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The Historical Collections Division (HCD) of CIA’s Information Management Services is responsible for executing the Agency’s Historical Review Program. This program seeks to identify and declassify collections of documents that detail the Agency’s analysis and activities relating to historically significant topics and events. HCD’s goals include increasing the usability and accessibility of historical collections primarily by developing release events and partnerships to highlight each collection and make it available to the broadest audience possible.

The mission of HCD is to:

- Promote an accurate, objective understanding of the information and intelligence that has helped shape the foundation of major US policy decisions.
- Broaden access to lessons learned, presenting historical material to emphasize the scope and context of past actions.
- Improve current decision-making and analysis by facilitating reflection on the impacts and effects arising from past decisions.
- Showcase CIA’s contributions to national security and provide the American public with valuable insight into the workings of its government.
- Demonstrate the CIA’s commitment to the Open Government Initiative and its three core values: Transparency, Participation, and Collaboration.

As one of eleven presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, the Reagan Library, under the Presidential Records Act, is the repository of presidential records for President Reagan’s administration. The Library’s holdings include over 60 million pages of documents, over 1.6 million photographs, a half million feet of motion picture film, tens of thousands of audio and video tape, and over 40,000 artifacts. The newly renovated Museum integrates hundreds of artifacts, over half never before seen, and dozens of interactive displays. These 18 new galleries pay tribute to America’s 40th president and his accomplishments by capturing his patriotic spirit, his respect for individual liberty, his belief in global democracy, and his support of economic opportunity.

The History Staff in the CIA Center for the Study of Intelligence fosters understanding of the Agency’s history and its relationship to today’s intelligence challenges by communicating instructive historical insights to the CIA workforce, other US Government agencies, and the public. CIA historians research topics on all aspects of Agency activities and disseminate their knowledge through publications, courses, briefings and Web-based products. They also work with other Intelligence Community historians on publication and education projects that highlight interagency approaches to intelligence issues. Lastly, the CIA History Staff conducts an ambitious program of oral history interviews that are invaluable for preserving institutional memories that are not captured in the documentary record.
Ronald Reagan became the 40th president of the United States more than thirty years ago, and ever since he stepped down to return to California eight years later, historians, political scientists, and pundits of all stripes have debated the meaning of his presidency. All modern presidents undergo reappraisal after their terms in office. Dwight Eisenhower, for example, was long considered a sort of caretaker president who played a lot of golf but who was not very smart or capable; access to formerly closed administration records has changed the minds of historians, who generally consider him a president fully in charge of national policy, clear-minded, and even visionary.
Reagan has undergone a similar reappraisal. The old view, exemplified by Clark Clifford's famous characterization that Reagan was an "amiable dunce," posited Reagan as a great communicator, to be sure, but one without substance, a former actor who knew the lines others wrote for him, but intellectually an empty suit. Many commentators, especially self-described political liberals, agreed with Norman Mailer's view of Reagan as "the most ignorant president we ever had." Gore Vidal joked that the Reagan Library burned down and "both books were lost"—including the one Reagan had not finished coloring. Even if these are extreme views, the perspective among liberals, Democrats, even some Republicans, and most definitively public intellectuals (including historians) was that Reagan was never very intelligent, never very curious, and never read much, as president, he liked to watch movies and tell funny but pointless stories, delegated all hard choices, worked very little, and took lots of naps. If the Cold War largely ended on Reagan's watch, and if he oversaw an economic recovery, he was just lucky. Reagan, in the old narrative, simply could not be the architect of anything positive that happened while he was president.

That perspective has changed forever and is marked by the continually improving regard historians have for Reagan. Whereas Reagan ranked 25th among US presidents in a 1996 poll conducted by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., among the 1986 poll conducted by Fred Scher derived from the 1986 poll conducted by Fred Scher, Reagan ranked 12th. Since 2001, the reappraisal really took off when the Reagan Library's volume of personal and professional writings that demonstrate he was a voracious reader, a prolific and thoughtful writer, a fully engaged president, a highly intelligent, and consistent philosopher. More recently, scholarly analysis—some of it from former Reagan administration figures, including declassified documents, makes a convincing case that the end of the Cold War and the demise of US intelligence in the Reagan years with the observation that a third of the films Reagan made in the late 1930s and early 1940s dealt with national security threats. Andrew says that Reagan paid little attention to CIA products like the President's Daily Brief (PDB), citing Vice President George Bush's statement that Reagan read intelligence only "at his leisure." Others go so far as to assert that Reagan generally read "no intelligence estimates or assessments of any kind," a highly regarded history of CIA's work in Afghanistan from the Reagan years to the 9/11 attacks asserts that the Agency learned early that "Reagan was not much of a reader" and that detailed written intelligence "rarely reached his desk." Variants on the theme that Reagan read little or no intelligence include the notion that Reagan's PDB was unusually short (impliedly by the standards of other presidents) to encourage his reading. Many—probably too much—has been made of Reagan's "rarely reached his desk."

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gence and advertising, reality and artist's conception." Another (2009) study of intelligence analysis by a respected intelligence mythology about REAGAN AS INTELLIGENCE CONSUMER

The earlier assessments of Reagan and the subsequent reappraisals should matter to CIA officers because they have implications for the history of the Agency and its work. If Reagan was a lightweight who read little, was disengaged from policy, and was ignorant about matters of statecraft, as president, he liked to watch movies and tell funny but pointless stories, delegated all hard choices, worked very little, and took lots of naps. If the Cold War largely ended on Reagan’s watch, and if he oversaw an economic recovery, he was just lucky. Reagan, in the old narrative, simply could not be the architect of anything positive that happened while he was president.

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Reagan’s tenure as governor also provided direct experience regarding classified material and security clearances, since his duties included oversight of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory—a national resource for nuclear research—which required Reagan to hold a “Q” clearance granted by the Laboratory—a national resource for nuclear research—which marked him as a national resource for nuclear research. His “overemphasis” on security and law enforcement required Reagan to hold a “Q” clearance granted by the Laboratory—a national resource for nuclear research, which was a national resource for nuclear research. At the Commission’s first meeting in the Vice President’s office on 13 January 1975, Reagan informed Rockefeller that his busy schedule—booked full over several months with speaking engagements and taping sessions for his radio commentaries—meant that he would have to miss some meetings. Rockefeller accepted Reagan’s absences on the condition that he read the transcripts of the meetings he would miss. Reagan missed the next four meetings due to previous commitments and because of the difficulty commuting from Washington, D.C., to California, to attend the Commission meetings. Following unfavorable media reports and critical editorials in February, Reagan offered to step down from the Commission, but Rockefeller felt that Reagan’s “overemphasis” on security and law enforcement had changed his mind: “As the commission began to draft its report... a contributing Reagan emerged... Rockefeller was not the only one who changed his mind, but he was the only one who changed his mind.”

