmbH at Schönebeck (D78), earlier reported dismantled, was subjected to the dismantling order for only three days in May 1946. Production is now being carried on in two of its buildings, each with its own laboratory in addition to a large main laboratory; two other buildings (about 25% damaged during the war) are being repaired. Besides those engaged in repair and new construction work, there are now about 1,500 employees.

b) Of the two sections producing explosives, one is running at 50% of capacity, the other is engaged in full production of nitric acid. The third and fourth plant areas are inoperative, due to lack of raw materials and new construction work.

c) Of the raw materials employed - toluol, nitric acid, and sulphuric acid - toluol is delivered regularly from Buna at Schkopau (D91). A large reserve of nitric and sulphuric acids is stored on the plant grounds. The proving grounds within the plant area is being used chiefly to test relay detonating devices.

25X1X6 [REDACTED] 25X1X6

a) According to an SMA directive, the Sprengstoffwerke was to produce 2,400 tons of explosives yearly under the trade name of Bonarit. This figure was established on the basis of requirements for mining and various types of construction, e.g., blasting to provide stone for bridge building. In early September, this figure was raised to 4,300 tons per year. The plant directors are reported to be doubtful that they can achieve this quota because of the shortage of glycerin.

25X1A9a [REDACTED] 25X1A9a 25X1A8a

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b) Source believes, however, that the Lignose Sprengstoffwerke will encounter no difficulty in securing toluol. Investigation of the Fahlberg-List AG at Magdeburg, which produces saccharine from a pure toluol base, revealed that this plant's production had almost come to a standstill. Its scheduled output of forty-five tons of saccharine during the second quarter of 1946 will not be met, because the entire toluol production by Buna at Schkopau has been earmarked for the explosives industry in the Russian Zone.

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Beginning 1 November 1946, sixty percent of the explosives produced by the Lignose Sprengstoffwerke was to be delivered to the Soviet Army and forty percent to be allocated to civilian activities, such as mining.

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a) The SMA has ordered the Lignose Sprengstoffwerke to maintain its output at 1,200 tons per quarter during 1947, and has also ordered all other branches of industry to cut down their use of glycerin. Plant directors maintain that their production for the past quarters is "completely illusory" since there was insufficient glycerin available.

b) Various people in the German Central Administration for Industry are of the opinion that the required amounts of glycerin will not be made available through the newly ordered cut at other factories. They believe that the SMA may obtain glycerin from Switzerland in exchange for glycerin substitutes, which are to be produced by Rubach and Zirrgobel in Berlin, Pallisadenstrasse 93. Necessary raw materials, such as sugar and syrup, have already been delivered to the latter concern.

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