

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)/USSR

SUBJECT Trade Negotiations between the Russian Zone and the USSR

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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- 1. On the morning of 25 February 1950, Frau Lore Staimer, who assisted Georg Handke, Minister for Foreign Trade of the Soviet Zone, during negotiations for a trade agreement between the German Democratic Republic and the USSR. 50X1-HUM

requested an immediate summary of the most critical bottlenecks in DDR industry. sent the following list of materials in short supply:

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- a. High-speed tool steel, automatic tool steel, drill steel, chromemolybdenum steel, charcoal steel, turning tool steel, "Vidia" steel plates, ships' plate steel, Vanadium steel, steel for turbine blades, welding electrodes of all types, welding wire, wire cable of all types in all available thicknesses and calibers, and ball-bearing steel of particularly high strength.
 - b. Copper, brass, aluminum, bronze, white metal, bearing metals of all types for high-speed bearings, magnesium, electron metal, and tombac (all in semi-finished products.)
 - c. Barley, oats, wheat, maize, cotton, wool, skins, and hides.
 - d. Finished products: dynamo axles, turbine axles, ships' shafts, hydraulic draw presses for 100, 200 and 250-ton pressures, electric welding machines, filters for active carbon, automobile tires, inner tubes and 780 hp diesel engines.
- 2. Makover urgently requested that quantities should not be specified, but merely that these materials should be mentioned in the final trade agreement. He further suggested that more sugar should be offered in return, and gasoline only as a last resort.

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Comment: The Soviet-licensed news agency ADN reported on 12 April 1950 that a trade and payment agreement had been signed in Moscow by the Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade, Manchikov, and his East German counterpart, Herr George Handke. No details of the agreement were given.

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No Change in Class.

Declassified

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