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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 9 November 1950

SUBJECT Materials Situation of the Soviet Zone Railroads
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NO. OF PAGES 2

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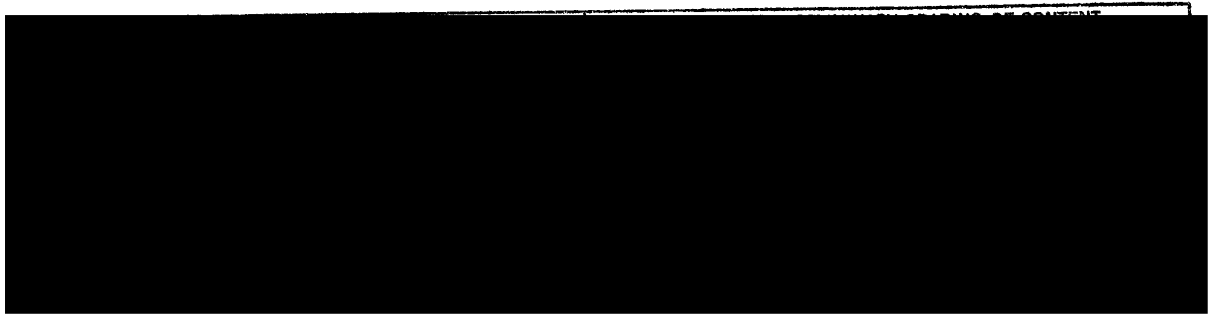
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DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]



1. Wires for the construction of signal lines are presently not available even in the central depots. To procure this urgently required material advance signals on less important lines are being dismantled. (1)
2. Rails are also a critical item. Rails required for construction projects are salvaged by dismantling sidings which are then re-constructed with weaker rail profiles. The rails obtained are welded together and cut into the required standard lengths. New material has been produced, if at all, only in very limited quantities of poor quality. (2)
3. There is also a shortage of ties. Coupled joint ties salvaged from dismantled lines are taken apart to be used as center ties. Deliveries of new ties are made on a limited scale. (3)
4. Cement, nails, carbide, fuel and heavy profiles are critical items, but whitening, glass, wood, welding wire, oxygen and small profiles are available in sufficient quantities. (4)

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Final Comments.

- (1) The fact that materials required for signal installations are scarce was known before. For example the material needed for the construction of the second track on the line (N 51/K 53) - Schwarzenberg (N 51/K 52) - Johannegeorgenstadt (N 51/K 51) railroad line had to be secured by dismantlings at other places. See [REDACTED]
- (2) Confirms the previously known lack of rail material which makes all construction and repair projects in the Soviet Zone of Germany a difficult enterprise. The utilization of welded and used rails can lead to numerous rail breakages after a short time as was experienced on the newly constructed Berlin Outer Freight Ring. The output of the Maxhuetten in Unterwellenborn, the only blooming mill in the Soviet zone, is still inadequate besides being poor in quality.

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- (3) Ties are also a critical item. The concrete ties which were designed to ease this situation are still being tested and have not proved satisfactory so far.
- (4) The acute shortage of all kinds of materials is trying to be overcome by drastic conservation measures and an extensive propaganda campaign for the salvage of used material.

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