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1. The quality of glass needed for optical systems produced at Zeiss Jena has deteriorated steadily for the past two years. The glass supplied contains too high a number of streaks (Schlieren) and bubbles. Some special kinds of glass, for which rare ingredients are necessary, are no longer available. The computing offices of Zeiss have removed such kinds of glass from the computing tables. "Rötel" - one of the special ingredients - was delivered formerly by Czechoslovakia to Schott, one of the main glass suppliers to Zeiss. Now, however, Rötel imports have been discontinued, despite the fact that Zeiss personnel know that Rötel is being exported from Czechoslovakia to the West German Schott works at Oberzweiesel.
2. Zeiss production is seriously hampered by a shortage of non-ferrous metals (Buntmetall).
3. Condensers, i.e., special equipment for the forming of lenses with strong curvatures, are another shortage. They were sent to Russia when Zeiss was dismantled. The plant's efforts to reconstruct the equipment have been unsuccessful thus far. Currently, strongly curved lenses are formed by hand.
4. "Kanadabalsam", a special kind of mastic used to glue lenses of equal curvature together, is entirely lacking. Mastic used for such gluing has to be very consistent, transparent, and heat and weatherproof. Stored supplies of mastic with the appropriate qualities have been exhausted, and the material is not available in East Germany.
5. Such automatic equipment as stencils and presses was dismantled by the Russians and thus far has not been replaced.
6. Zeiss also suffers from a serious shortage of skilled personnel, especially in the following categories:

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STATE	X	X	NAVY	X	NSRB														
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- a) optical computers
- b) lens polishers
- c) micro-framers (skilled workers who frame lenses with diameters in millimeters)
- d) skilled mechanics

In February 1952, Hugo Schrade, director of the works, painted a gloomy picture of the skilled manpower situation for the benefit of leading scientific and technical personnel and State Secretary Wunderlich. Schrade stated that Zeiss Jena could no longer afford to have its skilled personnel defect to the West. Every defected skilled worker has to be replaced by three other workers. Schrade concluded that everything must be done to keep key personnel at the plant. Shortly after Schrade's speech, the number of people holding the intelligentsia ration card at the plant was increased considerably, and a system of higher premiums was put into effect.

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