

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Ceska Lipa factory was established in 1944 as a branch of the Sonnenschein factory in Berlin. From the end of the war until the end of January 1948, it was under national administration; later, it was nationalized and joined to Bateria, a national corporation which is headed by Ing. Polivka, director, and has its seat in Slany at the former Palaba factory. (Pala, the owner of Palaba, was imprisoned for collaborating with the Germans during the war.) Bateria united all Czech production of storage batteries except those made by the firms of Lorenc and Sabat, Vera, and th50X1-HUM Svobodove Bros., all in Prague, and Slovakum in Trnava. These latter firm50X1-HUM have remained under private ownership but they probably will be liquidated.
2. As of 1 January 1950, the factories engaged in the production of dry batteries and their components have continued under Bateria, but the storage battery factories have been formed into a new national corporation known as Prazska Akumulatorika, with its headquarters at Mlada Boleslav. These storage battery factories are as follows:
 - a. Main factory at Mlada Boleslav, which produces automobile batteries of all sizes, motorcycle batteries, plates for repairing batteries, and station batteries for telephones, post offices, emergency lighting, etc. This factory produces 20 percent of the Czech supply of alkaline (steel-nickel) batteries.
 - b. Elka firm at Usti nad Labem, headed by Frantisek Krejcik. This factory produces small telephons batteries, radio batteries, and parts for automobile batteries.
 - c. Former Sonnenschein firm at Ceska Lipa; the head position is now vacant. It produced 10,400 batteries having a rating of 105 ampere hours and 4,800 batteries of 150 ampere hours. In addition, it produced 2,500,000 plates for the Mlada Boleslav factory and 1,000,000 plates for use in repair work.
 - d. Asta at Radotin, headed by Ambros. This factory produces traction batteries for electrically-run vehicles and train batteries for illumination. It also produces 20 percent of the Czech supply of alkaline batteries (the Nife factory produces the remaining 60 percent).

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- e. Varta battery repair shop in Prague, headed by Ant. Blazek.
 - f. Repair shop and engineering office in Brno, headed by Bulicek.
3. Prazska Akumulatorika belongs to the "Automobile and Aircraft Industry", of which the general director is one Horak. The director of Prazska Akumulatorika is Antonin Klapste, and the technical leader is Frantisek Nalevka. Other officials are Srb, the factory economist; Jaroslav Wolf, the factory planner; and Salavec, the social and "competition" secretary. Vaclav Stecher, a Communist, is the cadre man and the real ruler of the factory.
 4. For the year 1950 the Prazska Akumulatorika was allowed a budget of 360,000,000 crowns to cover production costs of ampere hours. Of this sum the Mlada Boleslav factory was allotted 180,000,000 crowns, Elka about 56,000,000, Ceska Lipa 83,000,000 and Asta the remainder.
 5. From 5 to 10 percent of yearly production of storage batteries goes to the military. Factories producing automobiles and airplanes, especially the Skoda, Letecke zavody, and Avia Cakovice factories, take about 40 percent of production. About 20 percent goes to other national corporations, and about 25-30 percent, which is for civilian use, is distributed through Mototechna, a national corporation in Prague which has united all automobile commodities.
 6. In December 1949, the Plzen Skoda Works received about 600 batteries which had a rating of 105 ampere hours and were intended for heavy artillery. The military acceptance commission took over these batteries and sent them to various places in Czechoslovakia. For example, about one hundred each went to Olomouc for transport of heavy artillery, to Hradec, to Milovice (for tanks), to Bratislava, and to like places. In the near future, Skoda was to acquire about another hundred batteries, evidently for the same uses. The Ceska Lipa factory is the only one in Czechoslovakia producing this type of battery, which is designed for new Skoda products, such as traction equipment for heavy artillery or tanks. These tanks are probably of German origin, since the Germans left much material in the Skoda factory after the war.
 7. In 1949 the Ceska Lipa factory delivered about 250 batteries to military units at Novy Jicin, where an air force unit and a motor vehicle battalion are stationed. Another delivery is to be made here sometime in 1950. Also in 1949, about 1,000 of these batteries were sent to the motor vehicle battalion and arsenal (AZ-1) at Prolouc, to be used for rebuilt vehicles of both Czech and foreign make.
 8. The most important material used in the production of storage batteries is pure smelting lead. Prazska Akumulatorika needs about 2,000 tons of lead a year, but it is unable to obtain pure lead from Czech sources. Before the war lead was imported from Belgium, Canada, and Germany. After 1945, it was procured also from Yugoslavia and to a small extent from Poland. In 1949, nearly all of the lead used in the production of storage batteries was imported from Austria [redacted]. From the lead received from Western Germany, only the Ceska Lipa factory obtained an allocation—about 200 tons during 1949 and until January 1950. [redacted] the transaction was handled by the transport company Metransit in Bratislava.
 9. The lead now at the disposal of Prazska Akumulatorika is sufficient for the production of storage batteries during the first half of 1950. A shortage

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of lead causes a real bottleneck in production, and quality is seriously threatened if lead cannot be acquired from the West. Such a situation could seriously affect the economic life of Czechoslovakia. The lifetime of a battery manufactured with lead of good quality is four years, while the lifetime of a battery made with Czech lead is two to three months. The USSR does not supply Czechoslovakia with any lead.

10. Another handicap to production is the lack of lead powder of good quality. From 1946 to 1949, lead powder was obtained from Austria through barter arrangements, but these arrangements were forbidden in 1950 by the Ministry for Foreign Trade. To make up for prohibited imports, a new mill for lead powder is to be established at the ore and graphite mines in Pribram, and the mill is expected to produce about 1,000 tons. Another 1,000 tons are to be produced at the Mlada Boleslav storage battery factory, assuming it will have on hand a sufficient quantity of soft blast lead. The remaining 300 - 400 tons are to be furnished by the company (sic) for chemical and smelting production. This plant produces a very poor quality of lead powder. The quality of lead powder depends on the quality of the soft blast lead used, and if the latter is inferior, the batteries have a short life.
11. All factories of Prazska Akumulatorien suffer from a lack of workers, especially responsible ones. The morale of workers is low because of the system of paying workers in accordance with the "state wages catalogue" which means more work at lesser pay.
12. Nearly 80 percent of the personnel of the Ceska Lipa factory belongs to the Communist Party. The majority of those workers who are not members are either juveniles or married women. Real supporters of the party do not number more than 20 percent, however. Although it cannot be said that terrorism is practiced in this factory, the Communist Party and the cadre commission require that all personnel participate nearly every day in the various meetings, in classes on Communist ideology, in labor brigades, etc., so that nearly all the free time of workers is taken over by the party.
13. ROH, the compulsory and uniform trade union, is completely under the influence of the Communist Party.
14. A workers' militia has been formed only in the main Mlada Boleslav factory, and it is composed of four men equipped with pistols.
15. Production at the end of the Five Year Plan (1953) is to be increased in proportion to 1948 production by nearly 40 percent. The production described in this report represents nearly 110 per cent of production since 1948.

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