

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 5 AUG 49

SUBJECT Shortage of Ball-Bearings

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the ball-bearing factories in the Russian Zone.

1. Karl Reich, Zella-Mehlis, a S.A.G. firm employing 200 workers, manufactures only the smaller types of ball-bearings.
2. Gabr. Heller, Meiningen, is lacking in raw materials and does not manufacture complete ball-bearings but solely the balls. The Deutsche Kugellagerfabrik in Leipzig, Böhllitz-Ehrenberg, is also suffering from a lack of raw materials.
3. One hundred cement grinding mills, manufactured by the Krupp-Gruson works in Magdeburg, had not been delivered by March 1949 because of a lack of roller-bearings (Pendelrollenlager). The conveyor bridge at Böhlen stopped working at the beginning of 1949 because it needed two roller-bearings (Pendelrollenlager No. 32), each of which weighs approximately 240 kg. The authorities at Böhlen are attempting to obtain the bearings from Schweinfurt.
4. The Astra works in Chemnitz are manufacturing ball-bearing equipment cages and runners from hoop steel. The necessary hardness is achieved by pressing the steel according to a new process discovered by one Ing. Bilz of Chemnitz.
5. Fa. Krauthelm, an S.A.G. firm, has two factories, one at Altendorf employing 340 workers, the other at Chemnitz-Borna employing 1400 workers. They have been producing axle bearings and steel castings for the Reichsbahn. There is also a pig iron foundry presently engaged on a contract for 400 tons of grey pig iron for the Waggonfabrik in Dessau. The Dessau plant requires this pig iron for twelve coke lorries under construction as reparations.
6. The Faradit works in Chemnitz employs 320 men. During the second half of 1948, 1050 tons of cold-rolled hoop steel, welded steel piping, tractable insulating piping, and rope winding drums were produced there.

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