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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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599

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 16 August 1951

SUBJECT Benzinwerk Böhlen, Saxony

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. The Böhlen gasoline works (Benzinwerk Böhlen) appears to be conducting illegal interzonal trade, and is supposed to have received a high capacity steam boiler for coal dust from the Kohlenschneidungsgesellschaft, Stuttgart.*
2. The SCC in Karlshorst has ordered an immediate halt to new construction and renovations in all SAG plants. The notice was given even to the important Böhlen works that only current repairs necessary for the maintenance of the plant were to be carried out. It was directed that repairs of 100 to 1,000 East Marks would require the special approval of the technical management, and that repairs of over 1,000 East Marks must be approved by the top management, that is, the Russians.
3. At the present time, the Böhlen works is undergoing reorganization. The power plant and the lignite mines are to become "People's Property" (VVB), while the actual gasoline works remains Soviet property (SAG). As all the installations in the gasoline works are in operation, there are no more reserve pipe systems available. The high pressure installation has seven systems of pipes, of which four are used for gasoline and three for tar. Spare parts are in very short supply, so that the greatest difficulties can arise in regard to repairs.
4. A highly sensitive scale used in iso-octane production, that had to be repaired and for which there was no replacement, was out of commission from October until December. Furthermore, the iso-octane produced in the fourth quarter of 1950 was rejected by the Russians, because of poor quality. It was finally used for automobile gasoline. Because of this fact, iso-octane production since January 1951 was decreased to one-half capacity, so that only 8 columns are working instead of 22, and only 3.5 tons have been produced.
5. A.T. (high octane gasoline) production in 1949 was 14,900 tons. In 1950, 20,000 tons were planned.
6. The hydrogenation plant has a tremendous need for steel tubes of 2 to 2.5 cm. Because only precision steel can be used for these purposes, sheet metal is being used for refrigerators and preheaters; this, of course, will not have a long life span.

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-2-

7. Since April 1951, there has been a further reduction in iso-octane production, with the result that only one-sixth of the plant is in operation. In the factory, it is presumed that the production will come to a halt altogether, because a similar plant has apparently been set up in Russia. Since 1 April, the raw material, A.T. gasoline, needed to produce iso-octane has been produced in greater quantities with an octane content of 98 to 102.5.

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