

April 1, 1946
**Report: Soviet Sponsored Research Organization
Currently Active in Berlin**

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Summary:

The report details Soviet-sponsored organization researching emerging technology.

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1 March 1946

SUBJECT: Soviet Sponsored Research Organizations Currently Active
in Berlin.

TO : Col. A. Boyle .

1. Research activity within the Russian Zone of occupied Germany and the Russian sector of Berlin is well organized. Three distinct types of Russian sponsored research organizations are known to be operating at the present time. Information concerning them is unfortunately limited in character and little is known concerning the nature of their inter-relationships.

2. The Soviet Technical Commission is a Red Army organization. In Berlin it operates through a German organization known as the Deutscher Normensusschuss, located at No. 175 Uhland Strasse in the British sector of Berlin. The Soviet Technical Commission has established, through the Deutscher Normensusschuss, from 30 to 50 technical subcommittees covering such fields as non-ferrous metals, construction steels, tool steels, lubricants and motor fuels, textiles fibres, laquers and varnishes, problems of bridge construction etc. One of the primary concerns of these technical subcommittees has been with tests and standards and the assembly of technical literature. In the Berlin area these technical subcommittees have been largely build around and recruited from the Material Pruefungs Amt, located in the American sector of Berlin, and the Berlin Technische Hochschule, located in the British sector of the city. The Material Pruefungs Amt is a tests and standards institution corresponding very roughly to the U.S. Bureau of Standards.

The Material Pruefungs Amt and the Berlin Technische Hochschule, as well as scientifically prominent individuals, were first contacted by the Deutscher Normensusschuss. This organization has continued to maintain all further contacts between institutions and individuals and the Soviet Technical Commission. A letter from this organization to one of the most prominent

members of the Berlin Technische Hochschule is given below.

Deutscher Normensusschuss
E7/G7

Deutscher Normenausschuss

Prof. Dr. ...
(address)

Uhlandstrasse 175
18 January 1946

Subject: Non-ferrous metals Committee.

Dear Prof.

In connection with our collaboration with the Soviet Technical Commission for which already 30 special committees, all under German leadership, have been founded, now also a

Non-ferrous metals Committee is going to be established. We would be much obliged to you if you would be willing to take charge of this committee. For further details the undersigned, who also lives at Berlin-..., would like to call on you at your home. You can also discuss the matter with Prof. Dr. ..., who himself presides several committees, in the Material Pruefungs.Amt.

We would appreciate very much if you would accept our invitation, for it is very difficult to find in Berlin experts in the field of non-ferrous metals and because we would like very much to fulfill the wish of the Soviet Technical Commission

Deutscher Normenausschuss
Sign. Dr. Frank

The report of the various technical subcommittees are, of course, the sole property of the Soviet Technical Commission. The material secured from the technical subcommittees is published in the Soviet Union and not in the Russian Zone of occupied Germany. Most of the technical subcommittee reports are translated into Russian before being sent to Moscow.

The method of research direction and control as well as the form of payment varies. The Material Pruefungs Amt carries on its subcommittee research as a body and all contacts with the Deutscher Normensusschuss are through its Director. The Material Pruefungs Amt, as such, is financed by the Berlin Magistrat which in turn is under effective Russian control. The members of the Material Pruefungs Amt draw their normal salaries while working on the research projects of the Soviet Technical Commission, but each member of the institution receives in addition a monthly issue of a Red Army officer's food ration. The Soviet Technical Commission, however, prefers to deal with individuals and this method has apparently been followed

in the case of the Berlin Technische Hochschule. The Director of the Berlin Technische Hochschule is prominent in the research program sponsored by the Soviet Technical Commission, and he in turn has recruited almost the entire staff of that institution for technical subcommittee research. The Berlin Technische Hochschule, like the Material Pruefungs Amt, is, of course, likewise dependent on the Berlin Magistrat for its finance. The members of the Berlin Technische Hochschule, who are engaged on an individual basis, receive a salary from 1000 to 5000 marks a month as a member of a subcommittee. Some individuals are members of more than one subcommittee and they receive full salary from each of the subcommittees with which they are associated. In addition to their salaries, which may be very considerable if an individual is the member of two or more subcommittees, each individual receives the monthly issue of a Red Army officer's food ration.

The research program of the Soviet Technical Commission is popular both with institutions and with individuals. It offers an opportunity for useful activity and since much subcommittee work is concerned with the assembly of all research data in various technical fields for the years 1930 to 1945 it contributes to the research records of the institution concerned.

The importance of the food payment cannot be overemphasized. Some of the scientists and technicians engaged by the technical subcommittees are not legal residents of Berlin and consequently are not eligible for the city's food ration cards. In consequence they are entirely dependent on the monthly Russian food ration.

