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REPORT

CD NO.

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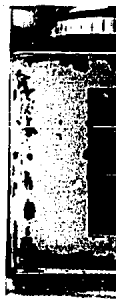

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COUNTRY	Poland
SUBJECT	Economic - Chemical industry
HOW PUBLISHED	Biweekly periodical
WHERE PUBLISHED	Warsaw
DATE PUBLISHED	1 - 15 Aug 1951
LANGUAGE	Polish

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951

DATE DIST. 7 Jul 1952

NO. OF PAGES 4

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Zycie Gospodarcze, Vol VI, No 15, 1951.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLISH CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Bronislaw Taban, Vice-Minister of the Chemical Industry

According to the Six-Year Plan, the chemical industry is to become the second most important Polish national industry, next to the coal industry. The prewar Polish chemical industry was reduced to a Cinderella role, ruled by foreign cartels. It had no chance to develop, despite its rich raw material resources of coal, salt, limestone, gypsum, anhydrite, etc.

In prewar Poland, scientists and outstanding chemists, deprived of suitable facilities, were unable to conduct the kind of scientific research work that would have permitted the development of the chemical industry. There was only a small number of obsolete chemical plants, built without regard for the most elementary demands of safe working conditions.

The Moscice Nitrogen Fertilizers Plant was the only prewar plant of significant size. It was completely devastated by the occupation forces and was rebuilt during the postwar period. Its present production is twice its prewar production.

During the Three-Year Plan, production surpassed prewar levels in many commodities. Production of soda more than doubled, production of artificial fertilizers doubled, and production of agricultural insecticides tripled. New types of production were started during this period.

During the Six-Year Plan, chemical production will increase to 350 percent of 1949, and 800 percent of 1938 levels.

In 1955, soda production will reach about 400,000 tons a year. Production of sulfuric acid, from imported pyrites and domestic gypsums, will double, reaching about 600,000 tons a year toward the end of the Six-Year Plan. The production of the artificial fertilizer industry will be three times the 1949 level, and six times the 1938 level. The Six-Year Plan will provide eight times the quantity of insecticides hitherto available.

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The pharmaceutical industry, which before the war was engaged almost exclusively in the packaging of imported medicines, will become self-sufficient in raw materials and intermediates, and will provide modern medicines, especially antibiotics such as penicillin, synthetic vitamins, hormone preparations, and others.

The new synthetic chemicals industry is beginning to produce an enormous range of finished and intermediate products, using cheap coal and salt, and new catalytic processes. The production of synthetic fuels will increase sixfold in the Six-Year Plan. Using Soviet methods, Poland will produce synthetic rubbers, synthetic fats, solvents, extenders, emulsifiers, plasticizers, plastics, many intermediates for the dye industry, plant sprays, and detergents for the textile industry.

Acetylene chemistry will be important in the development of synthetic chemicals, including synthetic rubber and plastics.

The dye industry will be producing three times the prewar quantity of dyes. Production will be more varied and will include new color-fast, high-grade dyes.

The paint and lacquer industry will increase its production fourfold, and will be able to satisfy completely the requirements of expanding automotive and machine-building industries, and of the construction industry.

The development of rayon and synthetic fiber industry occupies a special place in the chemical industry. The production of such fibers will be increased threefold in the Six-Year Plan, and will provide the country with high-grade rayons, fibers, and industrial textiles. A method for the production of kaprolaktam developed in Polish research laboratories, has made it possible to begin pilot production of steelon, and subsequently to expand this production in the newly activated Gorzow plants. Blueprints are being prepared for a large synthetic fiber [nylon-type] plant.

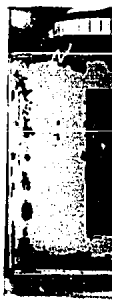
The country's cultural development and dissemination of knowledge and science put serious tasks before the chemical industry in the field of paper production. The paper industry will produce six times as much cellulose as was produced before the war, including cellulose produced from straw. There will also be an increase in the reprocessing of waste paper. This will considerably decrease the requirement of the paper industry for wood as a raw material.

Using domestically produced rubber, Poland will produce three times the quantity of rubber goods such as tires, conveyer belts, hoses, footwear, and protective clothing.

The USSR is designing and delivering a number of complete plants, and complicated modern equipment for plants under construction. It has made available technical documentation and production methods, enabling Poland to introduce new technological processes. The aid of Soviet specialists has led to the application of a number of tested Soviet speed-up methods resulting in production increases.

