

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	VEB Carl Zeiss, Jena: Standardization Section Destroyed by Fire	DATE DISTR.	23 September 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The Standardization Section of VEB Carl Zeiss, Jena was destroyed by fire on 30 July 1955. This section was located on the fifth floor of a building in the main plant. The fire was reportedly caused by carelessness of Standardization Section Chief Machalet (fnu), who failed to disconnect a hot plate located in his office; he was immediately placed under arrest. When the fire progressed to such a point that the local East German fire-fighting personnel could not control it, Soviet troops were called upon for assistance. The fire lasted from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m.
2. The Standardization Section housed photostat and microfilming equipment for use by the entire plant. The most important items located in this section were the original blueprints of all products manufactured or developed by the plant. The majority of the blueprints were stored in wooden filing cabinets and were completely destroyed; some had been filed in metal cabinets, but they were badly damaged. Stock records were also filed in this section.
3. Until January 1954, most blueprints and drawings of new production developments and models were microfilmed, and these reportedly were not destroyed. Since January 1954, however, the general practice of micro-filming all drawings and blueprints of new inventions and development work had been discontinued for the sake of economy; most of these documents must be considered lost. Much of the material can be replaced by having either the original development engineers repeat their work, or by collating the blueprints available in the various production and design offices. It is believed that this will take several months.
4. Responsible officials of VEB Carl Zeiss, Jena, estimated the damage caused by the fire at several million DME.

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