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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

OR NO UNCODED

COUNTRY East Germany/Sino-Soviet Bloc Nations

DATE DISTR 18 May 1954 25X1

SUBJECT VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen, Berlin-Oberschoene

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO 25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. As a result of the poor quality of products manufactured and delivered to the USSR by VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen (WF), intensified testing methods according to the Kvorov Plan of 15 December 1953 were to be introduced. During the period from 1 January to 31 March 1954, ten percent of all products were to be fully checked by the quality control. Between 1 April and 30 June, 20 percent of the products were to be checked and from 1 July to 30 September, 60 percent. The plant agreed to this plan, provided that a credit of 3 to 3.5 million marks be granted by the ministry by 15 February 1954 to cover the investments for testing equipment. The plant would then produce the testing equipment by June. However, since only very little money had been received by July 1954, the plant was unable on 1 July to increase the quality control as planned from 20 to 60 percent. In May 1954, the plant asked Tekhnoproimport Moscow through the ministry and DIA (German Import and Export) to postpone the target date about two months. Since the Soviet insisted on the schedule date, the products were piled up in the depot.

2. In July 1954, 35,000 to 38,000 tubes had been rejected by Sachsenwerk Radberg. This high figure was a result of a new testing method for adhesive strength of sockets that damaged practically all the tubes and had been introduced by the Soviet control officers for no special reason. Because of rejected tubes stagnant in the special depot, Sachsenwerk Radberg had to reduce the production of television sets from four to two production lines, and the export order from the USSR was partially cancelled.

3. By late July, the number of tubes at the WF plant had been increased to 6,000 units, because, after 1 July, this type tubes had to be subjected to 25-hour intermittent life tests and, if the requirements were not met, the tubes were to be repeated with twice as many tubes. The life tests were not to be carried out on experimental television sets, but rather in a special test stand where not enough units were available. During the tests, the temperature of the test tube was regulated by means of impulses given by a generator. The cables extending from this generator to the test stands were affected by so many disturbances that they had to be laid in iron tubes through three floors.

On 15 August, Ulyanov (ina), chief of the Soviet Trade Delegation in East Berlin, received order from Moscow to continue the acceptance of tubes, even if the Kvorov Plan specifications could not

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to met. Ulyanov informed Zanchurski (fnu) (phonetic spelling), Soviet acceptance officer at the HF Plant, of this order who in turn wanted all tubes stored at the plant tested for acceptance by the end of August. Since the HF Plant had not reduced the production of radio tubes and only slightly cut the output of picture tubes, there were large stocks piled up. This reaction of the plant had proved to be right, because, as a result of the urgent requirement for all types of tubes, the Moscow Trade Delegation was ready to make compromises. Sachsenwerk Radeberg also demanded the immediate delivery of tubes.

5. By the end of September 1954, the production of metal ceramic tubes had not yet started, but preparations were made to start it at any time. It was planned that at first smaller quantities of metal ceramic tubes should be offered to some interested satellite countries, primarily to Czechoslovakia. The plant still refused to recognize the rejection of metal ceramic tubes by the Soviets.

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6. A 5¹/₂-hour export conference at the DIA-Elektrotechnik on 22 September 1954

Soviet claims for replacement of picture tubes which had defective filament wires and glass envelopes when inspected in Moscow were discussed. Ulyanov demanded that the HF Plant recognize the Soviet claims based on expert examination, and supply replacements. This was refused by the plant. Referring to the conventions of all tube plants, the representatives of the HF Plant refused to recognize the validity of Soviet demands and informed Ulyanov that the plant would make no concessions in this respect.

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After long discussions, Ulyanov stated that the plant would receive no more export orders unless it recognized the claims. The plant was to submit a statement to Tekhnopromimport by 27 September. It was assumed that the HF Plant would not give in, but that the Ministry of Machine Construction would finally force the plant to make concessions in order to keep up the export of tubes to the USSR. For the shipment to Brest Litovsk, the tubes were insured by the Germans and from there by the Soviets. Recently the German transport firm in charge had to pay 1,800 rubles shipping damages to the USSR.

