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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INTELLIFAX 14
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT []

CD NO.

001
183

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 30 Nov. 1951

SUBJECT Zeiss-Jena; Production of Nautical Instruments in the DDR

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE ACQUIRED

ENCLS. 3
(BELOW)

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DATE OF INFO.

COMMENT TO T NO.

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1. In the middle of July there was a conference at Askania in Teltow concerning the production of nautical equipment, on the reparations account (sic), for the Seepolizei and the seagoing merchant vessels of the DDR for the year 1951-52. The following personalities were at this conference:

- a. A representative of Askania.
- b. Walter Chemnitz of the Hauptverwaltung Feinmechanik und Optik of the Ministry for Machine Construction.
- c. A representative of Schiffswerft Stralsund.
- d. An officer of the Seepolizei.
- e. A representative of the SCC.
- f. Dr. Hugo Schrade of Zeiss-Jena.

2. A lecture was given by Dr. Schrade on 6 August 1951 about this conference to all department heads, specialists, scientists, etc. of Zeiss. His discourse concerned former production and future production in 1951 and 1952. In Teltow the discussion was presumably mainly about shortages of raw materials (and their quality) in the DDR. The types of equipment discussed were the following:

- a. Gyro-Compasses (Kreisel Kompass)

Production and research was formerly carried out by Askania, but they are not satisfied as to the quality of the "Saphyr-Lagersteine" (sapphire fulcrum stone). Askania was commissioned to continue the production for 1951/1952 and improve development. The supply of "Saphyrsteine" will be from the USSR and the containers will be made by Zeiss-Jena.

Document No. 010
 No Change In Class.
 Declassified
 Class. Changed To: TS S C
 Auth.: HR 70-2
 Date: 05/09/78

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b. Bearing compass (Induktions und Faden-Kompass)

Similar conditions to those in (a) above. The development and production will be conducted by Askania.

c. Logs (Log)

Askania will develop logs with the electrical connections of the drive (sic) supplied by the RFT. They will have a complete monopoly.

d. Sounding equipment

Askania will produce the "Thomsen-Lot", and the RFT the "Behm'sche Echo-Lot".

e. Perlorus or bearing compasses (Peilscheiben)

The development of these will be undertaken by Askania with the attached telescopes, etc., supplied by the "Optische Werke, Rathenow". Magnification will be increased in the telescope from 2.5 to 3.5 X. There will be no other firms in competition.

f. Compass magnifiers (Kompass-Lupen)

For enlarging compass readings (steering). Production and development by Askania and Rathenow optical works.

g. Clear view screens (Klar-Sichtscheiben)

These are fitted on the bridge of vessels to throw off spray or rain (they consist of a rotating glass disc). The production will be carried out by Askania but the glass will be supplied by Schott (Jena).* See paragraph 3a below.

h. Artificial horizon (Künstlicher Horizont-Kinn-Messer)

Development and production by the Hildebrandt firm of Freiberg.

i. Heeling recorder (Krängungsmesser)

Production and development by Schiffswerft, Stralsund, in conjunction with Askania.

j. Sextants (Sextanten)

The development and production of the sextants will be conducted by the Hildebrandt firm in Freiberg. The principal difficulty encountered in production is that of the reflecting mirror on the arm of the sextant reflecting direct rays from the sun. The mirrors will be supplied by Schott (Jena). (By means of a better melting process the glass, it is hoped, will be free of faults).

k. Position lights (Positionslaternen)

To be produced by various firms in the DDR (names unknown). The main criticism concerned the poor containers for the lamps which hitherto have not been water tight. In addition, the internal fittings were not properly secured, which caused poor electrical contacts and shorts. The screws and other fittings were poor and caused corrosion.

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1. Range-finders, telescopes, dip measuring instrument, etc. (Entfernungsmesser, Spezialfernrohre, Kimm-Tiefen-Messer).

The development of this equipment will be conducted by Zeiss (Jena). However, the Seepolizei representative reported that specifications for vessels which were planned for the future for the Seepolizei force had not yet been definitely settled and consequently no plans for equipment could be specified.

3. a. Clear-view screens

Askania has given an order for the first 150 clear-view screens to Schott (Jena). The order called for specifications as shown on attached sketch. (See Sketch 1) The first difficulty encountered was with the production of a steel frame for the screens but these will be supplied by the end of September 1951. (Suppliers at present unknown). Askania has demanded the immediate production of the screens, but another difficulty that the Schott firm is encountering is the cutting of the 304 mm diameter circle. This task will be given to the Zeiss works.

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Type of glass:	Kristall-Spiegelglas
Measurements:	612 x 412 mm (± 0.5 mm) Thickness: 5 mm
Diameter of hole:	304 mm (± 0.2 mm)
Askania order (Auftragsnummer):	7 91 03 - 91 - 0002

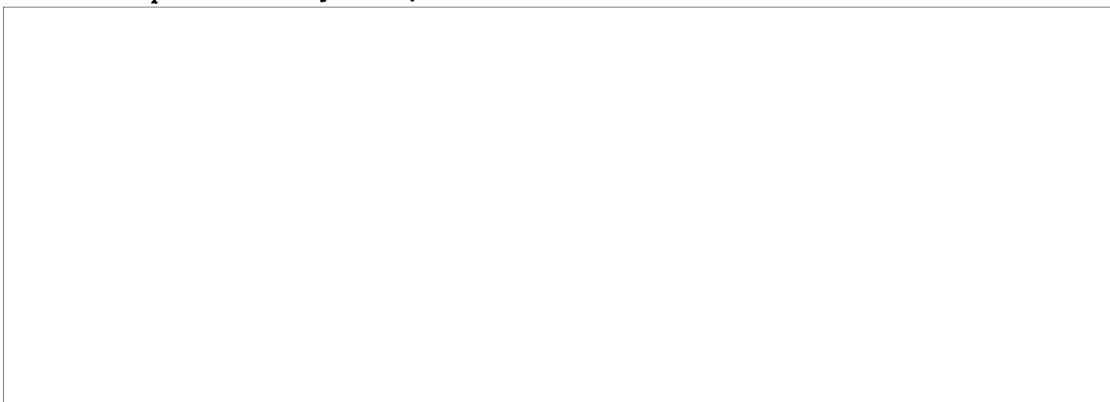
b. Glass-Discs (Teilkreis-Scheiben)

Schott has received an order from Zeiss for 200 glass discs (use unknown). Specifications are as follows:

Glass:	ZK5 (Zink-Kron-Glas)
Measurements:	150 x 150 mm
	Thickness: 5 mm with facet 20 mm wide
	Thickness of edge at facet: 4 mm

Use of these glass plates unknown. (Sketch No. 2, together with glass specifications, No. 3, attached).

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* Comment: Formerly Schott und Genossen, now Jenaer Glaswerk (VVB Optik), located in Jena.

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