

INFORMATION REPORT

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ELEMENT DDR Steel Plants

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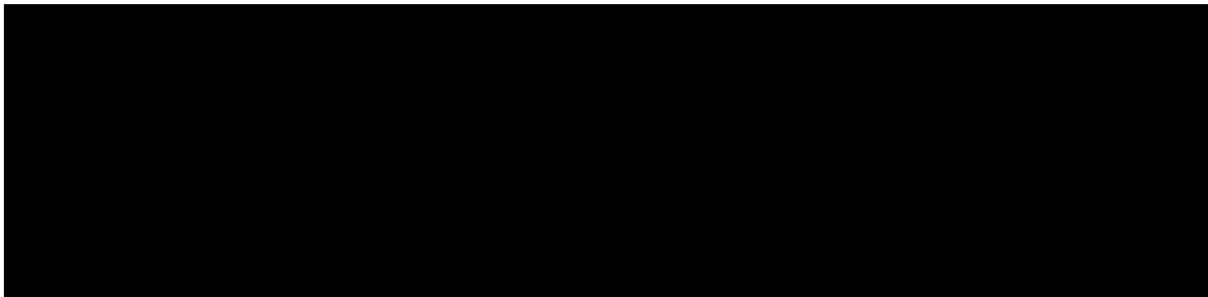
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1X

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Maxhütte Unterwellenborn

- a. The four 450-ton blast furnaces are being worked at an approximate rate of 300 tons of crude iron per day per furnace. The total daily production of the four furnaces amounts to about 1,000 - 1,100 tons. The lack of ore has led to this recent decrease in production and has caused 50% of the crude iron used to be made up of scrap iron. The decrease of production has led to the dismissal of about 800 workers.
- b. The capacity of the rolling mill section is 42,000 tons per month, but the present output amounts to only 30,000 tons per month. The reduction in the works' own crude iron and steel ingot reserves has necessitated deliveries of ingots from e.g. VEB Stahl-und Walzwerke Brandenburg. The rolling mill plant output has been reduced because these ingots require preheating.
- c. Two Thomas converters (Birnen) of 15-16 tons each are being erected. When in operation, these receive a blast of air every 35 minutes.
- d. On completion of the repairs necessitated by faulty drying, the air preheater of the trial furnace to be used in the lower shafts reached a temperature of 1,400°C with an air temperature of 1,100°C. As such a high temperature is not required, it is operated at approximately 1,100 - 1,200°C. When the furnace was used, it proved to be leaky and had to be welded at many joints, having caused several cases of gas poisoning among the workmen. Slack smelting with coke was commenced on 1 May 1951, and the furnaces are gradually changing over to ore and lignite briquets. This trial furnace has been fenced off from the rest of the works, and a strict check is being maintained on those persons permitted to enter.
- e. A new crank shaft for the motor of the blast furnace gas generator ordered in West Germany at either August Thyssen Hütte, Duisburg, or Gute Hoffnungshütte, Oberhausen, is badly needed in order to keep the blast furnaces in operation, but it is being detained in Western Germany.
- f. The Reichsbahn has complained that about 70% of the S.49 steel rails (1,200 tons) produced in December 1950 by Maxhütte were rejected on account of flaws and general brittleness of the rails. It attributes this to the fact that the rails were produced without ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ crude iron through a mixer.

CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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VEB Hüttenwerk Doehlen

A total of 35 small furnaces are to be erected at this new high-grade steel plant. Fifteen of these are to be electric furnaces varying from 5-10 tons in size. The first electric furnace is scheduled to start operation on 1 August 1951, and a second on 1 September 1951. The electric furnaces, built on plans drawn up by the Zentrales Konstruktions-Büro (ZKB), Berlin, are being made at Hennigsdorf.