For a while the commission seemed unable to develop a generally acceptable formulation of its views. As the discussions went on inconclusively, Reagan started to write on a yellow legal pad that he brought with him. At first I thought he was simply taking notes. Then, on several occasions, when the discussion flagged, he would say something like “How does this sound, fella?” and would read aloud what he had written. His draft language was usually a succinct summary of the principal issues in the discussion and a sensible way to address them. Often, the commission found that they could agree with his proposal, which went directly into the report... Among a group of gifted and famous men, in the setting of the Commission on CIA Activities in the United States, Reagan was a standout. Wallis remembers his amazement that Reagan “was really able to digest a lot of very complicated stuff [and] to write it all down in a logical order, in a smoothly flowing set of paragraphs that he then read off to the Commission members. It summarized for them and for all of the rest of us what we had heard.” This was so impressive, Wallis writes, because Reagan went beyond the understanding of complex issues to being capable of accurately describing them, adopting actual words to describe these concepts can be quite difficult... if one’s understanding is limited, it is difficult to choose the right words. Having a sufficient mastery of the subject matter to prescribe a solution is harder still. Reagan more than met these standards.” Wallis’s account is confirmed by commission member Douglas Dillon, a former Treasury secretary for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, who recounted that Reagan’s intervention led to an “impasse among the commissioners and who was surprised by the ease with which Reagan pulled it off.”

The FBI in January 1975 interviewed dozens of Reagan’s friends, associates, colleagues, and others pursuant to its background investigation of Reagan before he could participate on the Rockefeller Commission. Documents from Reagan’s FBI file indicate that all those interviewed had highly recommended Reagan for the position, praising his intelligence, loyalty, honor, and dedication, but there were a few exceptions, mostly among Reagan’s former political rivals. Jesse Unruh, the former speaker of the California Assembly (whom Reagan had defeated in his reelection campaign in 1970) considered Reagan unqualified for any government position because of his lack of “compassion” for people; former California governor Edmund “Pat” Brown disagreed with his proposal, which went directly into the report... Among a group of gifted and famous men, in the setting of the Commission on CIA Activities in the United States, Reagan was a standout. Wallis remembers his amazement that Reagan “was really able to digest a lot of very complicated stuff [and] to write it all down in a logical order, in a smoothly flowing set of paragraphs that he then read off to the Commission members. It summarized for them and for all of the rest of us what we had heard.” This was so impressive, Wallis writes, because Reagan went beyond the understanding of complex issues to being capable of accurately describing them, adopting actual words to describe these concepts can be quite difficult... if one’s understanding is limited, it is difficult to choose the right words. Having a sufficient mastery of the subject matter to prescribe a solution is harder still. Reagan more than met these standards.” Wallis’s account is confirmed by commission member Douglas Dillon, a former Treasury secretary for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, who recounted that Reagan’s intervention led to an “impasse among the commissioners and who was surprised by the ease with which Reagan pulled it off.”

CIA’s critics and congressional Democrats have long derided the Rockefeller Commission’s findings as a “whitewash,” but it was far from that. The report Reagan helped bring to life was critical of CIA. It described at length the CIA’s domestic activities revealed by the New York Times and additionally uncovered a few other abuses for the first time, such as the testing of LSD on unwitting Americans, one of whom had taken LSD at his behest. The conclusion of the Rockefeller Commission and his leading role in drafting its final report, Reagan was well grounded on both the fundamentals and specifics of CIA’s missions, activities, and responsibilities as well as its organization, oversight, and legal and regulatory constraints. In the immediate wake of his Commission experience, Reagan—who philosophically was suspicious of encroachments of the federal government on individual liberty—enthusiastically defended the mission of intelligence keeping the nation secure. As Congress continued its own investigation of US intelligence activities, Reagan publicly called for an end to “ Arbitrary judgments of intelligence... lack of coordination and a closed mind,” and that further investigation would harm CIA’s ability “to protect the security of this country.”

**REAGAN’S DEVELOPING VIEWS ON INTELLIGENCE, 1975-1979**

Reagan put the knowledge he acquired from his membership on the Rockefeller Commission to good use during his “wilderness period” from January 1975, when he stepped down after less than a year as governor, to his nomination for president. During this period, Reagan wrote and delivered hundreds of commentaries for his syndicated radio program which ran five days a week; he also drafted opinion pieces, private letters, and public remarks. In these writings, Reagan commented on a broad range of foreign, national security, and domestic topics, including intelligence and CIA. Early on, in a radio broadcast he titled “CIA Commission,” Reagan in August 1975 highlighted his service on the Rockefeller Commission and emphasized that, though instances of CIA domestic espionage were “not constitute “massive” saying as reported in the media, the misdeeds were “scattered over a 28-year period,” and CIA had long ago corrected them. Reagan reiterated his concern about the gaps in the intelligence community, the need for comprehensive “witch hunting” and threatened “inestimable harm” to CIA’s ability to gather intelligence. “There is no doubt,” he warned, that intelligence sources worldwide “have been frightened into silence” and that CIA officer themselves were now less likely to take risks.

The need for secrecy in intelligence and the potential harm of publicity is a frequent theme in Reagan’s writings and public statements during this period, frequently coupled with statements of enthusiasm for the work of US intelligence officers and of the overall need for a strong intelligence posture to protect US national security in a perilous world. Many of Reagan’s radio commentaries were mostly or entirely devoted to the subject. “CIA Commission” (August 1975); “Secret Service” (October 1975); “Gloria Explorer” (November 1976); “Intelligence” (June 1977); “Alert” (April 1976); “CIA in Action” (October 1978); “Counterintelligence” (January 1979); “CIA...
In addition to the record of Reagan’s pre-presidential knowledge of and experience with intelligence agencies, his public advocacy for the work of US intelligence agencies as he stepped up his criticism of President Jimmy Carter, who had reportedly horrified at Carter’s nomination of former Kennedy aide Michael Deaver that the reading should be cut back. Reagan also took the initiative when it came to his intelligence reading. In addition to the tasking DCI Casey would give to the DI for analysis of interest to the President, Reagan himself would task the agency with intelligence assessment, as when he requested an interagency perspective on foreign involvement in Grenada after the US military operation there in October 1983.

More often, however, Reagan would request specific reports from a menu of options placed before him. Beginning early in his administration, the PDB—generally the Saturday book—would contain an extra page titled “Selected Reports,” by which CIA provided titles and brief summaries of intelligence analysis that CIA had published the previous week and that were available in full if desired. Of the five or seven reports listed, Reagan would often select one to three full reports by circling the item or placing a check mark next to it, or both, and writing something like “order for me, please.” On one question tagged “homework” in a particular report with the words, “Send me another copy.” It is not known why he needed another copy, but the 11-page report he wanted (again) was not light reading but was rather of “homework,” or perhaps as a signal to aides that he had the picture read. Reagan also took the initiative when it came to his intelligence reading and took seriously daily intelligence reports as well as longer intelligence assessments such as National Intelligence Estimates (NIE). Former Secretary of State George Shultz, former national security advisor Richard Allen, and former NSC senior staffer Richard Pipes have stated that Reagan regularly read and wanted to read intelligence assessments. Another former national security advisor, Robert McFarlane, recalls that Reagan enthusiastically read and marked up intelligence documents, and even recommended them to senior administration officials. Allen regularly prepared, as he put it, a “weekend reading assignment” on national security and foreign policy issues for Reagan to read at Camp David or on trips, and the package included intelligence assessments Allen selected for him. Reagan faithfully and regularly worked through the thick reports, often “homework” for his “homework,” for his “homenwork” or “late-night” reading. Allen said Reagan read it all—to the point that Nancy Reagan told the President’s aide Michael Deaver that the reading should be cut back at least 75 percent. Allen refused, saying he, not Deaver, was responsible for keeping the President informed on national security and foreign affairs, and Reagan kept doing his “homework.”

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No such limitations hindered research into Reagan’s reading of the PDB. Then as now, the President’s copy of the PDB was returned, with extremely rare exceptions, to CIA, where it was filed and archived. If Reagan read the PDB, and if he marked it as a reader, we should have evidence as it. It turns out, that evidence exists, but interpreting it requires context.

