115 Approved For Release 2001/12/04: CIA-RDP82-00457R008500110004-6 INTELLOFAX CLASSIFICATIO CONFIDENTIAL REPORT NO. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1A INFORMATION REPORT CD NO. 29 August 1951 DATE DISTR. Germany (Russian Zone) NO. OF PAGES

NO. OF ENCLS. PLACE **ACQUIRED** 25X1A SUPPLEMENT TO DATE OF REPORT NO. DO NOT CIRCULATE INFO. 25X1X

"Delnik" Refrigorator Cars Built for

Russians at Weimar

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COUNTRY

SUBJECT

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an average of more than 30 "Delmik" refrigerator cars are being constructed monthly at the VLB Reparation Kühlwaggonbau (formerly the Albelm-Gustloff-Werke, Weimar). Upon completion, they are shipped out of the Soviet Zone of Germany. They are all metal cars, produced in the following three lengths: 12 meters with two exles; 18 meters with two exles; and 24 meters with 4 axles. The refrigerator cars are constructed with 5 mm galvanized (verzinkt) steel plate to which 12 mm of sheet rubber is vulcanized. Two sections of galvanized metal with vulcanized rubber are separated by an 60 mm hollow space which can be filled with liquid as indicated in the

sketch below. Outside surface 5¢.m galvanised steel plate 12 mm vulcanized sheet rubber

CO mm hollow space

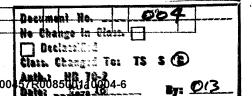
12 mm vulcanized sheet rubber

galvanised steel plate

Interior surface

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The hollow space is walled off, presumably at the eight corners of the refrigerator car. Ventilators are placed in the top of the refrigerator cars, passing through the hollow space to the interior of the car. There are two ventilators on the 12-meter cars, three on the 18-meter cars and four on the 24-meter cars. The doors, located in the center of the cars, can be sealed hermetically.

- The refrigerator cars are constructed of steel plate procured from an unidentified supplier; the rubber is supplied by the Bunawerk Schkopau (SAG Kautschuk) and the wheel sets are manufactured in Czechoslovakia. The wheel sets come from Czechoslovakia in two sizes, 1435 mm German gauge and 1565 mm Russian gauge.)
 Russian engineers at the WEB Reparation Kühlwaggonbau in Weimar place the refrigerator cars on the 1565 mm wheel sets and test the cars on a stretch of Russian gauge track about 150 meters long, located in the factory yard. Once the wheel sets have been satisfactorily tested, they are numbered by Russian engineers, loaded onto boxcars, and shipped to Frankfurt/Oder. The refrigerator cars are then fitted onto the 1435 mm wheel sets and dispatched in an easterly direction. Before leaving Weimar, however, the bottom hollow space is filled with a 60% solution of sodium chloride alkali (Lauge), mixed with two liters of mercury. The 80 mm hollow space in the side walls, end walls, and roof is left empty. The cars are painted dove gray and bear no markings except the inscription "Delnik", in Cyrillic. Each car has a narrow ladder at each end leading to its roof.
- The construction of "Delnik" refrigerator cars was started in October 1947. The first wheel sets arrived from Czechoslovakia in May 1948. It is reported that 25 to 46 of these refrigerator cars are produced monthly at the VEB Reparation Waggonbau in Weimar, depending on the amount of materials on hand. In April 1951, no wheel sets arrived from Czechoslovakia, as a result, no refrigerator cars were shipped from Jeimar during this period. if any other factory in the Soviet Zone produces this type of refrigerator approximately two-thirds of the refrigerator cars produced are sent to Chemnitz and that one-third are taken to various rail yards east of Weimar in the Soviet Zone of Germany.
- the value of one 12-meter "Delnik" refrigerator car 40 is 108,000 eastmarks and estimates that the value of a 24-meter refrigerator car is 198,000 eastmarks.
- the wheel sets for German gauge tracks are exchanged 5。 at Brest Litovsk for the Russian gauge wheel sets tested in Weimar by Russian engineers.

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Comment: Available reference material on SAG's lists Cemeinschaft Thuringer Arbeiter (formerly Gustloff-Werke), Weimar, a railroad car manufacturing plant; an annotation appended to this listing states that it cannot be ascertained if this plant is still an SAG.

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