Eisenhütten Kombinat Ost (EKO), Fuerstenberg

- a. The plans for the erection of a coke oven plant at this works are to be considered immediately and representatives of Gaselan are looking for coke oven designers and engineers. Representatives of VEB Industriebau,* a private enterprise owned by Kurt Adamski, Berlin, have also been negotiating for the order for these coke ovens with the Zentrales Konstruktions-Büro (ZKB), Berlin, and with the Ministry of Heavy Industry Fritz Selbmann personally. They can only be obtained in Western Germany from the firms Karl Still, Recklinghausen, Kaisersau 21, Dr. C. Otto GmbH, Bochum, Christstrasse 9, Heinrich Koppers, GmbH, Essen, Molktestrasse 29, or Hinselmann & Co. Koksofenbau, Essen.
- b. According to Industriebau's bid for the coking plant at the EKO, this steel works is to have six coke oven batteries with a planned daily production of approximately 3,600 tons of coke.
- c. Selbmann stated during conferences in mid-May 1951 that a final decision regarding the coke oven types to be built at this plant will be made on his return from a visit to Upper Silesia in mid-June 1951.

Eisenhütten Kombinat West (EKW), Calbe

The plans for this projected plant are to be speeded up now that the trial furnace at Maxhütte Unterwellenborn, is undergoing tests which have so far proved successful (see paragraph 1 above).

VEB Dresden(sic)

The possibility of transferring the fine sheet rolling mill to Maxhütte Unterwellenborn, where it could supplement the coarse rolling mill (Grobstrasse) is now under consideration.

VEB Stahl-und Walzwerke Brandenburg

Siemens-Martin furnace No. 7 is to commence production on 3 June 1951, and Siemens-Martin furnace No. 8 on 8 July 1951. Each furnace is three months ahead of schedule.

VEB Stahl-und Walzwerk Hennigsdorf

- a. Faulty chargings and faulty fire-brick lining, causing acid instead of alkaline reactions, have contributed to the previous production of unsatisfactory steel at this plant. Dr. Kuntsche (fnu), the responsible engineer, has been arrested for sabotage.
- b. A commission is now active at the plant, operating under Russian control and comprising Russian, Czech, and German steel specialists and headed by Dombrowski (fnu) a Czech engineer from the Trinec steel works, which is to carry out changes which would achieve a speedy change-over to production of quality steel.
- c. New Siemens-Martin furnaces in accordance with the commission's specifications are to be erected and existing ones dismantled. Dismantling is done by the Czechs. The new furnaces will be operated by Czech experts.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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VEB Eisen-und Stahlwerk Groeditz

Production figures in tons for the month of April were as follows:

a. Steelworks:

	<u>Planned</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Siemens-Martin ingot steel	10,000	10,200
steel castings	830	924

The ingot steel was distributed to the following plants:

VEB Walzwerk Willy Becker Kirchmoeser	4,000
SAG Radsatzwerke Ilseburg	707
SAG Maschinenfabrik Krupp-Gruson, Magdeburg	894
VEB Stahl-und Walzwerk Hennigsdorf	1,022
VEB Dampfhammerwerk Grossenhain	483
VEB Elbtalschmelze Langenhain/Grand-Erbisdorf	169
Strip mills, forges etc.	2,848

RAW (Reichsbahn Ausbesserungs-Werk) Kirchmoeser

An official of the chemical experimental station at the RAW Kirchmoeser stated on 25 April 1951 that iron ore was being imported from China and the CSR from which quality steel was being produced especially at Riessa. The RAW's used these steels for other purposes besides used rapid lathe steels, for which they were only intended. On the whole, the quality of materials was poor and did not meet the requirements of the railroads. Rails, switches and small parts for track are still bottlenecks. There is in particular a great shortage of manganese for rails.

High-grade Steel Production

The total high-grade steel production of VEBs amounts to 1,200 tons per month, or 14,400 tons per year. On completion of the new works at Doshlen, this figure is planned to be raised to 5,000 tons per month.

"Strangguss" process

Dr. Baake (fnu) (formerly with Roehling, Saar), head of the new office of the ZKB at Leipzig, has been delegated the task of developing the USA-patented "Strangguss" steel production process for the DDR.

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Comment: This is not further identifiable in available references.

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