In the Six-Year Plan, 25 new, large chemical plants will be built in heretofore undeveloped areas.

The soda industry, aside from enlarging its existing plants, will have its third modern soda factory in the vicinity of Inowroclaw. Sulfuric acid production will be increased not only through the expansion of existing plants and the speeding up of processes in accordance with the directions of Soviet specialists, but also through the construction of two new plants based on



cheap local gypsum resources. One of these, the Wizow Plant, already supplies Polish industry with sulfuric acid, while the other, to be based on the Kielce gypsums, is under construction in the vicinity of Buska.

On the ruins of the former German plant in Kedzierzyn, one of the giants of Polish chemistry is arising -- Poland's largest nitrogen fertilizer plant. This combine will also produce a number of synthetic organic chemical products. Another modern plant for the production of nitrogen fertilizers will arise in Gniewoszow, and a large phosphate fertilizer factory will be built.

Another colossus of the Polish chemical industry, the Dwory Chemical Combine near Oswiecim, already producing a number of important products, will soon start production of products new to Poland, such as semicoke, coal-tar derivatives, and acetic acid anhydride. Also under construction according to Soviet blueprints is the most modern calcium carbide plant in Poland and all of Europe, which will be completely mechanized and automatic, and will supply calcium carbide for production of commodities derived from acetylene, such as synthetic rubber, plastics, acetone, and others, to be produced at the Oswiecim combine. A large synthetic fuels plant, being built within the framework of this combine, will process over one million tons of low-grade coal. The largest industrial electric power plant in Poland is also being built there, to generate cheap electric power, utilizing steam from other technological processes.

Rokita, the former German poison gas plant in Brzeg Dolny, is becoming a modern combine to produce intermediates for the dye, pharmaceutical, plastics, and other industries. Construction of plants at Rokita has permitted the production of formalin and synthetic tannins which are completely replacing expensive imported natural tannins.

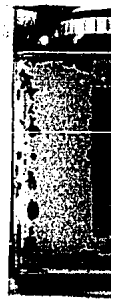
Of the new modern rayon plants being built, the plants at Jelenia Gora will soon be activated, the plants at Zydowce will be completed, and the new cellulose and viscose combine in Bochnia will arise. In the paper industry, new cellulose plants are being built in Skolwin, Kostrzyn, Ostroleka, Drawski Mlyn, and Jelenia Gora.

The rubber industry is also building new plants. The reclaimed rubber plant to be activated in Kolo will reduce consumption of rubber. The tire factories in Debica and Plock will fill all the requirements of the expanding automotive industry.

The Moscice nitrogen compounds plants are being enlarged to the size of a combine; a number of new production processes are being put into operation to utilize by-product gases and other products; meanwhile, the production of artificial fertilizers is constantly increasing. The Boruta dye plants are being enlarged almost threefold.

The large investments in the chemical industry, which constitute 13 percent of all industrial investments in the Six-Year plan, confront other Polish industries with important tasks. The metallurgical industry must expand the production of special steels, especially stainless steel in the form of sheets, pipes, castings, plated sheets, and thick-walled pipes able to withstand high pressures. Chemical synthesis on a large scale requires heavy metal forgings for high-pressure reactors that can withstand high temperatures and corrosive agents. The chemical industry is also waiting for the production of ferrosilicon castings to be undertaken.

The ceramics industry should broaden its production of acid and lye-resistant ceramic apparatus and forms. It should improve the quality and should go on to the production of more complex apparatus and machines (pumps, filter presses, and blowers).



The chemical equipment industry must apply, to a greater degree than hitherto, corrosion resistant materials to the surfaces of apparatus; it should use enamel, rubber, ebonite, opaline, and various plastics; it should also build whole apparatus or parts out of new synthetic materials, and other acid and lye-resistant materials.

The machine-building industry should convert production to all-welded types of chemical apparatus, particularly bulky apparatus operated under pressure. It should start serial production of basic machines for the chemical industry.

Quality control and automatic operations in chemical processes require the development of the production of control and measuring instruments, and of basic elements of modern automatic processes.

The electrical engineering industry should fill the chemical industry's large requirements for electrical apparatus and motors for work in the presence of dangerous gas concentrations, moisture, and corrosive vapors.

Some 40,000 construction workers, employed on investments projects of the chemical industry, are constantly becoming more skillful in executing complicated chemical installations.

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