

September 18, 1946

Report from Wilhelm Voss to F.I.A.T. Hochst

Citation:

"Report from Wilhelm Voss to F.I.A.T. Hochst", September 18, 1946, Wilson Center Digital Archive, British Intelligence
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/209373>

Summary:

The report provides information on the Skoda and Bruenner-Waffen Combines.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

Dr. Wilhelm VOSS

Dustbin, 18 September 1946.

TO: F.I.A.T. HÖCHST.
via Camp Commandant, Dustbin.

Attn: to Major Hadlock.

According to your wish I send you enclosed various statements concerning

I. the S K O D A - Konzern (Combine) (about 125.000 workers).

1. a statement of the plants, subsidiary - and participating companies
2. a statement of how the control of the combine is organized.
3. a list of the various field of work of each plant and subordinate company.
4. a list of special designs in the field of development and manufacture

II. the BRUENNER - Waffen - Konzern (about 85.000 workers)

1. a statement of the plants, subsidiary - and participating companies
2. a statement of how the control of the combine is organized.
3. a list of the various fields of work of each plant and subordinate company.
4. a list of special designs in the field of development and manufacture.

III. a list of scientists, designers and specialists I know.

Unfortunately I forgot the names of some scientists, designers and leading technicians, nor can I guarantee that the names I mentioned are correct. As I pointed out already in Munich, I am prepared to work again in my old field, preferably with the team which worked under me in Czechoslovakia from 1939 until 1945 and from whom I know that everyone is obliged to me personally. Our team was very successful, as everyone knows, because all colleagues worked like one team, smooth and in complete unison. Besides we were the only firm of the whole Central - European industry which dealt with all the problems of development and research from the very beginning, which is so essential for the successful solution of a problem and the functioning of an instrument which can only be achieved through closest co-operation of special experts and technicians. Our team, which included basic research, comprised experts on material, armourers and machine constructors, designers, constructors of automatic machines, opticians, experts on ballistics, electrical engineers and chemists working on high explosives. In all these fields the help and assistance given by authorities on various material right from the beginning was of utmost importance, as their co-operation was a decisive factor in quick solutions of problems connected with the development of various machines and for proper functioning of the most modern weapons.

If in future such a team, together with American experts should be drawn in one way or the other into the armaments - or peace time industry, in that case - with regard to my special experiences - I suggest to re-build this team on a very large basis, and to let it work in experimental stations which, if possible - should be very closely connected to an iron - or steel plant, or a foundry with laboratories for metallurgy. If a concrete plan exists with regard to the above mentioned, and if this plan, as I suggest is approved, I am gladly prepared to make a practical proposition whereby I can name a certain plant which because of its machine-park and equipment is specially suitable for such a team-like research and development work.

I suggest again to bring about a discussion, mainly between Herr Staller (perhaps Engel) and myself. Both could also give me the names of scientists and designers which I have forgotten and they could also quote other first-class designers and scientists, who would gladly co-operate, amongst them scientists and professors who gave us their knowledge as counsellors, or who worked in our experimental station for physics at Smichov or in the research-institute at Pribrams which was built by me.

As I stressed again and again, one has to speed up those things. As several months have passed already I cannot tell whether the Czechs I mentioned have not been conscripted for work in the C S R (or Roumania where I have very close personal and real connections) or in Russia. There exists good possibility because the present President of the Skoda - Combine, Herr Vilem Hromadko is very friendly towards Russia and exercises a great influence. He has been in Russia for many years, especially after the bolshevisation where he has erected and run many large plants. He was also adviser to the bolshevist government with regard to questions regarding industry. As I heard from reliable sources he was appointed president of Skoda and Chief of the industrial organization for entire Czechoslovakia in June 1945 (against the will of competent Czechs). Therefore he exercises great influence and it is possible that one or the other of the distinguished scientists mentioned by me have been conscripted into industries, situated inside the Russian zone of influence and others might be employed there within a very short time.

I might point out that I gave those names under the condition, that the people mentioned and their families would under no circumstances be molested.

Signed Dr. Wilhelm Voss.

-3-

With reference to the conversation I had with Mr. T.W. Schaeffer, Hoechst, I beg again for my release to Egern (Tegernsee). There, of course, I shall be at your disposal in the same way as here. There too I have a chance to recover and to undergo treatment by doctors, whom I know well. Besides from there I would be in a position to search for the rest of my relatives and to look after them, mainly with the support of my relatives in the United States.

Signed - Wilhelm Voss.