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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

**INFORMATION REPORT**

REPORT

CD NO. 25X1

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 4 August 1952

SUBJECT Iron Ore Production at Eisenhuettenkombinat Ost, Fuerstenberg/Oder

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO. 25X1

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

PLACE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1 1. Blast furnace difficulties

- 25X1 a. No. 1 blast furnace was already in operation in January and a second was under construction during February and March. Faulty material and poor workmanship on both furnaces caused considerable stoppages before satisfactory production was achieved. No. 1 furnace was operated almost entirely for propaganda purposes.
- b. It was discovered that serious cases of gas poisoning among the fitters were caused by defective materials in the gas valves supplied by Bergmann-Borsig, of Berlin. The lack of a sintering plant on both furnaces resulted in explosions while they were being blown in, since the ore was passed for smelting without having been cleaned. Slag piled up in the furnaces until with each successive charge the heat which developed at the center became so great that the safety valves were blown off and the top of the nearest cowper was destroyed.

2. Present production

Since 5 April, the above difficulties have been resolved and both furnaces have begun to operate to full capacity. Each has an output of good quality pig iron (white and grey) of between 300 and 310 tons.<sup>1</sup>

3. Future developments

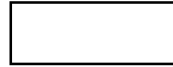
The construction of a third furnace was started in April. Some two thirds of the necessary materials have been provided in the DDR and contracts have been completed for the remaining machinery and apparatus in Czechoslovakia. A fourth furnace will be installed during May. Now that satisfactory results have been achieved with the first two furnaces, plans are under consideration to expand production at EKO to achieve a total of 900,000 tons of pig iron per annum. This will necessitate the construction of a second group of four furnaces.

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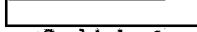
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25X1 i.  Comment: These figures probably indicate daily output.   
25X1  daily production of furnace 2 as about 370 tons of pig iron,  
25X1 of which about 55% is of useful quality.

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