

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany
SUBJECT Tense Food Situation in East GermanyDATE DISTR. 10 June 1955
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[redacted] food situation in the GDR

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The food supply has reached a critical stage. In spite of all efforts to stretch the available supplies by throwing in the State Reserve and by reducing to third all allocations of high-calorie food to HO shops, it is extremely difficult to bridge the period preceding the 1955 harvest. Otto Bach and Erich Waechter, two members of the Presidium of the CDU/Ost, who were assigned to the mission of easing the tension of the population by delivering speeches elucidating the situation, declared themselves unfit for such action since no explanation whatsoever could hold water. LDP and NDP members also broke their promises to take part in this propaganda campaign. Hans Loch, Minister of Finances, has called Grotewohl's attention to the fact that LDP member Dr. Karl Hamann, the former Minister for Trade and Supply, had been arrested and held responsible for an earlier and much less critical food situation. Loch has suggested that similar treatment should be given to the SED functionary now holding this position. An increasing number of letters is being sent to GDR and East Berlin newspapers by anonymous writers who are venting their bitter discontent. Low-level HO employees are made the scapegoats and are charged with having caused the difficulties by sabotage and inefficiency. In Leipzig, Dresden, and Rostock such persons are said to have been arrested. Fats, flour and other food will be supplied by the USSR. Under Russian pressure, also Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary, have announced food deliveries. There may be hope for an improvement by mid-April, although actual relief can be brought about only by the 1955 harvest.

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1. [redacted] Comment: Kurt Wach is now Minister of Trade and Supply.

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Supply on

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food situation in the CDR

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1. **Comment:** Kurt Wach beg became Minister of Trade and Supply on 25X1
2 February 1953 and has been in office since 19 May 1953.

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