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German Democratic Republic

FDD Abstract [REDACTED]

EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH BY ZILLER, CHIEF OF GDR MINISTRY FOR MACHINE-BUILDING (4 pp; German; 1 March 1951)

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This document consists of typewritten excerpts from a 1 March 1951 speech by Ziller, chief of the GDR Ministry for Machine-Building.

Taking the current Five-Year Plan and the role of his particular Ministry as a central theme, Ziller refers, in the trite fashion of such oratory, to the vast achievements already made and the great tasks which lie ahead. Cooperation and efficiency are urged and a good word is also spoken for the machine-building industry's National Prize Winners, Heroes of Labor, and other Stakhanovites. The remainder of the excerpts, except for a few round figures on specific items, are equally valueless. These infrequent pertinencies are summarized below:

(a) Annual production goals of the Ministry for Machine Building are 35 percent higher than those for 1950.

(b) The Ministry for Machine-Building consists of six Main Administrations, responsible for administering, guiding, and developing enterprises directly subordinate to them: heavy machinery, general machine-building, motor vehicle construction, shipbuilding, electrical industry, precision mechanics and optics. The organizational structures of these various administrations are outlined and a list provided of some 21 enterprises for which directives and details will be issued immediately.

(c) There are 31,000 persons employed in the 24 key industrial enterprises in the GDR. The number of employees is supposed to reach 63,000 by the end of the Five-Year Plan, at which time value of production is expected to be 3.5 times the 1950 level.

(d) The Government has decided to establish a Central Designing (Engineering?) Bureau which, being in a position to appreciate the broad aspects of the Five-Year Plan, will define, study, and control essential engineering tasks and see that they are carried out on schedule.

(e) A successful designers' conference was held on 18/19 January 1951, at which various participants were informed of the significant progress being made in their particular fields.

(f) The importance of research and development work was emphasized. An ambitious research and development plan provides for work on 596 specific research problems, while a supplementary plan calls for the study of 612 practical production problems.

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