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25X1A

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1A

*[Handwritten signature]*  
237

TOPIC Briesen Airfield

EVALUATION See below

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 29 May to 23 June 1951

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A DATE PREPARED 23 July 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

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1. On 29 May 1951, a conference, concerning construction work at Briesen airfield, was held in Brand with representatives of the SCC in Berlin-Karlshorst, the Landesregierung of Brandenburg, the Cottbus regional railroad headquarters, and the Bauunion construction firm. In this conference the target date for the completion of the work was advanced by six weeks and set for 10 August 1951. \*
2. On 3 June, [REDACTED] the target 25X1X for the completion of the work at Briesen airfield was advanced from 1 October to 15 August 1951. Work was being done by 1,500 laborers working in three shifts. Two hundred carloads of broken stones, cement, and gravel arrived daily. On request of the Bauunion firm, a locomotive was made available after 4 June 1951 at the Brand railroad station for the shipping of construction material to the field.

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3. Between 3 and 19 June, a Soviet tractor brigade of 80 men was still employed at the field. The brigade was equipped with three heavy tractors, five trucks, and several tank trucks. [REDACTED] an estimated 2,000 men 25X1X were probably employed. [REDACTED] a represen- 25X1X tative of the Bauunion firm asked for an additional hundred workers because the target date for the completion of the runway was allegedly advanced to late-August 1951.
4. Morale among the German laborers was low because of the high norms required. On 15 June, Rudi Jahn, Minister President of Land Brandenburg, held a rally in front of the construction bureau. The personnel of the airfield and pupils of eight elementary schools took part in this rally.
5. Work was being done in three shifts. The construction sites, particularly the runway, were illuminated by strong lamps after nightfall. The Soviet brigade graded the area of the runway. Heavy rollers fitted with spikes, bulldozers, and ordinary rollers, towed by tractors, were used. On 16 June, 300 meters of the runway were concreted and on 19 June, a strip of about 350 meters was completed. A new storage shed was erected southeast of the flight control building. A strip of woods about 150 to 200 meters was cleared on both sides of the runway for security reasons. A tractor was

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plowing the cleared strips. The turning aprons at the ends of the runway were only graded but not provided with a hard surface.

6. Ten carloads of basaltic ballast which arrived by rail were unloaded at the storage shed for cement. The individual rocks were about 4 cm large. It could not be determined for what purpose the ballast was used. A strip about 100 x 200 meters, apparently for the construction of a taxiway, was cleared about 600 meters east of the end of the spur track, along the Brand-Krausnick road toward the runway. No lighting facilities were seen along the runway or on the edge of the field.
7. Of the scheduled 13 brick buildings, six were under construction. Two buildings were covered with roofing paper. Each building, 15 x 60 meters, had 16 windows. An educational building was being constructed in forest subarea (Jagen) No 60, opposite the brick buildings. According to the land-registry office, approach lanes were planned to be cut in the eastern and western extensions of the runway. These approach lanes were to be 500 meters square from the edge of the field. The question whether the railroad line was to be moved 5 km farther westward was raised but not decided upon.
8. The airfield was still guarded by ten civilian guards wearing red armbands with the inscription "Factory Police". It was learned from talks with laborers that the former construction superintendent Floetner, (fmu), was no longer at the field and that he had allegedly fled to the west.
- C-3 9. On 23 June, a strip of about 800 meters of the E-W runway, which was about 60 meters wide, was under construction at the field. Light poles were erected on the southern edge of the runway. The construction laborers used three power shovels and three concrete mixers. A building about 6 x 20 x 50 meters, was under construction on the southern edge of the field. \*\* The airfield was guarded by civilians.

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- 25X1A ~~Comment.~~ The target date reported probably refers only to the completion of the concrete runway which is to be 3,000 meters long. It is not possible that the entire airfield will be completed by 10 August.
- 25X1A\*\* ~~Comment.~~ A hangar is possibly under construction.

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