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COUNTRY East Germany
SUBJECT Change in Optical Industry Believed Result of Rearmament Needs

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1. Up to the present time there has been no regular sales (disposition) office for East Germany at VVB Carl Zeiss, Jena. Dr. (fnu) Berg has so far been the only member of the "Dispo DDR" staff. In the near future a well-staffed Dispo DDR office is to be created under Berg's direction. Since nothing in the sales situation of the works tends to justify such a change, it is believed that the DDR sales office will be a cover for armaments sales to East German customers; i.e., the new office will be the revived military department of the works.

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2. Another pending step points in the same direction. The Zeiss works has already affiliated under its authority branch works in Dresden-Reick (Projecting and special optical equipment), in Saalfeld (Optical equipment) and Weimar; the latter works were established at the end of 1952 but are not yet operating. In the near future more works affiliated with VVB Optik will be put under the administration of Zeiss, Jena; for instance, the VVB Optik works in Mathenow. Each of these works under Zeiss will have its own works director, who will be responsible to the Zeiss main direction. Enlargement and centralization of the optical industry under the Jena works will be simultaneously accompanied by a decentralization of production. It is planned that each of the works under Zeiss will specialize in the production of a single product or of a few products only. It is commonly believed that this move aims at freeing the Jena works from producing accessory and by-products; thus the Jena works will be able to invest a large part of its production capacity in the production of armament equipment.

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