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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP**

**INTELLIGENCE REPORT**

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COUNTRY **Germany (Russian Zone)**

DATE:

SUBJECT **Farmhouse Building Program**

DIST. **December 1947**

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PAGES **2**

ORIGIN

SUPPLEMENT

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- On 27 and 28 October there was a conference at the Central Administration of Agriculture and Forestry attended by representatives of all the states of the Russian zone to consider the problems of housing for the farmers in the Russian zone. SMA Order #209 directed the construction of 37,000 housing units for "new farmers" (Neubauer).
- Brandenburg reported that its quota is 10,000. It is doubtful that Brandenburg can fulfill this quota. Only half the necessary workmen can be found; only one-third of the buildings will be stone, the rest wood and mud. It will be necessary to draft laborers. Sawmills are to work in three shifts. The SMA has been asked not to blow up armaments factories but rather to allow them to be scrapped for housing material.
- Saxony-Anhalt has set up an office called "Oberbauleitung 209" with a building office in each Landkreis. The building program is costing the state about 60,000 RM monthly. Half of the construction is new and half is remodeling. The program had been 11% completed as of 28 October. The farmers all want larger buildings than the architects recommend. Twenty per cent of the building is mud-type. Sixty per cent of the required amount of glass is available, five per cent of the nails, and no cement at all.
- Saxony has assigned ninety per cent of all building materials to the farmers' housing program. Five thousand units are to be built. Estate houses are being torn down without any regard for the farmers who have been living in them. The complaint was made that resettlers from Silesia refuse to build in Saxony because they still hope to return to their old home in the near future.
- Thuringia has scheduled three thousand units. Six hundred forty-three new buildings and 1,350 additions should be completed by 1 January 1948. Each new farmer must furnish the necessary wood from his own wood lot. Private contractors are eliminated and replaced by cooperative building societies.

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6. 12,000 homes are needed for the new farmers in Mecklenburg, where 60% of the total area was affected by the Bodenreform. Only 50% of the necessary building materials are available within the state. Half the buildings will have to be made of mud.
7. A representative of the SMA criticized the entire program, complained that the building materials are diverted to the black market, and demanded that building costs be limited to 10,000 RM per unit.
8. A resolution was drawn up which included the following points:
  - a. Control officers are to be appointed in each Kreis with authority to inspect all supplies of building materials and confiscate any intended for the black market. The state governments are to issue decrees to provide for the requisition of all privately owned building materials.
  - b. Estate houses are to be eliminated and steps taken to prevent the construction of disproportionately large new homes. Norms are to be established for various types of buildings and the builder will not be allowed any variation.
  - c. Labor offices are to be directed to give this program top priority in assignment of construction labor. Contractors who fail to cooperate will have to turn over their workers to others who will. Workers in the program are to receive a hot meal and other benefits of SMA Order #234.
  - d. The state governments are asked to suspend all laws or decrees which might hold up the program and to eliminate all bureaucratic obstacles. It is also requested that all other non-priority building be forbidden for the duration of the program.
  - e. The following schedule is set up:

10	November	'47	Presentation of plans.
20	"	"	Approved plans sent to Kreise.
25	"	"	Report to Central Administration of Forestry and Agriculture.
1	December	"	Report on material available, sawmills and mobile sawmills.
15	"	"	Timber felling completed.
31	"	"	Individual house plans completed.
10	January	'48	Report on materials and plots Assigned.
31	"	"	Transport of timber to sawmills completed.
15	February	'48	Final Report on plans, name of contractor, materials, transporta tion, etc.
30	April	"	Cutting of lumber completed.

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