

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. A great shortage of pure aluminum and aluminum alloys exists at VEB Carl Zeiss, Jena. 1/ There are also shortages of: stainless steel and high nickel-chrome tool steels; sheet metal of all kinds, especially thin plates; good quality steel; and foundry pig iron. In March 1953 alone, the total shortages of the above materials were 90 tons. Schott glass is in short supply, reputedly because: (1) all good Schott 2/ men are now in Mainz; (2) borax and essential salts are not available in East Germany; (3) Schott's platinum crucibles are exhausted (high frequency induction heating is poor and ultra-sonic stirring is used very little). 3/ All materials used for electrical appliances which contain copper, especially wires and cables of all kinds, are in short supply. So far, only approximately 20% of materials containing copper required for production of A-1 and plant maintenance has been received. Other material shortages are: solvents, resins, wax, all kinds of paints and varnishes, shellac, colophony, high quality pitea, emery, and polishing rouge.
2. The lack of transportation facilities is reflected in the critical coal supply for Zeiss, Jena. On various occasions last winter, Zeiss and Schott had only two days' supply of coal on hand--use of power and heat had to be curtailed. Further transportation difficulties can be expected in the future as soon as new regulations take effect, which will transfer trucks for long distance hauls from the large people's-owned companies to special transportation cooperatives. The mission of the latter will be to combine all long distance trucking.
3. All important tools and equipment are produced in the Zeiss plant itself. Therefore, no shortage of production capacity for tools exists, but a shortage of raw materials (high quality steel, cast iron) is curtailing machine tool production.
4. A shortage of skilled workers in the optics division and turning section is apparent. To alleviate this shortage, special shop courses have been introduced. Because of the large number of trained apprentices, the shortages in other skills can be made up. The apprentice training is still good, but more and more time is required for courses in Communist subjects which interferes with technical training. Approximately 2,500 apprentices with an apprenticeship of 2 to 3 years are currently employed. The plant acquires about 800-900 new apprentices each year (usually in early September). Approximately 55% of this number are females and the percentage of females in the entire labor force is about 40%.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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3. Zeiss has a shortage of good female workers, as they prefer working for Jenapharm (Knoll), which pays higher salaries and in addition, bonuses. For that reason it has been suggested several times in Berlin to transfer the production section of the Jenapharm plant to Naumburg where no industry is located. The Knoll Institute has to remain in Jena because of its close contact with the university.

1/ [redacted] Comment: [redacted] this is because of a power shortage at Bitterfeld.

2/ [redacted] Comment: Schott is presently the VEB Jenaer Glaswerk, formerly Schott and Genosson.

3/ [redacted] Comment: [redacted] the Russian glass works at Leningrad far surpass Schott. It has the platinum crucibles formerly owned by Schott. Czechoslovakia sells its best grade of clay to Bavaria for West Mark credit and second grade clays to Schott.

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