

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Production of Light Metals by the Bitterfeld Electrochemical Combine

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1. Although the date of completion of Electrolytical Plant No II, which was under construction at the Elektrochemisches Kombinat, VEB, in Bitterfeld, was still not certain, the plant was assigned a 1953 production quota of 21,500 tons of metallurgical aluminum. The State Administration for Material Supply had, however, distributed 24,000 tons for 1953, including 2,000 tons which were to be delivered as state reserve by Elektrochemisches Kombinat to Leichtmetallwerk in Rackwitz near Leipzig.

2. From 1 January to 15 May 1953, the Bitterfeld plant produced 6,643 tons of metallurgical aluminum, including 107 tons of purest aluminum with an Al percentage of 99.95 percent. This meant an overfulfilment by 425 tons of the production quota of 6,215 tons planned for this period. Since the State Administration for Material Supply had distributed 8,000 tons, a deficiency of 1,357 tons remained.

25X1 3. [redacted] the metallurgical aluminum production plan mainly depended on the current supply. [redacted] the melting process of the electrolytical plant was constantly delayed by cuts of the current supply during peak load periods, and [redacted] this would become still more serious after the putting into operation of the second electrolytical plant.

4. The production of remelted alloys from aircraft scrap amounted to 1,969 tons at the Bitterfeld plant, as compared with a plan quota of 2,250 tons during the period from 1 January to 15 May 1953. The deficiency was caused by decreasing supply of scrap.

5. In the first half of May, the transportation Machine Construction Main Administration in Dessau, of the Ministry for Transportation and Agricultural Machine Construction, requested the State Secretariat for Chemistry to order test bars of magnesium-aluminum-copper-manganese alloys for experiments, allegedly on aircraft materials. For casting these bars which were scheduled to be produced at the Elektrochemisches Kombinat, 4 tons of metallurgical magnesium were required, which had to be supplied from stores of the state reserve. These stores included several hundreds of tons of pure magnesium produced during the war and stored at the Leichtmetallwerk in Rackwitz.

6. In early June 1953, Elektrochemisches Kombinat, VEB, in Bitterfeld filled the magnesium production plan about 200 percent. Since magnesium was being produced only by remelting processes in Bitterfeld, this over-fulfilment was allegedly made

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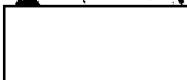
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possible by satisfactory scrap supply. Plans for the expansion of the magnesium plant provided an annual capacity of 7,000 tons after completion of the plant. The new magnesium-producing electrolytical plant, which was scheduled to have 120 baths, was under construction at Werk Nord close to Electrolytical Plant No I and was planned to be put into operation about mid-1954.

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