

**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

1  
292

COUNTRY **Germany (Russian Zone)**  
SUBJECT **Organization and Operation of the Machine Lending Stations in the Russian Zone**

DATE DISTR. **24 JUL 50** 25X1

NO. OF PAGES **3**

PLACE ACQUIRED [ ]  
DATE OF INFO. [ ]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW) 25X1

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

[ ]

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1. The MAS (Maschinenausleihstation - Machine Lending Station) is the most recent enterprise of the VEB (Volkseigene Betriebe - Nationalized Industries).\* The MAS emanated from the Technical Department of the various VdgB (Farmers' Mutual Aid Association) Kreis Secretariats, and became effective as of 1 March 1949. Its chief task as a political organ is to inculcate in the community democratic forms and to give cultural assistance in conjunction with the Block Parties and particularly with the SED. This program promises to be developed even more thoroughly and completely than it has been achieved in the Soviet Union. 25X1

2. The Central Administration of the MAS is located in Berlin. Under its authority are the MAS Land Administrations of Mecklenburg, Brandenburg, Saxony, Saxony/Anhalt and Thuringia. In Land Saxony there are 87 MAS agencies.

3. The Land Repair Depot (Landesmaschinenhof) is at Dresden-Klotzsche, and there are three Kreis Repair Depots (KMH - Kreismaschinenhöfe) with large repair shops (Grossreparatur-Werkstätten) located as follows:

- Bezirk Leipzig: a KMH at Neukiritsch near Leipzig.
- Bezirk Chemnitz: a KMH and large repair shop at Chemnitz-Borna.
- Bezirk Zwickau and Plauen: a KMH at Plauen and a large repair shop. \*\*
- Bezirk Ostsachsen: has at the present time only a large repair shop authorized in Zittau, besides which is the Land repair Depot in Dresden-Klotzsche.

4. MAS Land Administration Office of Saxony.

The Saxony Land Administration Office is located in Dresden A 20, Tiergarten Strasse 36 and 78. Head of this office is Director Reinhold Henschke, who is about 50 years old, about 1.65 to 1.70 meters tall, greying hair,

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husky build; he is missing a thumb on his right hand. In 1933 he emigrated to Russia (C.d.P.); he was formerly a roof tiler in Tausitz. He is an SED functionary.

Commercial director: Max Gründling; dismissed 15 November 1949.  
(Kaufm. Direktor) Replaced by Neubert (fmu) of the Central Finance Office in Berlin 16 November 1949. He is an SED functionary.

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Chief technician: Pittelkoff (fmu) and Schnoecher (fmu), both  
(Techn. Direktor) SED functionaries.

Culture director: Jeschke (fmu); an SED functionary and con-  
(Kulturleiter) firmed Communist

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MAS farm authority: Dr. Bader (fmu).  
(MAS- Landwirt)

MAS director: in Posseck, Kreis Celsnitz/Vogtland; Willy  
Beine.

#### 5. Financial Situation.

The financial situation of the MAS as a whole in Saxony, as in all other VEB's, is the worst imaginable. Until August monthly operational subsidies of 10,000 to 15,000 DM were placed at the disposal of each MAS in Saxony by the Land government, so that at least wages and salaries would be guaranteed. However, since September 1949 these extra allowances have not been forthcoming, with the result that the financial situation has become so bad that in many cases salaries cannot be paid. The debts of the individual MAS agencies increased within a short time to such an extent that there were hardly any private firms (auto repair shops, as their own repair shops are inadequate, smithys, construction concerns, and above all gasoline stations) who would handle the MAS's orders. There were debts by MAS agencies up to 100,000 DM. To offset this there often were outstanding claims of only 10,000 to 50,000 DM, so that at the end of the year there was a huge deficit which was paid by the East German Government. The administration of both Land and Central MAS agencies was financed by the HO (Handelsorganization).

#### 6. Equipment. \*\*\*

In May 1949, 500 trucks and 1,000 tractors from Russia were made available by the SVA in Karlshorst. The trucks, which were two and four ton vehicles, have a gas consumption (Benzinverbrauch) of 49-60 l per 100 km. After having been driven for two months, they have proven unsatisfactory. Their shortcomings are:

- a) Gasoline consumption is too great, which makes operational costs very high.
- b) Engine defects, such as very defective spark plugs and bearings.

#### 7. There are two different types of tractors being used in Saxony; a Russian 45HP caterpillar tractor and the Kyrowitz 25HP.

The caterpillar tractor: It uses about 46 kg of diesel oil to one hectare; the normal fuel consumption for this area is about 32 kg. There are also many defective spark plugs.

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The Kyrowitz 2500:

This tractor gives an especially poor performance. It does not meet in any way the demands put upon it. It has many inefficient spark plugs, faulty bearings (kaputte Lager) and bad crankshafts.

8. In an emergency, defective bearings and spark plugs can be repaired or replaced by new ones, but there are no crankshafts. Thus in Saxony, at least 12 of these tractors are idle because crankshafts could not be procured anywhere, and as yet none have arrived from Russia, nor can any be delivered.

9. Observations of Leading MAS Figures.

At a meeting of the representatives of East Zone Machine Lending Agencies which took place in Güstrow on 11 March, the following persons, among others, were present:

Paul Werker: State Secretary of the East Zone Agriculture Ministry and SED Politburo member.

Paul Görbing: Director of the MAS Central Administration.

Herholz (fnu): Assistant Director of the MAS Central Administration.

Anton Jaddasch: A member of the Central Executive Committee of the Agriculture and Forestry Trade Union.

Edwin Hörnle: Former Director of the Central Administration for Agriculture and Forestry.

10. At this meeting Jaddasch reported that there are 900,000 farmers in the East Zone, of whom 470,000 are women. Görbing reported there are at present 516 Lending Agencies in the East Zone, 74 main repair shops (MAS-Leiter-Werkstätten), 7 special repair shops (Spezialwerkstätten) and 5 Land repair depots (Landesmaschinenhöfe). There were 6,700 tractors available this spring, 1,000 of which were delivered from the Soviet Union and 754 of which were produced last year by the Nationalized Industries. \*\*\*\* Last year 129,000 hectares were tilled on farms of less than five hectares, and 470,000 hectares on farms between five and ten hectares. Over 1 1/2 million tons of grain were threshed by the MAS. He also said that closer attention is to be given this year to sowing and harrowing (Drillarbeiten), and to cultivation; last year the emphasis was on plowing and reaping. Herholz said that the individual agencies of the MAS were to be bases for the organizing of the National Front in rural communities.

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\* [ ] Comment: [ ] MAS as a Maschinenausgleichsstation repeatedly, but heretofore it has been known to us only as Maschinenausleihstation.

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\*\* [ ] Comment: It is unclear whether Kreismaschinenhof and Cross-reparatur-Werkstatt are intended as synonyms, or that it is intended to indicate they are separate and/or complementary organizations. The assumption is that they are complementary. In this specific case it is especially confusing regarding the location of the latter.

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\*\*\* [ ] Comment: [ ] presumably these deliveries are to the MAS as a whole.

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\*\*\*\* [ ] Comment: These figures obviously do not add up to the total given by Görbing; the remainder, however, is probably from past years.

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