That Reagan read the PDB regularly is established by those who served him, and project leader Edward Allen says that Reagan read the PDB “nearly every day,” and Edwin Meese said the President read the PDB “assiduously.” George Shultz disliked CIA analysis but read the PDB every day because he knew the President was engaged with it. Robert Kimmitt, an NSC staffer during the Reagan administration (and later Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs), helped prepare the daily package of the PDB and other national security readings for Reagan. In an interview with CIA’s Center for the Study of Intelligence, Kimmitt was asked about Reagan and the PDB.

My view is that he probably read the PDB page-for-page, word-for-word every day. Because I can just think of so many occasions when issues would come up, that he would be top of, that you could only have done if you’d been keeping up with developments, whatever the sort of competition. Kimmitt—his intelligence, his attentiveness, and all the rest—he was the most incredible listener, and fact and information absorber, I ever viewed at that level.

I was able to review the President’s copy of the PDB for each day it was published from January 1981 through April 1984, about forty percent of his presidency, or about one thousand PDBs. The first conclusion one can draw is that this is a lot of intelligence reading. This body of work, which I read regularly consists of upwards of 10,000 pages just for this period, or some 25,000 cumulative pages of daily intelligence reading for Reagan’s entire presidency.

The second conclusion is that the individual PDBs prepared for Reagan were not thin, as some suggest. Christopher Andrew, in his otherwise indispensable For the President’s Eyes Only (1995), suggests Reagan was not much of a reader. Andrew, however, would be exceeded by the confusion of those intelligence scholars and other writers who assert that Reagan did not pay much attention to intelligence.

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL OF REAGAN’S VIDEOS

The recurrent myth about Reagan’s reliance on videos for his consumption of intelligence can finally be laid to rest. I requested a search for all videos produced from 1981 through 1986, and I spoke with the officer, now retired, who supervised the unit producing those videos during 1981-86. There are no PDB videos because none were made. A daily or even a weekly PDB video would have been impossible, given the minimum production time of three to four weeks to create each video. At that time, daily short deadline productions were out of the question.

Although PDB videos were never made, a number of CIA video presentations were made specifically for Reagan. There is no doubt that Reagan found these intelligence videos useful. On one occasion, Reagan recorded in his diary: “A class lecture exclusively on subjects of interest to the President.” That view is not consistent with the general reappraisal of Reagan’s intellectual abilities as evidenced by new scholarship over the past decade, but it has persisted.

Logic and evidence, rather than personal opinion, paint a different picture. Logic would support the notion that Reagan, whom recent scholarship has established as an enthusiastic reader, was also a reader of intelligence, not an enthusiast who read the PDB to get the latest news though his loyal aides. That view is not consistent with the general reappraisal of Reagan’s intellectual abilities as evidenced by new scholarship over the past decade, but it has persisted.

The record regarding Reagan’s pre-presidential experiences as an actor, union leader, state governor, and especially as a member of the first-level high-intelligence (CIA (the Rockefeller Commission) indicates that these experiences gave the future president a background in and an understanding of many areas of intelligence, including espionage, secrecy, oversight and necessary legal, and the law. As a prolific radio commentator in the 1970s, Reagan reflected and propounded on intelligence issues of the day, particularly on the balance between democratic values and intelligence operations, the value of espionage and counterintelligence, and the manipulation of the Cold War, and the damage to intelligence operations and CIA morale stemming from leaks, media exaggerations, and an overly intrusive Congress more interested in civil liberties than national security. The preponderance of direct and indirect evidence, beginning with detailed observations of Reagan’s reading of the PDB as president-elect, concluded that Reagan read the PDB with the same focus and diligence that characterized his approach to any other aspect of his role as president. Reagan’s unshakable determination to maintain and protect the rights of citizens and their national security, the intelligence community, and the nation as a whole, both at home and abroad, is woven throughout his administration. As a result, Reagan profoundly influenced the way intelligence was conducted and communicated. Reagan demonstrated his commitment to preserving the integrity of the intelligence community and to upholding the values of democratic governance and national security.

CONCLUSIONS

The view that Reagan was not a reader but at best a casual consumer of intelligence has been perpetuated by political conservatives and liberal critics alike. That view is not consistent with the general reappraisal of Reagan’s intellectual abilities as evidenced by new scholarship over the past decade, but it has persisted. Logic and evidence, not personal opinion, paint a different picture. Logic would support the notion that Reagan, whom recent scholarship has established as an enthusiastic reader, was also a reader of intelligence, not an expert who read the PDB to get the latest news through his loyal aides. That view is not consistent with the general reappraisal of Reagan’s intellectual abilities as evidenced by new scholarship over the past decade, but it has persisted.
is preferable to have the true picture about CIA’s interactions with any president, for the Agency’s influence, its missions, and the morale of its employees depend on that vital relationship.

APPENDIX

WILLIAM CASEY AND RONALD REAGAN: HOW CLOSE?

Because Casey is central to Ronald Reagan’s war against the Soviet Union, understanding him and the part he played at CIA is critically important.


Every organization—be it family, tribe, nation, or intelligence service—has its lore, its mythology, its memory of How Things Were and Came to Be. These received historical narratives can be problematic for the historian, who tries to understand and interpret for others the past as it was and on its own terms—not, for example, bringing a “present-mindedness” into historical inquiry that judges the past by the knowledge, standards or sensibilities of the present. Inevitably, however, the received narrative is often a mixture of the demonstrably true, the uncertain, the dubious, and the patently false—and the boundaries of all these categories constantly shift, thanks to the penchant of historians toward revisionism, re-revisionism, ad infinitum. Far from being fixed, the past is never over, it seems.

At CIA, there is an enduring internal narrative about the 1980s, specifically the years 1981 through 1986, when the Agency was led by Reagan’s first DCI, William Casey. The “Reagan-Casey” years are understood as a time of resurgence for CIA, a second “Golden Age” for the Agency (the first was the Eisenhower-Dulles period, when CIA made a name for itself fighting the early Cold War). In the renewed and rejuvenated CIA of this narrative, CIA’s relevance is reasserted after a difficult period for the Agency known as the Time of Troubles: the press revelations, scandals, and congressional investigations of the 1970s, combined with Jimmy Carter’s perceived disdain for CIA as evidenced by the Carter administration’s budget and personnel cuts under one of CIA’s most disliked directors, Stansfield Turner. From an insider’s perspective, the 1970s were a disaster. A CIA officer at the time with twenty years’ service had joined in the Agency’s heyday (during the first so-called Golden Age) but now saw an organization under siege.

Agency officers widely believe that William Casey gets the credit for resuscitating CIA with expanded resources and a renewed mission, thanks to his personal relationship, even intimate friendship, with the President. Casey, after all, had been Reagan’s campaign manager, saving a bankrupt and dysfunctional primary campaign for “the Gipper” and overseeing the contest through to Reagan’s electoral victory. Casey played up his closeness to Ronald Reagan, as expressed in this excerpt from an interview with Richard Lehman, a senior officer in the Directorate of Intelligence:

Just after Christmas (1980) DCI-designate Bill Casey called Bruce [Clarke, the Deputy Director for Intelligence] and me in for a get-to-know-you session. We prepared the standard briefing, but he interrupted us, saying in effect that he already understood all that. And he did. Apropos the relationship of the DCI to the President, he said, “You understand, I call him Ron.”