The formation of technical subcommittees covering a very wide range of technical subjects has afforded the Soviet Technical Commission an admirable recruiting device. Very recently the following questionnaire was presented to members of the technical subcommittees by the Deutscher Normenausschuss. Individuals responsible for institutions or several committees were given to understand that the continued receipt of Red Army officer's monthly food rations would depend on the number of affirmative

answers from subcommittee members to the last query of the questionnaire.

Q u e s t i o n a i r e
for the experts in the committees who are col-
laborating with the Soviet Technical Commission.

Name:

Profession and Title:

Born, when: where:

Short statements on education:

Statements on field of specialization and special knowledge:

Last position before the collapse: Last salary before the collapse.

Present position:

Statements on present political opinion and activity:

Are you inclined to work for either a limited or unlimited time
in the Soviet Union?

.....
Address and date

.....
signature

The Soviet Technical Commission has been effectively operating in Berlin for at least three months and the work of the technical subcommittees is apparently fairly well advanced. It is the belief of those engaged in subcommittee work that the entire organizational pattern has been well thought out and that the subcommittees both individually and collectively are functioning with marked efficiency.

3. The People's Commissariat is a Russian Communist Party Organization operating throughout the Russian Zone. This organization has special divisions or branches which are concerned with scientific and technical research. It is not known through which German organizations the Commissariat operates, but it is probable that the Deutscher Normenausschuss is utilized by them in some capacities. In contrast to the Soviet Technical Commission's policy on subcommittee membership, the German technical committees functioning under the People's Commissariat are recruited heavily from former Nazi party members. Nearly every Nazi party member dismissed by the Material Pruefungs Amt is now engaged by the Commissariat or by a third type of Russian sponsored organization which will be discussed shortly. Salaries and food rations provided by the People's Commissariat are about the same as those provided by the Soviet Technical Commission. The technical fields covered by the Commissariat committees are very broad, but no details concerning specific committees are available. One of the principal contact men for the People's

party member Russian authorities were made aware of the Beilstein chemical library at Tharandt. Since this library is one of the finest of its kind in Germany, it was promptly visited by two different Russian scientific and technical commissions, one of which was from the Ukraine. Shortly afterwards the Ukrainians evacuated the entire library. A few days later the second Russian commission revisited Tharandt and were considerably disappointed at having lost the library to their fellow competitors.

6. There is little evidence to suggest that research in the pure sciences has been similarly organized by interested Russian agencies. Effective if indirect control, however, is exercised over individual scientists and scientific institutions throughout Berlin.

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Prof. OTTO WARBURG, Nobel Prize Winner in Cancer Research is currently residing in the American sector of Berlin. Very recently he applied for permission to resume research through the American Military Government channels. He was informed by a Major Shulätz, of the Education Division, that an application to resume research should be filed with the proper authorities of the Berlin Magistrat and that, if they approved, his application should then be re-submitted to himself. If it was found, after proper investigation, that Dr. WARBURG's political record was satisfactory, the application would then be submitted to the Inter-Allied Kommandanture for final action and the granting of funds. The funds would in effect be paid by the Berlin Magistrat. Apparently unknown to Major SHULITZ are the following facts. Dr. Warburg's application to resume research must be submitted to the section "Abteilung Kultur" of the Berlin Magistrat. This section is in the charge of a Mr. Winzer, who has resided for a number of years in the Soviet Union. On receiving Dr. Warburg's application Mr. Winzer's first step would be to consult the Russians headquarters at Karlshorst. For the last six months Dr. Warburg has been endeavouring to avoid pressing Russian offers to work directly for them or to leave the American sector of Berlin for evacuation to the Soviet Union. The American officer's comment that the resumption of research was a German problem and that permission for the resumption of such research must follow these

channels is correct in theory, but stupid in practice. Unfortunately, from the American side, it is a typical instance.

Within the American sector of Berlin are nine Kaiser Wilhelm institutes devoted to research in the natural sciences. These institutes, varying widely in currently available staff and equipment, are financed by the Berlin Magistrat. The Berlin Magistrat is completely under Russian control. American concern with these institutes has confined itself to the withholding of official sanction to resume research and the prohibition of the meetings of the various colloquies. The head of the Berlin Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes, a Dr. Havemann, is an appointee of the Berlin Magistrat, recognized by the Russian authorities, provisionally recognized by the American authorities, but not recognized by the Western Kaiser Wilhelm Gesellschaft at Goettingen in the British Zone. Recently a Dr. Maximilian Pfluecke, formerly secretary general of the German Chemical Society, was newly appointed Leiter der Arbeitsgruppe fuer wissenschaftliche Dokumentation, presumably by Dr. Havemann. Dr. Pfluecke is a former Nazi party member now actively engaged in working for the Russians. Dr. Pfluecke came to the attention of this office through his informing of the Russian authorities of the whereabouts of the Beilstein manuscripts and library at Tharandt in the Russian Zone of occupied Germany. Dr. Pfluecke's action resulted in the confiscation of the Beilstein materials and the evacuation of the library to the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, ironically enough, many of the old members of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes were dismissed for nominal party membership.

