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1. The Zentralamt für Forschung und Technik (Central Office for Research and Techniques (ZAFI)) of the DDR State Planning Commission decided some time ago to establish three central institutes. A decision was motivated by the fact that many factories which remained in the GDR were too small to be economically operated. Attention was applied particularly to enterprises engaged in the refining of coal and the production of fuels.
2. The institutes to be established were a pilot plant for the distillation of crude oil, an institute for research on synthetic products and an institute to conduct research on the refining of coal. The first two of the above-mentioned institutes are still in the planning stage. They will be established on the grounds of the former BASAG works in Leipzig under the supervision of Hubert Marich, who was formerly with the Bayerische Motorenwerke, Munich, and who returned from Russia in 1950 after having worked there as a specialist on rocket and jet fuels.*
3. The institute for research on the refining of coal was installed in the BASAG administration building in Leipzig and has been in operation since about March 1952. Before it began operations the institute was removed from ZAFI's jurisdiction and placed under the supervision of the Hauptverwaltung Chemie (Main Administration Chemistry) of the State Secretariat for Chemistry, Stones and Earths, and its name was changed to the Institute for Organic-Chemical Industry. The institute is headed by Prof. (fnu) Lichtenstein, who is a professor at Leipzig University and director of VVB Lack und Farben, Leipzig. His deputy is (fnu) Lichtenstein, who is the former chief of ZAFI's Abteilung Chemie (Chemistry Department), a section which no longer exists.
4. The Institute for the Organic-Chemical Industry is at present engaged in research on the vaporization of crude oils and tars. The oils come from the Austrian oil fields, the tar from the distillation of lignite by the Lauchhammer-Delitzsch process. This research is carried out in the distillation laboratory of the institute. There is also a hydrogenation re-

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search laboratory which has as yet not begun to operate because of a lack of skilled personnel. It is expected, however, that research on hydrogenation can be started soon after the arrival of (fnu) Prinskin and (fnu) Weiss, both of whom were invited to join the institute. Weiss is at present with the SAIG Synthese Werk Schwarzheide.

5. The following are some of the research projects which will be conducted at the institute as soon as the necessary personnel is procured:
- a. Catalyst research: the replacement of cobalt by an adequate contact material available in the DDR, such as iron and iron in combination with other substances (Eisernickelkontakte); research on contact material suspended in oil
 - b. Research on carrier substances: replacement of kieselguhr (diatomaceous earth) as a carrier substance by quartz sand, alumina and other substances available in the DDR
 - c. Fuel research: Improvement of diesel fuel with respect to corrosion
 - d. Lubricants research: research on the influence of sulfur contents in fuels on lubricants
 - e. Research on coal refining: refining of gas from coke plants in the DDR as well as in Poland (lignite and hard coal)
 - f. Research on the possibilities of exploiting for industrial purposes the gases and distillates from the distillation plants of the DDR Hüttenkombinat (metallurgical combines)

* COMINT: according to the 1942 edition of the Reichs-Telefonbuch, the HASAG Gießlampenwerke were located in Leipzig on Schneiderstrasse 87 c.

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