The phrase “I call him Ron” summarizes the Agency’s preferred thesis about this period—that CIA mattered in the 1980s largely because its director, William Casey, had a close friendship and an unprecedented influence with the President, manifested in his status as the first DCI with Cabinet rank, which Casey emphasized in his appearances before Agency employees. It certainly was the impression of many senior CIA officials that, as one of them put it, “[Casey’s] relationship with Ronald Reagan couldn’t have been closer… it was clear to me that there was a very personal, a very close tie between those two men.” This perspective is reinforced by outside assessments; one historian of the period called Casey “perhaps the most influential man in the Reagan cabinet after the president.” The author of a CIA history highly regarded within the Agency said that Casey was “much more than just a director… he personally gave the CIA access to the president. In short, he was the most important thing about the agency.”

But was he? How valid is the perspective that Casey himself was the reason for CIA’s renewed prominence during the Reagan years? Did Casey overstate his access to and intimacy with Ronald Reagan, or at least did he consciously fail to correct the impression at CIA that such a relationship existed? Casey’s biographer Joseph Persico has documented that Casey early in his life freely embellished the level or degree of his access or influence. In 1940, for example, Casey, a young economic analyst and writer at the time, provided free market proposals to the presidential campaign of Thomas E. Dewey, a candidate for the Republican nomination, after which Casey claimed on his résumé that he had been a “tax and fiscal advisor” to Dewey. After Wendell Willkie defeated Dewey for the Republican nomination, Casey provided the same ideas to the Willkie campaign in the form of proposed language for speeches—becoming in his curriculum vitae a “Willkie speechwriter in the 1940 presidential campaign.” While Persico’s point is to ponder the various controversies in Casey’s later career—especially as DCI—that stemmed from Casey’s arguably casual regard for the truth, it does seem more specifically that Casey was predisposed to overstate his relationship with Ronald Reagan.

That Casey did not have the relationship he touted is the assessment of Robert Gates, who was executive assistant to Casey in 1981-82, head of the Directorate of Intelligence (DI) in 1982-86, and then Casey’s Deputy DCI. In a 1994 interview, Gates said

I probably spent more time with Casey than anybody else in the Agency, and I just never had the sense that he had what I would call a close personal relationship...
times did he meet with Reagan alone. Casey’s telephone
from 68 in 1981) and 5 small-group meetings; only three
in 54 large-group meetings (i.e. NSC, Cabinet, NSPG, down
second year of the Reagan administration saw the President
by a review of Casey’s daily schedule for 1982. Casey in the
national security advisor, who lasted just a year) is supported
close allies in the White House was Richard Allen, Reagan’s
year (a view consistent with the fact that one of Casey’s few
ceptions with the President were most numerous in the fi rst
Ronald Reagan. Gates’s impression that Casey’s interac-
ions with a tremendously personal relationship with
Casey’s schedule for 1981, however, indicates he met alone
with Reagan during this period only four times, or less than
Casey had believed that Reagan was capable of absorbing
Curiously, especially because during the 1980 campaign
Casey had believed that Reagan was capable of absorbing
only a paragraph of text at one sitting, after the inauguration
Casey began sending detailed and lengthy letters to the
President on topics such as progress in rebuilding US intel-
ligence capabilities, Soviet espionage, and arms talks and
US-Soviet relations. These seem to have become longer
and more frequent as time went on, perhaps to compensate
for fewer personal meetings.65
Contrary to the conventional wisdom at CIA, it does not
appear that the Agency’s fortunes and influence during
the Reagan administration rested entirely or even mostly
on a close personal relationship between the DCI and
the President. It is far more likely that CIA was infl uential
because it served a President who understood intelligence
and its importance, who appreciated how it would help
him in policy decisions, and who appreciated the product CIA
provided. These factors would have obtained for almost
anyone Reagan chose to lead CIA. As it happened, he chose
William Casey as a way to reward him for his crucial role
in the campaign and because of his conservative views,
particularly on foreign policy, that Reagan shared. History
is not a science in that we can ever “run the experiment
again,” but it is fascinating to speculate that CIA might not
have been worse off, and perhaps could have been better
off, with someone other than Casey as DCI.

Preliminary research into DCI records confirms Gates’s
impression.64 DCI daily schedules for calendar year 1981—
the fi rst eleven months of the fi rst Reagan term—show
that, while Casey as a Cabinet member saw President Reagan
quite often at the White House as part of larger groups, he
had surprisingly few personal meetings with Reagan. Starting
with the fi rst meeting of Reagan’s NSC on 6 February, 1981,
through the end of December Casey attended at least 33
such meetings, 18 meetings of the National Security Policy
Group (a subset of the NSC that dealt with policy toward
the Soviet bloc and also intelligence activities), and 17
Cabinet meetings (often combined with a working lunch),
for a total of 68 large-group White House meetings—an
average of one every four days—not to mention an additional
twelve White House social functions at which Casey and
Reagan were both present. Casey may have sought to give
the impression internally at CIA that many of his frequent
trips to the White House were private visits with the President;
Casey’s schedule for 5 October, for example, lists “Lunch
with the President,” while Reagan’s diary indicates it was
lunch for 29 people.62
Casey’s schedule for 1981, however, indicates he met alone
with Reagan during this period only four times, or less than
once every twelve weeks. In addition, he had six telephone
conversations with the President. This is not the schedule
of a man with a tremendously personal relationship with
Ronald Reagan. Gates’s impression that Casey’s interac-
tions with the President were most numerous in the fi rst
year (a view consistent with the fact that one of Casey’s few
close allies in the White House was Richard Allen, Reagan’s
national security advisor, who lasted just a year) is supported
by a review of Casey’s daily schedule for 1982. Casey in the
second year of the Reagan administration saw the President
in 54 large-group meetings (i.e. NSC, Cabinet, NSPG, down
from 68 in 1981) and 5 small-group meetings; only three
times did he meet with Reagan alone. Casey’s telephone
calls with the President in 1982 also dropped from the
previous year, to four. The DCI’s schedule for 1983 indicates
he met privately with Reagan fi ve times that year and had
ten phone calls—up slightly from the preceding two years.66
There is other evidence that in subsequent years Casey’s
individual meetings with Reagan and his telephone calls
with him remained in low single digit fi gures.64

US INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES OF THE
SOVIET COLLAPSE:
REALITY AND PERCEPTION

Bruce D. Berkowitz

A commonly held belief is that the United States Intelligence Community (IC)
failed to anticipate the collapse of the Soviet Union. Indeed, many of the U.S.
officials who received intelligence about the Soviet Union, its decline in the late
1970s and 1980s, and its fi nal crises in the 1989–1991 period, believe to this
day that they were not warned—that they were, in effect, “blindsided.”

Note: The footnotes for this article are not included here for reasons
of space. The full version, with footnotes, can be found on the DVD.
This is odd, because the documented record shows that the Intelligence Community performed much better than most people seem to think. Indeed, this record suggests that U.S. intelligence provided about as good a product as one could reasonably expect. It detected the slowdown in the Soviet economy; it noted that the Soviet leadership was running out of options to save the country; it stipulated a set of conditions that might signal the crisis had reached a tipping point; and it notified top U.S. leaders when these conditions were met.

So these facts raise two questions: Why do so many people think the Intelligence Community failed? And why do many of the U.S. officials who were professional consumers of this intelligence still feel that they were not adequately warned? The nature of these questions should be noted before answers can be proffered.

