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INFORMATION REPORT

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CO JNTRY East Germany
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Friesen Ore Bunker

- 1. The entire output of grade-II contact ore of Object 6 was stock-piled at the Friesen ore bunker. The material was delivered by truck and shipped out by rail to the Lengefeld concentration plant at a rate of 40 to 45 railroad car loads a day.

Bergen Mining Area

- 2. In early July 1955, the mine workforce was suddenly reduced from 350 to 160 men. The dismissed workers were transferred for work at Zobes. The plan targets were reduced from 600 meters mine advance per month to 150 meters, and from 2,000 boxes of grade-III contact ore per month to 300 - 400 boxes. These modifications were believed to have been made because of the low yield of the Bergen mine.

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But on advancing working area 109, a small number of high-yield ore pockets were struck and it was hoped to strike more abundant patches, possibly even pitchblende, by further advancing the mine into the slate region. These findings revived the activities at Bergen. After fulfillment of the reduced plan targets for July 1955, new laborers were hired in early August. The target figures were raised to a monthly advance rate of 350 meters, and an output of 600 - 800 boxes of grade-III contact ore. At present, mining activities are predominantly being carried out at ore lode 7 (working area 95, 366-meter level), ore lode 146 (working area 203, 420-meter level, above working area 146) and ore lode 151 (working area 158, 306-meter level, at slopes 158 a and 4, in search for pitchblende). Working area 109 on the 366-meter level is being advanced in search for small pockets of high quality ore.

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- 3. In July 1955, the yield of high-grade contact ore was as follows:

grade-III contact ore 400 boxes
grade-II contact ore about 40 tons
grade-I contact ore about 250 - 300 tons

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The advance was about 170 meters.

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Zobes Mining Area

6. Due to continuing transfer of workers from other mines (Bergen, Cottensberg, Schnackenstein) and the hiring of new workers, the work force of the two Zobes mine combines increased to about 7,000 persons. Zobes is the center of the West-Saxony mining area and includes Combines 277 and 362. Combine 277 includes Mines 294, 277, 320 and 354. The deepest level of Mine 320 is located at 83 m above sea level, the mouth of the mine at 480 m above sea level, thus the mine has a depth of 563 meters (sic). Mine 277 is equipped with a hoisting shaft serviced by 4 mine cages. Combine 362 consists of Mine 362 (hoisting shaft) and Mine 364 (Mine "German-Soviet Friendship"). The latter mine was sunk as a substitute for drowned exploration shaft No 19. With a peak of 70 meters advance per month, a depth of 250 meters has presently been reached. Taking into account a possible deviation of ± 10 meters, the following positions were determined: Height above sea level 412.5 meters, coordinates 18,500 and 97150 (sic) (?).
7. The present extraction volume could not be determined. Zobes is subdivided into 10 working areas predominantly yielding grade-IV contact ore of all grades. As regards grade-II contact ore, the extraction ratio between Bergen and Zobes was estimated to be 1:8 - 10.

Schnackenstein Mining Area

6. In this area, the workforce was also cut down, although to a lesser extent than that in the Bergen area. Geologically, the situation is less favorable than at Zobes and Bergen. Some 20 ore lodes run in a 40 - 50 degree slant in north-south direction. The slate formation is interspersed with pitchblende pockets. Output figures were not available. The output during the first half of 1955 was estimated to equal that of the Zobes operation.
7. At Taunenbergsthal, ore mining activities have been reduced to one working area and the former 350-men workforce has decreased to 100 persons. Dismissed workers were transferred to Zobes. The Taunenbergsthal mine, designated No 181, yielded low amounts of uranium mica. The operation is expected to be closed down as an independent enterprise shortly.

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