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The reports that the Justice Department is conducting a sweeping investigation of certain large chemical firms missed some highly interesting items.

One of the companies is the General Aniline and Film Corporation of New York. What was overlooked was that this concern was one of the six indicted in January on charges of violating the antitrust laws in the production of magnesium, a key defense material.

The indictment declared flatly that "General Aniline and Film Corporation was organized by I. G. Farbenindustrie (giant German dye trust) in 1929 and its stock has since and through to the present been directly or indirectly controlled by I. G. Farbenindustrie." It was formerly called the "American I. G. Chemical Corporation."

Also not brought out was that the last annual financial statement of General Aniline on December 31, 1940, showed that it owned outright 56,300 shares of common (voting) stock, valued at \$6,136,700, of the International Gesellschaft fuer Chemische Unternehmungen A. G. Switzerland, and another 28,600 shares of this firm's common stock listed as "50 per cent paid."

The Government is interested in ascertaining whether Chemische Unternehmungen, although listed as a Swiss firm, is not actually Nazi-controlled.

Another item under scrutiny in General Aniline's report is 43,750 shares of common stock valued at \$772,012 of American Magnesium Corporation listed as "sold subsequent to December 31, 1940." American Magnesium was organized originally by the Aluminum Corporation of America, also one of those indicted in January. Since 1933 its ownership had been divided equally with General Aniline. Following the indictments, Aluminum Corporation bought out General Aniline's interest—a highly significant move about which there was little publicity.

NOTE—Magnesium Development Company, the key patent holding company of the magnesium industry, also indicted in January, is still owned jointly by Aluminum Corporation and I. G. Farbenindustrie. It possesses all the vital patents on magnesium fabricating processes, so that even if the monopoly is broken on production of this strategic metal, its fabrication might still be controlled by this 50 per cent Nazi-owned firm.