In part, the questions are not about empirical realities, but about perceptions of those realities. To use a photography metaphor, the questions ask not about the “picture” out there, but about the “camera” in human heads. As such, the questions are not asking about the external conditions that produce surprise, but rather, the collective cognitive architecture of surprise. Put another way, leaders usually do not “get” blindsided; they blindsided themselves by how they perceive intelligence, by the mental hurdles intelligence must surmount before it can change their perceptions, and in the constraints that limit their ability to act on information.

The questions are also about wishful thinking. Deep down, officials seem to want intelligence to make decisions for them, when, in reality, it rarely can.

The Record, On Background

In 1995 Jeffrey T. Rickelson brought to my attention several intelligence assessments and National Intelligence Estimates (NIEs) that had been declassified and cited in a study that Kirsten Lundberg carried out for the Kennedy School at Harvard.1 Rickelson, a scholar at the National Security Archive, is one of the most frequent users of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and has over the years assembled an extensive database of declassified, leaked, and officially released intelligence products. When Rickelson saw the citations in the Kennedy School study, he requested the documents under FOIA.

Rickelson realized that these assessments were at odds with the popular conception that the Intelligence Community had failed to anticipate the collapse of the Soviet Union. Therefore, he supplemented them with a study that Kirsten Lundberg carried out for the Kennedy School. Lundberg reviewed several intelligence assessments and National Intelligence Estimates (NIEs) published by the CIA’s Center for the Study of Intelligence, provide a factual basis for evaluating the IC’s record. Rickelson and I agreed to develop our own assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community’s performance, and to consider how the distorted views of its Soviet analyses had developed. We interviewed most of the officials who participated in developing the analysis and several of the key consumers who served in the White House under President George H. W. Bush.2

We concluded that the performance of the U.S. Intelligence Community in anticipating the decline and collapse of the Soviet Union was generally good and sometimes outstanding. The Intelligence Community faced three basic tasks:

• First, analysts had to detect the overall slowdown of the Soviet economy and assess the underlying political, economic, and demographic factors that would make it difficult, if not impossible, for the Soviets to recover. This long-range analytical task had a time frame of approximately five to ten years, partly because that is the length of time such tidal socioeconomic changes require, and also because that encompasses several U.S. electoral cycles. This long-range warning gives elected officials time to reshape U.S. strategy and the electorate time to absorb and (perhaps) support it.

• Second, the Intelligence Community had to detect shorter-range trends that could plausibly lead to a crisis in Soviet politics and trigger collapse. Analysts had to postulate plausible scenarios and, as the Soviet Union drew closer to a crisis state, compare the probability of one scenario with another. This kind of warning, with a one-to-five-year time frame, permits a President to make significant adjustments during his term. The challenge here was partly one of imagination, and partly one of understanding how to weigh the various political and economic factors that would determine the outcome.

• Third, the IC had to warn U.S. officials when the Soviet collapse was imminent and the final endpoint under way. The time frame for this task was a year or less. Analysts had to postulate specific “gates” that developments would need to pass through for the endpoint to be triggered and then determine whether those gates had been passed.

Each task required an increasing level of specificity and, by extension, that there were three opportunities in which U.S. intelligence analysts could fail. These levels of warning are also interrelated. If analysts and officials are unaware of strategic changes in their adversary, they are less likely to succeed at tactical warning, and if they have failed the tactical problem, they will more likely be unprepared for the task of immediate warning.

Long-range Warning

The challenge of anticipating the Soviet collapse was even greater for U.S. intelligence because the very notion of collapse was inconsistent with the thinking of most Western analysts and scholars. The prevailing view up to the late 1970s was that the Soviet Union would evolve, not collapse. True, some Sovietologists had long believed that a multithetic, nondemocratic state dependent on a centrally planned economy was inherently unstable. Indeed, that was the assumption upon which containment was based.3 But hardly any of these scholars were willing to hazard a time frame for a Soviet implosion. So their views were more of a theory than an intelligence estimate.

But by the mid-1970s there were growing signs that the Soviet economy and political system had ingrown, systemic problems. In the Intelligence Community, this economic slowdown was a basic underlying assumption for most intelligence analyses of the Soviet Union from the mid-1970s onward. Up to then, assessments often cited problems in the Soviet economy such as agricultural shortfalls and competition for resources and manufacturing capacity. After this point, the general understanding was that the Soviet Union as a whole was stagnating or declining economically, and that this slowdown would have profound political effects.

The main disagreement within the Intelligence Community was about how severe the effects of economic stagnation might be and how the Soviets would deal with them. The CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) took different approaches to measuring gross domestic product. In addition, while the CIA believed the economic slowdown might hinder the Soviet military buildup, the DIA believed that the continuing evidence of a military buildup illustrated that the Soviets were determined to outpace the United States despite economic constraints.

But hardly anyone in the IC—especially the CIA—argued that the Soviets were in great shape, despite what some critics of the Agency might suggest today. For example, in July 1977, the CIA reported the following:

The Soviet economy faces serious strains in the decade ahead. The simple growth formula upon which the economy has relied for more than a generation—maximum inputs of labor and capital—will no longer yield the sizeable annual growth which has provided resources needed for competing claims. . . . Reduced growth, as is foreshadowed over the next decade, will make pursuit of these objectives much more difficult, and pose hard choices for the leadership, which can have a major impact on Soviet relations with Eastern Europe and the West.4

This assessment of a stagnating Soviet economy was, in turn, reflected in U.S. national strategy. Presidential Directive 16, which defined U.S. national strategy in the Carter administration, said that, “though successfully acquiring military power matching the United States, the Soviet Union continues to face major internal economic and national difficulties, and externally it has few genuinely committed allies while lately suffering setbacks in its relations with China, parts of Africa, and India.”5

The Reagan administration went a step further by arguing that the United States could take advantage of these weaknesses and, through a planned, integrated strategy, accelerate the metamorphosis of the Communist regime. The resulting policy was a combination of economic pressure (through an arms race and trade sanctions) and political and military pressure (by supporting opponents of the Soviets and their allies in Eastern Europe, Latin America, and especially Afghanistan). According to National Security Decision Directive 32, U.S. goals were to “foster, if possible in concert with our allies, restraint in Soviet military spending, discourage Soviet adventurism, and weaken the Soviet alliance system by forcing the USSR to bear the brunt of its economic shortcomings, and to encourage long-term liberalization and nationalist tendencies within the Soviet Union and allied countries.”6

In the late 1970s, though, before he became President, Ronald Reagan was willing to propose that the Soviet Union was on a course to collapse. In his speeches and essays during this period, Reagan was fully prepared to
argue that the Soviet Union was evil, and that its economy was inefficient and unable to sustain itself indefinitely. But he was not ready to say that it was on a course to collapse or that U.S. policy could accelerate this collapse. Reagan did not make those statements until after he entered office, specifically in his June 1982 address to the British Parliament, and his March 1983 speech to the National Association of Evangelicals.

If the documentary record is clear, then why do so many people believe that the Intelligence Community failed to detect the Soviet Union's social and economic problems in the late 1970s?

One reason may have been that, at the time, the Soviet Union seemed ascendant. It had matched and even surpassed the United States in several measures of military capability, such as numbers of intercontinental ballistic missiles. It had expanded its influence through military cooperation treaties with clients in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. The popular media (and the Intelligence Community) duly reported these events, and so the zeitgeist was that the Soviets were strong, and the United States was stuck in malaise. Since American officials did not effectively challenge this view in public, Americans logically concluded later that this reflected the intelligence they were reading.

