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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

20 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Pompiliu Verzariu
Bureau of East-West Trade
Department of Commerce

SUBJECT : Soviet and East European Rubber Plants

Attached is the unclassified information you requested on Soviet and East European rubber plants as well as comments on the list of plants supplied by you. If you have additional questions about this material please contact (for Soviet plants) or (for East European plants).

Office of Economic Research

Attachment:
as stated

(S.08960)

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Soviet Rubber Plants*

1. Chaykovskiy (Perm area) -- Initial production of monomer planned for 1975. Raw materials will consist of butane, isobutane and isopentane obtained from natural gasoline.

2. Gudermes (North Caucasus) -- Construction started as early as 1965, but we have no evidence that plant was completed.

3. Kazan -- We can only confirm present production of silicone rubber (various SKT types). Earlier production included SKBM.

4. Krasnoyarsk -- Initial operation 1952. Cited as a producer of SKMS (info 1963) and oil-extended, rosin-emulsied rubber (initial production 1963). Nitrile rubber (1961).

5. Nizhnekamsk -- IR (initial production began in October 1970); additional capacities for IR were planned for commissioning in 1973. New isoprene production capacity was commissioned in April 1975 and additional IR capacity was to go on stream by the end of 1975. A large butyl rubber unit was put into operation in 1973.

* Includes plants in operation or planned.

One butadiene unit (90,000 tons/yr) was commissioned in 1974 and a second unit in 1975. Production of ethylene-propylene rubber is planned (info 1971).

6. Omsk -- Initial operation 1962. Produces SKMS and butadiene-styrene (SKS) rubber and latex, and pyridine latices. Experimental production of BR latices (1970). New rubber separation unit put into operation in 1973 said to provide opportunity to raise output by 20%. Shop for producing special types of rubber for Zhiguli cars commissioned in 1974.

7. Sterlitamak -- Initial production 1960. By 1964 products included SKMS, latex and oil-extended copolymer rubber. Experimental production of isoprene rubber (IR) began in 1964. Synthetic rubber output in 1970 was 13.4 times the level in 1960. Production capacity for IR scheduled to triple the initial rated capacity for this type by the end of 1975. A new isoprene monomer unit was commissioned in January 1975.

8. Sumgait -- Initial output 1957 (SKS); oil-extended rubber (1962). Additional capacity for styrene-butadiene rubber commissioned in 1965. Began producing rosin-emulsified rubber in 1966. Nitrile rubber was produced

in 1958-62 but unit was dismantled. Production of nitrile was to be resumed during the 1966-70 period but confirmation of actual production since 1962 is lacking. Butyl rubber production began about 1965 (possibly on an experimental scale), and a large commercial-scale butyl rubber unit was commissioned in 1970-71. Plant's production of synthetic rubber increased by 82% in 1961-70 and was planned to grow by 60% in 1971-75.

9. Temir Tau (Kazakhstan) -- Initial production 1961. Production includes SKMS. Production of rubber increased 19% during 1966-70. New type of rubber produced in 1974; the new unit is said to permit more than a doubling in Kazakh production of rubber.

10. Tobolsk -- Construction began in 1974. Will produce polyisoprene and other types of rubber.

11. Tolyatti -- Initial operation 1961 (SKS). Production of isoprene rubber began in 1964 and a second unit was commissioned in 1968. Output of chloroprene rubber, butyl rubber and polybutadiene was planned here, but we have no evidence that these types are produced yet. As a result of reconstruction of the

first two stages, rubber production capacities almost doubled (info 1974). Production of rubber was planned to increase by almost 43% during 1971-75.

12. Tomsk -- Production of butadiene is planned, probably after 1980, so future output may include synthetic rubber.

13. Usole (Irkutsk area) -- Chloroprene rubber (1968).

14. Volzhskij -- Polyisoprene rubber (1964). New capacity commissioned in April 1973. Original capacity was increased by 70% (info March 1974).

15. Voronezh -- Initial output 1932 (SKB). Emulsion SKS (1948). Oil-extended copolymer rubber (1956). Various latexes (1959). Began production of new grades of SKS during 1966-70. Polybutadiene (SKD-1) production started in 1967 and SKD-3 in 1974. Additional polybutadiene capacity planned for 1975.

16. Yaroslavl -- SKB (1932) and nitrile rubber (1948). Experimental production of polybutadiene (1961). Experimental production of nitrile rubber SKN-50M (1970). Output of latex SKS-S by continuous process began in 1970. Commissioned 14,000 ton/year high solids latex plant in 1973 based on ISR process. Planned to set up

production of SKI sometime in 1971-75.

17. Yefremov -- SKB (1933) and butyl rubber (1961). Production of polybutadiene (SKD) began late in 1964, doubling the plant's capacity for production of synthetic rubber. First SKD unit was being expanded in 1974 and a second unit was being built.

18. Yerevan -- Initial output of chloroprene rubber (CR) occurred in 1940. Production was scheduled to double during 1966-70. As of late 1972 more than 10 types of chloroprene rubber and latices were produced. The plant has experienced problems with the quality of its chloroprene rubber. A 75,000 ton/year chloroprene monomer plant was ordered from Power Gas Ltd. in 1973. This plant is to use BP technology and is planned to start up in 1976.

Comments on Your List of Plants

Soviet Plants

It is doubtful that Baku should be included in the list because Sumgait is the actual location. The Karaganda Synthetic Rubber Plant is located at Temir Tau in Karaganda Oblast. The installation shown at Irkutsk is actually at Usole in Irkutsk Oblast. We cannot confirm that an isoprene rubber unit is in operation at Novokuybyshevsk although an isoprene monomer unit was under construction there in 1972. The plant could be a supplier of monomers to other enterprises. Production of general-purpose rubber at Ufa cannot be confirmed, although a synthetic alcohol plant there produces ingredients that could be used to obtain ethylene-propylene rubber.

East European Plants

Bulgaria

Burgas -- Some sources give 15,000 tons per year as the capacity of the SBR plant; others give 17,000 tons per year.

Czechoslovakia

Kralupy -- We cannot confirm a 13,000 ton-per-year latex SBR plant.

East Germany

Schkopau -- The capacity of the polybutadiene rubber plant (Japan Synthetic Rubber process) is 15,000 tons per year according to our sources. We cannot confirm a 15,000 ton-per-year EPDM rubber plant at Schkopau.

Poland

Plock -- Although there were indications of a 30,000 ton-per-year butadiene emulsion rubber plant as well as contemplation of other types at Oswiecim, we have no indication of their implementation at this location or at Plock. The 70,000-75,000 ton-per-year butadiene plant purchased from Babcock and Wilcox and Catalytic, U.K. started operation in 1971. In conjunction with the 300,000 ton-per-year ethylene plant currently being built at Plock by Japan (Toyo Engineering), a 40,000-45,000 ton-per-year butadiene unit is being built.

Poland plans to help build an isoprene rubber plant in the USSR and will receive in return 60,000 tons per year of isoprene rubber. A chloroprene rubber plant, scheduled to be built in Poland between 1976-78, will supply the USSR as well as domestic needs.

Romania

Borzesti (Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej) -- A 55,000-60,000

ton-per-year isoprene rubber plant being built with Soviet assistance apparently is still under construction. Estimated present capacity for SBR is 100,000 tons per year.

Yugoslavia

We cannot confirm construction of a 40,000 ton-per-year SBR plant.