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German Democratic Republic

GDR OFFERS INCENTIVES TO ATTRACT WEST GERMAN SCIENTISTS

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The Soviet authorities demanded a 1952 budget of at least 280 million Deutsche marks for scientific research in the GDR, including investments for fields of research in which scientific experts are not yet available in Soviet Zone Germany. The Bureau for Research and Technology was charged with bringing such experts to the GDR from West Germany. The Soviet Control Commission's representatives demanded greater financial support for research operations, so that attractive prospects could be offered to West German experts. Whereas in the past the heads of research institutes were required to account to the Finance Ministry every three months for funds expended, in future financial responsibility will be vested in the research scientists themselves, who will not have to submit financial accountings until after the completion of their projects.

Officials of the Bureau for Research and Technology protested that many scientists had used the funds placed at their disposal for defraying personal expenses. Citing a number of concrete examples, the officials opposed approval of such outlays. The Soviet Control Commission's representatives, on the other hand, felt that such trifles must be overlooked and that everything possible must be done to retain the services of the remaining scientists. The GDR is to be made independent of West German research in 1952/1953. Individual plants whose economic plans include research budgets are to be instructed to increase such budgets by at least 50 percent compared with 1951.

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