7. [redacted] the 1955 production was to include the following television tubes: 9" and 12" tubes as previously and in addition small numbers of 14" and 17" picture tubes. It was planned to increase the production of special tubes, to increase considerably the production of the miniature series, and cancel the production of some types of series 6. The production of 6 AC 7 type tubes was also to be increased because nine of these tubes were installed in Rubens and Rembrandt type television sets.

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8. The plant could not produce enough miniature tubes to fill the high requirement of East Germany. [redacted] indicated that defective tubes were also delivered to Bulgaria, Rumania, Czechoslovakia and Poland, most of them installed in sets. Conferences were allegedly held concerning the export of special tubes to China.

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9. [redacted], the complaints department was to double its capacity in order to be capable of handling 15,000 tubes within ten days. This arrangement was made because the plant had agreed to answer complaints within two weeks. Plant Manager Mubler allotted a lump sum to cover the required investments. The funds for the Tvorov Plan had been received by that time.

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- 10. During the first and second quarter of 1954, recognized rejects amounted to an average of 3.5 to 4 percent. In July 1954, the total scrap of the radio tube production averaged 50 to 60 percent. The major defects included the insulation between filament and cathode, sensitivity to noise and welding and assembly faults.
- 11. At a quality conference on 30 July 1954, held under the chairmanship of Dr Richter (fnu), representatives of the test stations and the quality control, discussed the major difficulties including the insufficient adhesive strength of the sockets and the defective insulation between filament and cathode. Examinations revealed that the socket cement was inadequate as a result of the use of substitute material. Immediate action was taken by assigning unskilled personnel to test manually the adhesive strength of the sockets. Since the reason for the insulation defects between filament and cathode could not be determined, only the testing methods could be improved to reduce the complaints.
- 12. Difficulties in the production of tubes could not be reduced by late September 1954 and there was a serious lack of glass envelopes for the production of picture tubes. Most of the tubes supplied by Glashuette Weisswasser could not be used, primarily because of bubbles in the screen. Manager Hueller asked the State Control Commission to intervene at Weisswasser because of the defective material. This action led to the dismissal of the managers in charge. The Control Commission found incredibly poor technological conditions for the production of picture tubes and decided that the production would most probably have to be temporarily discontinued, although this would effect a reduction or discontinuation of the production of picture tubes. The problem was mentioned in the plant magazine HF Sender which published an open letter to Glashuette Weisswasser.⁵


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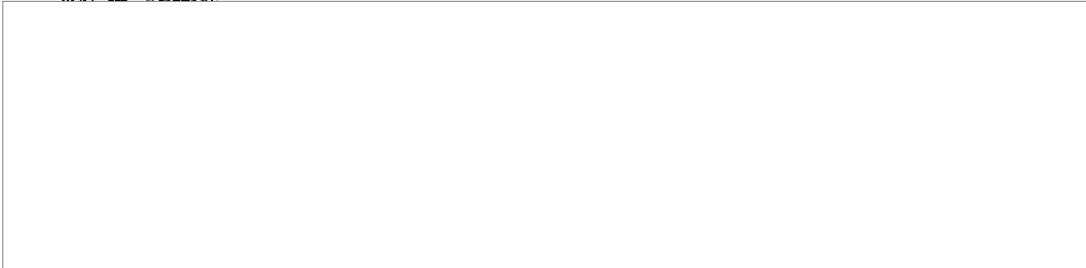
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2. Probably the Ministry for Machine Construction under which the HF Plant falls. 25X1

3.  Ulyanov (fnu) was described as the Berlin representative for Tekhnopromimport. 25X1

4.  Teroshenko (fnu) was said to be the Soviet acceptance officer at the HF Plant. 25X1

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