

U. S. FIRMS FUELED GERMANY FOR WAR

I. G. Farben Report to Gestapo Bares Gains From Cartel Agreements on Oil

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

HOECHST, Germany, Oct. 18—Experience in the field of lubricants that was of the "utmost importance in warfare" and enabled Germany to be "completely prepared from a technical point of view" was the fruit of the cartel agreement between I. G. Farben industrie and various American industries, including Standard Oil of New Jersey, it was revealed today.

The information was contained in a report prepared for the Gestapo by the huge chemical combine soon after the secret police had started to question its directors. The reason for the Gestapo's suspicion was a report in The Petroleum Times of Dec. 25, 1943, by a Professor Haslam that stated that American industry had gained rather than lost as a result of its agreement with I. G. Farben. The report sought to refute this, mentioning as the results of this cooperation its ability to improve propellants with lead tetraethyl, the improvement of lubricants by the extraction of paraffines and asphalts, and information on agents for lowering solidifying points.

"It need not be pointed out that without lead tetraethyl modern warfare could not be conceived," the report declared. "Since the beginning of the war we have been in a position to produce lead tetraethyl solely because, a short time before the outbreak of the war, the Americans had established plants for us ready for production and supplied us with all available experience. In this manner we did not need to perform the difficult work of development because we could start production right away on the basis of all the experience that the Americans had had for years."

License Granted Despite Contract

A license on the process to I. G. Farben was granted "at the urgent request to Standard Oil to comply with our wish," the report added. "We were not entitled by our contract to this request and later on we learned that the War Department in Washington had consented only after long deliberation."

The improvement of lubricants

by the extraction of paraffines and asphalts by means of propane, which was "of the utmost importance for modern warfare," also resulted from "a contact with an American," the report said. "We first received from America instructions for the industrial application of this process. Besides, we were informed of agents for lowering solidifying points. * * * In this case that favorable effect of the contract with America on Germany becomes evident if one considers that, while the product was developed in Germany, its most important use as an agent * * * was first recognized by the Americans.

"Finally it may be mentioned that knowledge of certain substances that prevent the oxidizing of portions of propellants and oils as well as the forming of mud and pitching of pistons is also of American origin," the report continued.

Benefited by Our Experience

The Germans were advised "in a very liberal manner of the action of lubricants in automobile and airplane motors" and were thus started on the development of synthetic lubricants for war use so that, at the outbreak of the war, "we were completely prepared from a technical point of view. In this way we obtained standards not only from our own experiences but also from those of General Motors and other big American motor-car manufacturers," the report added.

Standard Oil and the Anglo-Netherland Royal Dutch Shell group also aided I. G. Farben in 1934 and 1935 to purchase large quantities of mineral-oil products, the report said. These products, including airplane benzine and lubricants, were bought for a market price of \$20,000,000 and stored as reserve stocks.

"The Government inquired of I. G. Farben whether it would be in a position to buy these quantities for itself, but actually as trustee for the Government on account of its friendly relations with Standard Oil," the report added. "The fact that we actually succeeded after the most difficult negotiations in buying these quantities demanded by the German Government from the Standard Oil Company and the Royal Dutch Shell group and importing them into Germany was only because of the support of the Standard Oil Company."