Besides, nothing was inevitable about a Soviet collapse in the late 1970s. At that point, many outcomes were possible. A more ruthless leader might have held the state together for another ten or fifteen years; witness Alexander Lukashenko in Belarus and Kim Jong-II in North Korea. A more flexible leader might have managed a "soft landing" for the Soviet Union; witness the current situation in China. To provide a more definitive estimate fifteen years after the Soviet Communist Party; witness the current situation in the late 1970s.

INTERMEDIATE AND IMMEDIATE WARNING

By the early 1980s, the faltering Soviet economy was a given, the assumed context within which the Intelligence Community viewed Soviet political and military developments. For example, in 1985, as Mikhail Gorbachev took control, the National Intelligence Estimate on the Soviet domestic scene encapsulated the fundamental weaknesses in the Soviet state. It did not yet say that the conditions for collapse were present, but it explained how such a path was possible:

The growth of the Soviet economy has been systematically decelerating since the 1950s as a consequence of dwindling supplies of new labor, the increasing cost of raw material inputs, and the constraints on factor productivity improvement imposed by the rigidities of the planning and management system. . . . The USSR is afflicted with a complex of domestic maladies that seriously worsened in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Their alleviation is one of the most significant and difficult challenges facing the Gorbachev regime . . . .

Over the next five years, and for the foreseeable future, the troubles of the society will not present a challenge to the system of political control that guarantees Kremlin rule, nor will they threaten the economy with collapse. But, during the rest of the 1980s and well beyond, the domestic affairs of the USSR will be dominated by the efforts of the regime to grapple with these manifold problems.

Gorbachev has achieved an upswing in the mood of the Soviet elite and populace. But the prospects for his strategy over the next five years are mixed at best . . . .

It is noteworthy that the forecasting horizon of the 1985 NIE was five years—normal for an NIE—and that the Soviet collapse occurred just beyond that horizon. But it was still premature in 1985 for a definitive forecast. As the Soviet system got progressively worse, so did the prognosis by the Intelligence Community. By spring 1989—more than two years before the attempted coup that led to the ultimate collapse of the regime—the IC was telling U.S. leaders that the situation was essentially irretrievable and that a catastrophic end (from the Soviet leadership’s point of view) was possible. The 1989 NIE said, "It will be very difficult for [Gorbachev] to achieve his goals. In the extreme, his policies and political power could be undermined and the political stability of the Soviet system could be fundamentally threatened . . . . [A]lready, fear and anger [of the Soviet political elite] could still crystallize in an attempted coup, legal removal of Gorbachev, or even assassination." 9

In April 1991 the Office of Soviet Analysis (SOVA), the office within the Directorate of Intelligence that followed developments in the USSR, told U.S. leaders explicitly that the Soviet Union was in a state of crisis, offered a poor prognosis, and spelled out specific scenarios in which the regime could implode. In a memo titled, "The Soviet Cauldron," SOVA’s director wrote,

The economy is in a downward spiral with no end in sight . . . inflation was about 20 percent at the end of last year and will be at least double that this year . . . reliance on a top-down approach to problems, particularly in regard to republics, has generated a war of laws between various levels of power and created a legal mess to match the economic mess. . . . In this situation of growing chaos, `possibilities and consequences have become increasingly possible.'

The memo then went on to describe possible outcomes, which included the assassination of Gorbachev or Boris Yeltsin, or a coup by "reactionary leaders who judge that the last chance to act had come"—which is, of course, exactly what later occurred.

Did the Intelligence Community provide immediate warning of the coup that triggered the final events of 1991? George W. H. Bush recalls in his memoirs:

Besides the coup rumors in July, which Gorbachev had dismissed, there had been some recent indication that the hard-liners in Moscow might be up to something. On Saturday morning, August 17, Bob Gates had joined me at breakfast where we went over the Presidential Daily Briefing. In it was a report that the prospective signing of the Union Treaty was scheduled for August 20 signing ceremony, and said I thought the situation was serious and if the Agency's warning was valid. I explained the meaning of the August 20 signing ceremony, and said I thought he should take the PDB warning quite seriously.10

Note how Bush and Gates score this event differently, even though they basically agree on the facts. Gates believes he gave Bush warning because the CIA had previously established the prerequisite conditions for there to be a coup, and he says that the President's daily briefing for 17 August indicated that those conditions were present. Bush wanted to know whether any specific datum suggested what might happen when, but Gates had no such specific datum.

These two different slants on the same material suggest just how controversial an assessment of whether one was "blindsided" can be, and they also highlight exactly where, if anywhere, the Intelligence Community fell short. To reach this last step in anticipating the Soviet collapse, the CIA would have needed first-hand information from the plotters themselves. Analysis alone can never fill that kind of gap, if only because an analysis is at best a probability assessment necessarily based on inference and deduction. The key datum that was lacking was, as Bush put it, the "specific information on what might happen or when." This was a very tough piece of information to collect. Even Gorbachev lacked it, obviously.

THE PERSISTENT MYTH—WHY?

All in all, this is a good record. So why has the Intelligence Community’s performance been so underappreciated, and why do officials to this day believe they were poorly served? What collective cognitive architecture explains the gap between the record and the perceptions, then and ever since?

One key reason is that the written record remained classified for several years after the Soviet Union disintegrated. Even when the most important documents, the National Intelligence Estimates, were declassified, they were initially not made widely available. Without being able to point to specific documents that presented the Intelligence Community’s consensus, the idea that the IC was caught flat-footed took root by default.

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RONALD REAGAN, INTELLIGENCE AND THE END OF THE COLD WAR

U.S. INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES OF THE SOVIET COLLAPSE: REALITY AND PERCEPTION

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One example shows how such an information vacuum can be perpetuated into a “truth” with major effects. In 1991, former Director of Central Intelligence Stansfield Turner published an article on the general topic of the future of intelligence. In one passage, Turner cited the apparent failure of the Intelligence Community to anticipate the Soviet collapse:

We should not gloss over the enormity of this failure to forecast the magnitude of the Soviet crisis. We know now that there were many Soviet academics, economists and political thinkers, other than those officially presented to us by the Soviet government, who understood long before 1980 that the Soviet economic system was broken and that it was only a matter of time before someone had to try to repair it, as had Khrushchev. Yet I never heard a suggestion from the CIA, or the intelligence arms of the departments of defense or state, that numerous Soviets recognized a growing, systemic economic problem.

Today we hear some revisionist ruminations that the CIA did in fact see the Soviet collapse emerging after all. If some individual CIA analysts were more prescient than the corporate view, their ideas were filtered out in the bureaucratic process; and it is the corporate view that counts because that is what reaches the president and his advisors. On this one, the corporate view missed by a mile. . . Why were so many of us so insensitive to the inevitable?12

This quotation has been repeated many times. It is usually portrayed as a mea culpa from a former head of the U.S. Intelligence Community, seemingly acknowledging that the community had failed to anticipate the Soviet collapse. However, it requires some parsing.

When Turner said he “never heard a suggestion” of a systemic weakness of the Soviet system, he was referring to the period he served as DCI, 1977–1981. Also, when he criticized “revisionist ruminations” claiming the CIA did anticipate the collapse, neither the intelligence assessments reporting the Soviet decline in the 1980s nor the policy directives they supported had yet been released.

