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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Fischer is the chief of the Eastern Department (Ostabteilung) of Zeiss-Jena. This department is the one which is often referred to as the "Rußenabteilung". Fischer was formerly Zeiss representative in Russia, is over 70 years of age but has great vitality. He conducts all negotiations with the Russians, although he is neither a technician nor a scientist, but merely has commercial experience.
2. Zeiss is interested in research in the field of image tubes (Bildwandler), especially as this approach is useful in the infrared and x-ray field, but he added that they are unable to make any progress as long as the socialized radio industry is unable to supply high-quality tubes.
3. Effective 1 January 1951, the VVB Mechanik (the organization controlling the socialized photo, cinema, and office-machine industry), located in Dresden, Tiergartenstr., is to be reorganized and broken up. Those firms now belonging to the VVB Mechanik which are concerned with optics and precision mechanics are to be transferred to the VVB Optik, located in Jena. Dipl. Ing. Bischoff, of Zeiss-Jena, is to take over the supervision of the camera industry within the framework of the VVB Optik. Under this arrangement a plan is being considered whereby the pilot models of cameras will be built at Zeiss-Jena, while the actual production, including that of the necessary machine tools, will be carried on in other factories of the VVB Optik.
4. Concerning the Zeiss specialists in Russia, it was stated that they could be divided into distinct groups: the surveying instrument group; the bombsight group; and the reproduction group. The most important specialist in the surveying-instrument group, for example, (further unidentified) reportedly had been in the Zeiss works in Heidenheim (Western Germany), and to have returned to the Russian Zone because he was not satisfied with his work. The groups now in Russia are working in fields in which work has either not been resumed since the war at Jena or at least not in any significant degree.
5. The corresponding groups in Heidenheim which specialize in bombsights and surveying instruments are said to be preparing to move to Spain, although one of these scientists, Kueppenbender, was refused an exit permit.

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6. Winzenburg, who has been in charge of construction of the Contax camera at Zeiss-Ikon, is said to have proved a failure there. However, in view of his excellent reputation in the field of military optical instruments it is expected that he will devote more time to the latter field after the reorganization of VVB Optik and VVB Mechanik takes place.
7. A scientist who recently returned from the USSR for a few days leave to Dresden mentioned that he had news of Prof. Frieser.\* Frieser, according to this scientist, is working on an island in a large lake with some of his former colleagues with whom he had been employed in Zimmowitz. He also said that the widows of some of the Zeiss specialists in the USSR had requested permission to return to Germany, but had been refused.

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\* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment: Prof. Frieser is a specialist in the microdot field.

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