

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1X

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Production Difficulties in DDR Soda Plants

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1. A report dated 19 November 1951 from the office of the State Secretary for Chemicals and Minerals (Staatssekretariat Chemie, Steine und Erden) contains the following information on unfulfilled production quotas:
 - a. The production quota for calcined soda for 1951 was established at 147,000 tons. For the period 1 January to 31 October 1951 the production quota amounted to 117,135 tons. Actually produced in this period were only 96,650 tons, or 82%.
 - b. Soda plant I at Stassfurt has fulfilled 96.8% of the allotted quota. The soda plant at Buchenau produced only 83% of the quota. The newly constructed soda plant II at Stassfurt has been allotted a production quota for the second quarter of 1951 and up to 31 October 1951 of 14,800 tons. Production has been only 4,185 tons, or 28%.
2. Reasons for the non-fulfillment of quotas are given in the report as follows:
 - a. After July 1951, the daily production at soda plant I at Stassfurt dropped from 175 tons to 160 tons because of the damaged condition of the largest lime shaft kiln. Erodng of the kiln lining caused a decrease in the gas concentration of 17%. As a result, an old shaft kiln had to be maintained in operative condition by temporary expedients until the new kiln went into operation on 1 October 1951.
 - b. The increase in production planned for the soda plant at Buchenau for the period from the first to the third quarter of 1951 was not achieved because of the belated approval for new construction. Approval was not granted until 22 May 1951. As a result, the delivery of machinery and equipment could not be carried out on schedule.
 - c. Construction of soda plant II at Staffurt, slated to begin 1 May 1951, was not carried out because the plants under the Main Department for General Machine Construction did not meet the deadline for the delivery and installation of equipment for the new plant. Thus the plant could not begin operation until 1 July 1951. Actual production did not begin until 19 July 1951 because of defective equipment. Examples of deficiencies in equipment delivered to Stassfurt plant

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It includes: poor construction of winches for kiln #1, causing a drop in production of 25 tons per day; repeated failure of the carbon dioxide ventilators; impractical construction of the feeding apparatus for the lime drum undertaken by the Bureau for Construction of the Main Department for Chemistry; and poor delivery of valves by BMM for the distiller and saturator.

3. Conclusions and suggested remedial action contained in the report are as follows:

- a. The failure to carry out the production capacities of the soda plants in Stassfurt and Buchenau resulted in a loss of production in the period up to 31 October 1951 of 20,000 tons of calcined soda.
- b. To ensure the continued increase of production capacities of the Stassfurt and Buchenau plants, the Ministry for Machine Construction is to be held responsible for the scheduled delivery and installation of plant equipment.
- c. The State Secretariat for the Construction Industry of the Ministry for Construction, and the Ministry for Machine Construction are to confirm the deadline set by the State Secretariat for Chemicals and Minerals for the construction of the soda plant at Bernburg.
- d. The State Secretariat for Material Procurement of the State Planning Commission is to be commissioned to supply the materials required under the planned investments for the Bernburg plant.
- e. The Ministry for Foreign and Domestic Trade is to be commissioned to press the import of calcined soda, so that the production of cleaning agents by the plants of the Main Department for Chemistry can be increased.