In reality, both the opinion of “individual CIA analysts,” such as the director of SOVI, and the “corporate view” expressed in NIEs, concluded that the Soviet Union was in decline throughout the 1980s. These views were receiving the President and, as indicated earlier, were incorporated into presidential directives. But this paper trail was not made public until four years after Turner wrote. Indeed, the inherent problems and the decline of the Soviet economy had become the working assumption on which U.S. intelligence was based by the time Turner left office.

Nevertheless, this single quotation by Turner was cited repeatedly and written into the public record. Most notably, the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D, NY) referred to it during the confirmation hearing of Robert Gates to be Director of Central Intelligence in 1991; included it in the 1996 report of the Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy, which he chaired; cited it in Secrecy: The American Experience, a book he published in 1988; repeated it in an interview on The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer in 1998; mentioned it in his farewell speech to the U.S. Senate in 2002; and quoted it in his commencement address at Harvard in 2003. During this entire period, however, one is unable to find a single instance in which Moynihan quotes from an actual intelligence publication, such as those declassified in the early 1990s. Even when Moynihan submitted a bill in 1995 to abolish the CIA, he introduced the bill with a speech on the Senate floor that again claimed the Intelligence Community had failed to anticipate the Soviet collapse—and that again offered as its only evidence the aforementioned Turner quotation.13 Despite its paucity of actual evidence, the quotation has been repeated many times. It is usually portrayed as a mea culpa from a former head of the U.S. Intelligence Community, seemingly acknowledging that the community had failed to anticipate the Soviet collapse. However, it requires some parsing.

Those who criticize the IC’s assessment of the Soviet Union often get caught up in details, faulting it on specific findings that were secondary to the larger picture it was painting. In the early 1980s, the CIA believed the Soviet gross domestic product was growing at about two percent annually. Today we know that its economic growth was essentially nonexistent. But the CIA was not trying to make the case that the Soviet Union was growing, as indicated, the two percent growth estimate reflected a conclusion that, after remarkable growth in the 1950s and 1960s, the Soviet economy was grinding to a halt. The growth estimates were based on a modeling process that was controversial even at the time, and should not divert attention from the key judgments that summarized the Intelligence Community’s bedrock views—that the Soviet Union was in trouble.

Why Do Officials Feel III-Served?

One interesting feature about the controversies over the Soviet collapse is that some officials who had read the intelligence and understood it well said it still believe they were, in some important sense, surprised when the end came. When Gorbachev was toppled, it seemed as though the Bush 41 administration was not prepared to respond. Some critics wondered why Bush had not moved earlier to embrace Yeltsin, who ultimately prevailed. Would better intelligence have made a difference?

The first President Bush described the warning presented to him as too limited for taking action. But his diary entry on 19 August 1991 suggests that more factors were in play than just this intelligence report. Reflecting on the day’s events, Bush wrote:

[T] he questions for the most part were okay; [such as] “Why were you surprised?” There will be a lot of talking heads analyzing the policy, but in my view this totally vindicates our policy of trying to stay with Gorbachev. If we had pulled the rug out from under Gorbachev and swung toward Yeltsin you’d have seen a military crackdown far in excess of the ugliness that’s taking place now. I’m convinced of that. I think what we must do is see that the progress made under Gorbachev is not turned around.14

In other words, the Bush administration—despite receiving and acknowledging that conditions were ripe for a coup—believed it had no option other than to stick with Gorbachev. This was a judgment born less of intelligence information or the lack thereof than on the administration’s policy objectives. The administration’s goals were established by National Security Directive 23, which Bush signed on 22 September 1989:

Our policy is not designed to help a particular leader or set of leaders in the Soviet Union. We seek, instead, fundamental alterations in Soviet military force structure, institutions, and practices which can only be reversed at great cost, economically and politically, to the Soviet Union. If we succeed, the ground for cooperation will widen, while that for conflict narrows. The U.S.—Soviet relationship may still be fundamentally competitive, but it will be less militarized and safer. . . . U.S. policy will encourage fundamental political and economic reform, including freely contested elections, in East-Central Europe, so that states in that region may once again be productive members of a prosperous, peaceful, and democratic Europe, whole and free of fear of Soviet intervention.15

In short, the Bush administration did not intend to destabilize the Soviet Union (though it did envision the breakup of the Warsaw Pact). This is a subtle, but significant, difference from the policy of the Reagan administration, which said that the United States would seek to exploit fissures within the Warsaw Pact and the weakness of the Soviet economy. The Bush administration, in contrast, aimed to use economic pressure as a means to encourage the existing regime to moderate. National Security Directive 23 said:

The purpose of our forces is not to put pressure on a weak Soviet economy or to seek military superiority. Rather, U.S. policy recognizes the need to provide a hedge against uncertain long-term developments in the Soviet Union and to impress upon the Soviet leadership the wisdom of pursuing a responsible course. . . . Where possible, the United States should promote Western values and ideas within the Soviet Union, not in the spirit of provocation or destabilization, but as a means to lay a firm foundation for a cooperative relationship.
WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT FROM INTELLIGENCE?

When I ran the process that produced America’s National Intelligence Estimates (NIEs), I took comfort when I was told that predictions of continuity beat any weather forecaster—if it was fine, predict fine weather until it rained, then predict rain until it turned fine. I muse, if those forecasters, replete with data, theory and history, can’t predict the weather, how can they expect us to predict a complicated human event like the collapse of the Soviet Union? The question behind the musing was what should people expect of their intelligence agencies? Not what they’d like, for policymakers would like perfect prescience if not omniscience, though they know they can have neither.

THE REAL THING

Americans know what an actual intelligence failure looks like. Recall, for example, the August 1978 assessment by the CIA that “Iran is not in a revolutionary or even a pre-revolutionary state,” six months before the Shah fell.14 Or more recently, the October 2002 NIE, which said that, “in the view of most agencies, Baghdad is reconstituting its nuclear weapons program.”15 Analysts lose sleep over these kinds of statements because, despite the cliché about coordinated intelligence reflecting the lowest common denominator, a hallmark of American intelligence analysis is the constant pressure to publish clear, definitive statements. So when the analysis is wrong, it is apt to be clearly wrong.

Conversely, when it is correct, it is clearly correct. Only the most convoluted reasoning can turn the summaries and key judgments of the Intelligence Community’s analysis of the Soviet Union in the 1980s into a case that the IC “missed” the Soviet collapse.

Holding intelligence organizations accountable for their performance is important. But acknowledging when intelligence is successful is equally important. So, too, is appreciating the differences between an intelligence failure and policy frailties whose sources lie elsewhere. Without an understanding that such things can happen, being blindsided in the future is certain.

Gregory F. Treverton

Note: The footnotes for this article are not included here for reasons of space. The full version, with footnotes, can be found on the DVD.
THE POWER OF “STORY”

Reasonably, expectations should differ across different intelligence problems. But start with that hoary Soviet case—should intelligence services have done better in foreseeing the end of the Soviet Union? After all, the premise of the West’s containment strategy was that if Soviet expansion were contained, eventually the empire would collapse from its own internal contradictions. So some monitoring of how that policy was doing would have seemed appropriate.

