

TABLE III
ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF CRUDE STEEL
BY OXYGEN PROCESS, UNITED STATES, ECSC, USSR AND AUSTRIA
(THOUSANDS OF NET TONS)

Year	United States ^a	ECSC ^b	USSR ^c	Austria ^c
1955	307	—	—	742
1956	506	—	—	935
1957	612	—	—	1,325
1958	1,323	684	1,300	1,282
1959	1,864	1,089	2,080	1,424
1960	3,346	1,757	2,745	1,955
1961	3,967	2,615	2,863	2,000
1962	5,553	3,840	2,920	2,020
1963	8,544	6,030	3,000	2,036
1964	15,442	11,470	3,580	2,160
1965	22,879	18,150	NA	NA

Note: The first LD converter in the United Kingdom went into production in 1960. See c below.

a. *Annual Statistical Report, 1960, 1965*, American Iron and Steel Institute (New York).

b. *Iron and Steel: Statistical Yearbook*, Statistical Office of the European Communities, 1961 — Brussels.

c. *Statistical Handbook 1964*, British Iron and Steel Federation (London).

France, Germany and Belgium are using low-phosphorous ores in new LD plants.

The data presented thus far suggest that the United States was among the early experimenters with the oxygen process (Canada was also early). As of 1958, the United States was the largest producer of oxygen steel in the world.⁵ This position was achieved despite difficulties faced by United States producers during the 1950's. For example, from 1950 to 1953 the United States industry was faced with public pressure to expand its capacity immediately to meet the needs of the Korean war. It could not have been expected to begin large-scale experimentation with OC steel — which had not yet been produced on a commercial scale — at that time. In the period following the wartime build up of capacity, 1953–60, United States output of steel *decreased* 12,300,000 tons.⁶ This is an indication of the decreased demand for steel in the United States market, since United States producers have been successful in adjusting steel supply to demand.

5. It held the lead in 1958 and 1960. From 1961 until 1965 the lead was held by Japan, as we will see in a moment.

6. Slesinger pointed out that only 5.6 million tons of *new* open hearth capacity was constructed in the United States after 1953. R. E. Slesinger "Steel Imports and Vertical Oligopoly Power: Comment," *American Economic Review*, LVI (Mar. 1966), 152–55.