

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	CS -54291
SUBJECT	Computer Development at VEB Carl Zeiss Jena	DATE DISTR.	26 January 1955
DATE OF INFO.	Mid-November 1954	NO. OF PAGES	1
PLACE ACQUIRED	Germany, Berlin	REFERENCE NO.	RD-A-7004

REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: Well-placed East German technician (F). Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. In mid-November 1954, Dr. Herbert Kortum, a returnee from the USSR, was working on the development of a computer at VEB Carl Zeiss Jena. The computer was known as Oprema, a contraction for Optische Rechenmaschine (optical computer). It is believed that this name was applied to the device because it was being developed by the Zeiss optical firm, rather than because it was to be a special optical machine.

The machine was designed to be operated with a large number of relays. The blueprints were completed by mid-November 1954. A large metal rack for the relays had also been completed and was set up in a large room at the plant.

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2-02-0A04 1/55
611.65 44/C

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