Russian activities as concerns research in the field of the pure science is not confined, however, ^{to} ~~the~~ the indirect control of institutes in the British and American sectors of Berlin. The former Kaiser Wilhelm Institute fuer Hirnforschung at Berlin-Buch, in the Russian sector, is being reconstituted as a medical-biological institute. In September, Dr. Timofeeff-Ressovsky of the Genetics Section of the former Kaiser Wilhelm Institut

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L fuer Hirnforschung was evacuated to Moscow as were his more prominent assistants; Dr. Zimmer(physicist), Dr. Born(chemist), Dr. med. Catsch(genetics), and Dr. Zarapkin(biomathematician). Shortly thereafter the Genetics Section became defunct. The newly formed institute is under Prof. Brugsch of the University of Berlin who acts in the double capacity of Director and head of the Clinical Section. Dr. Lohmann, of the University of Berlin, is now chief of the physiological section and the services of two physicists, Prof. Moeglich and Prof. Rompe, have also been secured. The new institute has been promised all necessary equipment and assistance by interested Russian agencies, but it is still too early to properly assess its real function.

7. The character of the relationship between Russian authorities and German scientists has and still varies widely. What may be described as a first phase in this relationship consisted in the removal of laboratory equipment and the evacuation of key scientific personnel to the East by interested Russian agencies. This phase reached its most intense form in May and June of 1945, but continued throughout the fall of that year. Currently, as has already been described, interested Russian agencies work through German "front organization" such as the Deutscher Normenausschuss or approach scientists or technicians in which they are interested in a friendly, quasi-professional manner. In many instances they have offered themselves as a haven of refuge to former Nazi party members which have been reduced to manual labor by the American Denazification policy. Through the Berlin Magistrat they control effectively such organizations as the Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes and the scientific and technical personnel associated with them. Occasionally, however, former techniques are still used. Very recently a prominent scientist called at Russian headquarters at Karlshorst on a matter of business. Nearly every ten meters, he was confronted by a sentry. The waiting room into which he was shown was empty save for one other individual who scrutinized him closely. When he arose to leave he noticed that he had been sketched. The scientist in question was finally ushered into an enormous room at the far end of which, seated *enda dias*, was a Russian official. The manner of the

official was fierce. In loud and peremptory tones he demanded to know the reason why the scientist refused to go to Moscow. After an unforgettable audience, the scientist was free to return to the American sector.

8. Interested Russian agencies largely dominate scientific and technological life in Berlin. The three western powers, for their own part, are apparently unaware of the nature and extent of this domination. The activities of the Soviet Technical Commission, for example, may be said to be well known to all interested circles in Berlin except to the officials theoretically concerned in the military governments of the three western powers.

9. This report has confined itself to the Berlin area because very little reliable information is available concerning similar activity within the Russian Zone of occupied Germany. It has recently and reliably been reported, however, that the former laboratories and proving grounds of the Heereswaffenamt at Peenemuende, Kummersdorf and Hillersleben are currently being operated by the Red Army. Activity at Peenemuende is reported to be concerned with heavy artillery launched rockets. At the moment no further developmental work has been engaged in on the V-1 and V-2 rockets, but engineers from Peenemuende, recently in Berlin, state that such projects will be undertaken in the very near future. At Kummersdorf, south of Berlin, experiments are proceeding with powder impelled rockets and the proving grounds at Hillersleben, near Magdeburg, are currently active. At present the staffs at Peenemuende, Kummersdorf and Hillersleben are smaller than those formerly maintained by the Heereswaffenamt, but the recruiting of additional personnel is proceeding rapidly. The recruiting program for all rocket projects is under the direction of Dipl. Ing. Zeyss, formerly of the Reichsluftfahrt Ministerium, who is at the moment residing in the Russian sector of Berlin. Conditions of work and pay at Peenemuende, Kummersdorf and Hillersleben are reported to be excellent.

KARL OLSEN, LT. USNR.
Scientific and Technological Section,
FIAT, BERLIN.

March 10, 1946

Additional Note:

The Bush Institute, to date, has received none of the promised equipment and is at the moment inactive. The institute is directly under Karlsborst. The science section at Russian Headquarters is in the charge of Prof. Korshach. It is possible that Prof. Korshach is the same individual who figured as a Col. Korshach in several attempted espionage cases last fall.