

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	VEB Carl Zeiss Jena Personnel Changes	DATE DISTR.	7 December 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

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1. Dir. Dr. Hugo Schrader (SED), chief of VEB Carl Zeiss, Jena, was frequently absent from his job during the summer of 1955.

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During Schrader's frequent and prolonged absences this summer, Dipl. Ing. Rudolf Mueller (SED), technical director of VEB Carl Zeiss, Jena, made most of the decisions normally falling within the jurisdiction of Director Schrader. However, no official announcement was made appointing him acting chief or giving him a similar title. In spite of this lack of official announcement, it was generally assumed by the plant personnel that Mueller, referred to in the plant as "Rufue", would eventually be appointed deputy chief or second in command. Many of the top men in Zeiss Jena have reservations about Mueller's overall technical qualifications, but felt that such a choice would not be too bad for the plant because he has three points in his favor: (a) he is an old member of the Zeiss plant family; (b) he is a member of the SED, yet well liked by most of his subordinates; and (c) he has the ability to make decisions (not necessarily always correct ones) and does not procrastinate as Schrader was in the habit of doing for the past year.

2. In early October 1955, a new official by the name of Weiss or Weitz (fnu-) appeared at the plant, apparently under SED auspices, and, although no official announcement has been made, it is understood that he will become deputy chief of VEB Carl Zeiss, as soon as he has familiarized himself with the firm. Nothing is known as yet concerning Weiss' professional or personal background, although some officials who have come in contact with this person state that he either came from Dresden or had previous experience with a main administration in East Berlin.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X", Field distribution by "#")

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3. Weiss is also alleged to have brought one other official with him (au) who is allegedly to become the new commercial director.<sup>1</sup> Should this second appointment also take place, the present commercial director, Dr. Viktor Hueber, will have to relinquish his post and will be relegated to the position of Sales and Distribution Manager (KLV)<sup>2</sup>. The present chief of Sales and Distribution, Lorenz Fromm, will, in turn, be relegated to the next lower step of Export Department Chief.

4. Incidentally, Fromm and Georg Senf, who were supposed to take a trip in August and September 1955 to various Western countries to stimulate their foreign representatives and promote export contracts, had to shorten their trip considerably because a number of the countries refused their visa applications.

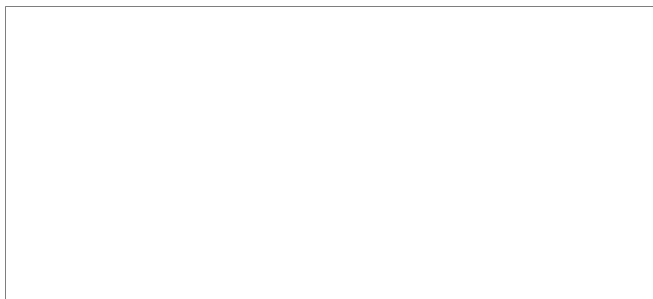
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Comment: 1. Kaufmaennischer Haupt-Leiter.

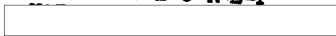
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2. Kaufmaennischer Leiter Vertrieb.



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