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CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 14 August 1951

SUBJECT DDR Export, Imports, and Requirements of Chemicals

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NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

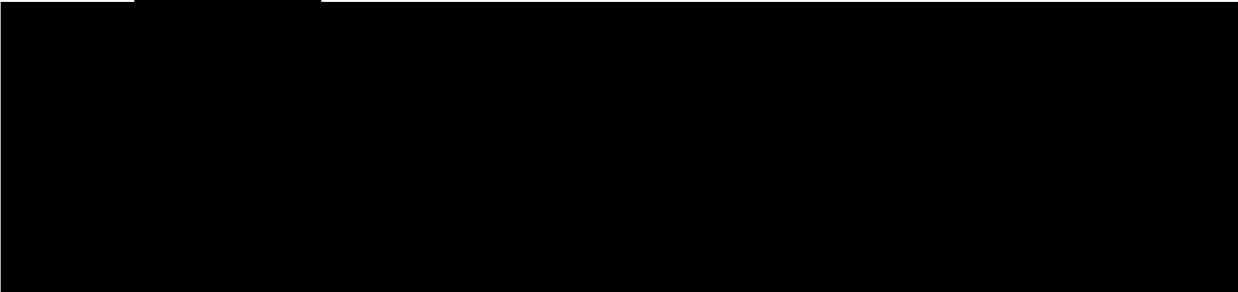
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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



SOURCE

- Imports of calcined alumina are urgently needed in the DDR. Approximately two-hundred tons are at present required. The import is urgent because in case of nondelivery, parts of SAG Kaustik Elektro-chemisches Kombinat Bitterfeld will have to close down. The most important supplier of this material and for the Kombinat itself is the United Sterling Corporation, New York and London. This firm also trades under the name of The Propan Company, London. The director of the firm is Sternberg (fnu). *
- Sternberg is frequently engaged in business with the DDR, especially in illegal imports via DEAG. Sternberg has also done extensive business at the Leipzig fair. He has considerable properties in Belgium where he also maintains a large motor pool.
- The most important article for import at present is calcined soda. According to the DDR import plan for 1951, an import of 36,000 tons (100 tons per day) is planned. Allegedly calcined soda is used for the manufacture of soap powder and soap. The main supplier is Great Britain, i.e., the firm M.W. Hardy & Co., London. This firm has also arranged for other imports, especially of stannic oxide.
- In compensation for a delivery of 8000 tons of calcined soda and stannic oxide the DDR delivers 8,000,000 liters of nonmethylated technical alcohol. The first delivery of 3,500,000 liters was shipped on the tanker MARABU from Rostock to Texas City. Transportation and pumping was carried out under observation of every possible security measure and inside a cordon of VP, SSB and boats of the fire brigade.
- According to a trade agreement between the USSR and the DDR, the USSR is to be supplied with 3000 tons of methanole. Actually 17,000 tons were delivered by the Walter-Ulbricht-Werke, Leuna, during the first half of the year 1951. Because of a standstill of the Polish coke supply in February, the plants in Leuna could only feed 2 chambers temporarily, while at present four chambers are again being fed.
- In 1950, 42,000 tons of paraldehyde alcohol mixture were delivered to the USSR. It has not yet been decided whether 36,000 tons or 42,000 tons will be required by the USSR this year. Until March 1951, 3000 tons of this mixture were delivered per month, in a ratio of 80 parts paraldehyde and 20 parts alcohol. The ratio required by the USSR is 90:10. So far Leuna has not been able to deliver this mixture.

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7. The USSR pays 972 rubles per ton for 100 per cent paraldehyde and 410,80 rubles per 1000 liters of 100 per cent alcohol.

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* ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Comment: Sternberg has been mentioned previously in connection with illegal shipping procedures (see ~~SECRET~~ ~~SECRET~~), however, the New York Company has not been identified in the New York telephone directory.

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