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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT

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1. a. Eng. D. RIEHL who, during the war, worked on the metallurgical production of uranium with the Auer Company by order of Professor HEISENBERG, speaks Russian fluently and left for Russia in the Summer of 1945.
- b. Many people are familiar with RIEHL's scientific treatises (separation of energy, fluorescence and allied fields) published in Germany and Russia. These treatises have been elaborated on in cooperation with Russians of German extraction. Special attention was drawn to a treatise on luminiscence published by him in 1943 which, after Germany's surrender, was also disseminated in Russia. RIEHL had four chemical engineers and two foremen who had been engaged with the Auer Company in separating uranium, follow him to the Soviet Union in late 1946. A year and a half ago, RIEHL was working at the MOSCOW Scientific Academy, but since then the Auer Company has received no word from or about him.
2. About ten thousand workers were formerly employed with the plant (main plant in ORANIEBURG and some branch establishments). They mainly produced incandescent gaslight, incandescent mantles, gas filters (especially during the war), protective clothing etc. The reason why the factory started the production of uranium (only 1 percent of the potential was used in this production) resulted from the fact that incandescent gas mantles of 99 percent thorium oxide or mesothorium were manufactured at the plant. Such goods can be produced only by very good factories. The basic element of this substance is monazite sand. The principal monazite deposits are in Belgian Congo, on the Argentinian beach, and primarily near TRAVANCORE at the South Cape of Hindustan. (The Soviet Union is also supposed to dispose of monazite deposits. Due to its special production, the Auer Plant had to be in touch with the top factories all over the world. Today former members of the Auer staff are holding key positions in America, and England.

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a. Part of the German Auer plant was heavily damaged by the US Air Force in 1945. As the Soviets realized the value of the plant they were very disturbed about the destruction. Soon after Germany's surrender, the Soviets mined about 650 tons of monazite to the Soviet Union. Later the available monazite mines (a by-product) had to be shipped away at the earliest practicable date in accordance with a special order from Moscow. About four hundred workers are now employed with the Auer Plant. Incandescent mantles and gas defense equipment for industrial purposes are principally produced there.

25X1 [REDACTED] Comment:

25X1 a. Another [REDACTED] supplemented the above information:

the fact that thorium is, in principle, suitable for producing the atomic bomb and the atomic pile, was discovered long ago. As the thorium presence in the crust of the earth exceeds by about a hundred times that of uranium, research work in this field has been intensified in recent years. The mentioned deposit at the South Cape of Manduata is supposed to comprise about three quarters of the world's thorium deposits. In 1947 the government of India secured the monopoly of exploitation and also founded an extensive research institute. Thorium deposits were also discovered in Norway and thorium is being produced in Freiberg, Saxony (N 51/K 97). The success of employing thorium for producing atomic bombs cannot be judged by German agencies. In consideration of the above facts, the thorium mining of the Soviets deserves special attention.

b. It can be assumed that Dr. Auer is a specialist in fluorescent (luminous) materials. Whether the seizure of the thorium stock at the Auer plant is connected with experiments performed by the Soviets using thorium for nuclear fission cannot be learned. Professor REISEBERG mentioned the thorium experiments parts of which were made at the Auer Plant, in his account on German atomic research work which was published by some periodicals.

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