In retrospect, there were signs aplenty of a sick society. Emigrés arrived with tales of Soviet toasters that were as likely to catch fire as to brown bread. The legendary demographer, Murray Feshbach, came back to Washington in the mid-1970s with a raft of Soviet demographics, most of which, like male life expectancy, were going in the wrong direction for a rich country. These factoids were puzzling, but we rationalized the first on the grounds that the Soviet defense industry was special and apart from ordinary Soviet industry; the second we dismissed with “Russians drink too much” or some such. Emmanuel Todd did Feshbach, one better and turned the demographic numbers into a prediction of the Soviet Union’s collapse. But he suffered the double misfortune of not only being, but also writing in French, and so was not likely to make much of a dent in official Washington.

Intelligence is about creating and adjusting stories—so it has come to seem to me in a career as a producer and consumer of intelligence—and in the 1970s and into the 1980s, the story in the heads of policymakers was Soviet expansion abroad, not disintegration at home. Thus, those Feshbach statistics were just curious factoids. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Evil Empire and “star wars” were still in the future. Imagine an intelligence officer who had tried to explain to the newly elected Ronald Reagan that the Soviet problem he faced was not power but impending collapse. That analyst would soon have found himself countering the Soviet problem he faced was not power but impending collapse. That analyst would soon have found himself countering the Soviet problem he faced was not power but impending collapse. That analyst would soon have found himself countering the Soviet problem he faced was not power but impending collapse. That analyst would soon have found himself countering the Soviet problem he faced was not power but impending collapse. That analyst would soon have found himself countering the Soviet problem he faced was not power but impending collapse. That analyst would soon have found himself countering the Soviet problem he faced was not power but impending collapse. That analyst would soon have found himself countering the Soviet problem he faced was not power but impending collapse. That analyst would soon have found himself countering the Soviet problem he faced was not power but impending collapse. Within the 1979s, and a 1981 report was blunt: “The Soviet pattern in many respects conforms to that of a less developed country. There is remarkably little progress toward a more modern pattern.” By 1982, CIA assessments concluded that Soviet defense spending had stopped growing, and the next year revised their previous assessments, concluding that defense spending had tailed off beginning in 1976.

Interestingly, those who could imagine the story didn’t believe it could be true. Unlike Levin, they did not believe the Soviet Union could be reformed from the top. And in that they turned out to be right. The director of America’s eavesdroppers, the National Security Agency Lt. Gen. William Odom wrote in 1987 that the Mikhail Gorbachev’s program, “has followed to its logical conclusion, would lead to Gorbachev’s political suicide and the collapse of the system. Because this did not seem what Gorbachev had in mind, he and others, including Robert Gates, then the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, concluded that Gorbachev could not intend to do what he said he would. Closer to the end, CIA assessments were on the mark but still lacked for a story. The Agency had been pointing to a chronic slowdown in the Soviet economy since the 1970s, and a 1981 report was blunt: “The Soviet pattern in many respects conforms to that of a less developed country. There is remarkably little progress toward a more modern pattern.” By 1982, CIA assessments concluded that Soviet defense spending had stopped growing, and the next year revised their previous assessments, concluding that defense spending had tailed off beginning in 1976.

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The best point prediction of Soviet implosion I have seen was a slightly whimsical piece written by the British columnist, Bernard Levin, in September 1977. He got the process exactly right: change would come not from the bottom but from the top, from Soviet leaders who “are in every respect model Soviet functionaries. Or rather, in every respect but one: they have admitted the truth about their country to themselves, and have vowed, also to themselves, to do something about it.” Levin didn’t get the motivation of the high-level revolutionaries right—he imagined a deep-seated lust for freedom, rather than concern over the stagnating Soviet economy—but at least he had a story. For the sake of convenience, he picked the 200th anniversary of the French revolution as the date—July 14, 1989.

In fact, the Soviet Union didn’t have to end in 1991. Indeed, it might still be doddering along today but for the actions of that visionary bumbler, Mikhail Gorbachev, who understood his nation’s weakness but had no idea how to deal with it, and so set in motion an economic reform program that was pain for not much gain. What we could have expected of intelligence is not prediction but earlier and better monitoring of internal shortcomings. We could also have expected some imaginations of competing stories to the then prevailing one. Very late, in 1990, an NIE, The Deepening Crisis in the USSR, did just that, laying out four different scenarios, or stories, for the next year.

PUZZLES AND MYSTERIES

When the Soviet Union would collapse was a mystery, not a puzzle. No one could know the answer. It depended. It was contingent. Puzzles are a very different kind of intelligence problem. They have an answer, but we may not know it. Many of the intelligence successes of the Cold War were puzzle-solving about a very secretive foe. Were there Soviet missiles in Cuba? How many warheads did the Soviet SS-18 missile carry? Puzzles are not necessarily easier than mysteries—consider the decade it took to finally solve the puzzle of Osama bin Laden’s whereabouts. But they do come with different expectations attached. Intelligence puzzles are not like jigsaw puzzles in that we may not be very sure we have the right answer—the raid on bin Laden was launched, participants in the decision said, with odds that bin Laden actually was in the compound no better than six in ten. But the fact that there is in principle an answer provides some concreteness to what is expected of intelligence.

That is especially so at the more tactical level of intelligence. In the simplest case, targeting (or producing, in the wonderful Pentagonese, “desired mean points of impact,” DMPIs, pronounced “dimples”), the enemy unit either is or isn’t where intelligence says it is. And the intelligence will quickly be self-validating as the fighter pilot or drone targeter discovers whether the enemy unit is in fact there. The raid on bin Laden’s compound reflected the solution to a much more complicated puzzle, one that was a nice example of the various forms of collection and analysis working together. But in that case too it would have been immediately apparent to the raiders if bin Laden hadn’t been there.

Another puzzle, whether Saddam Hussein’s Iraq had weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in 2002, drove home the point that because intelligence is a service industry, what policy officials expect from it shapes its work. In the WMD case, neither the U.S. investigating panel nor the British Butler report found evidence that political leaders had directly pressured intelligence agencies to come to a particular conclusion. Yet it is also fair to report that some intelligence analysts on both sides of the Atlantic did feel they were under pressure to produce the “right” answer—that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

The interaction of intelligence and policy shaped the results in several other ways. Policy officials, particularly on the American side, when presented with a range of assessments by different agencies, cherry picked their favorites (and sometimes grew their own cherries by giving credibility to information sources the intelligence services had discredited). As elsewhere in life, how the question was asked went a long way toward determining the answer. In this case, the question became simply “Does Saddam have WMD?” Intelligence analysis did broaden the question, but issues of how much threat, to whom and over what time frame got lost in the “does he?” debate. Moreover, U.S. intelligence was asked over and over about links between Iraq and al Qaeda. It stuck to its analytic guns—the link was tenuous at best—but the repeated questions served both to elevate the debate over the issue and to contribute to intelligence’s relative lack of attention to other questions.

WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT FROM INTELLIGENCE?
In the end, however, the most significant part of the WMD story was what intelligence and policy shared – a deeply held mindset that Saddam must have WMD. That mindset included outsiders like me who opposed going to war, as well as other European intelligence services whose governments were not going to participate in any war. For intelligence, the mindset was compounded by history, for the previous time around, in the early 1990s, U.S. intelligence had underestimated Iraqi WMD; it was not going to make that mistake again. In the end, if most people believe one thing, arguing for another is hard. There is little pressure to rethink the issue, and the few dissenters in intelligence are lost in the wilderness.

What should have been expected from intelligence in this case was a section in the assessments asking what was the best case that could be made that Iraq did not have WMD. That would not have made the slightest bit of difference in the rush to war, given the power of the prevailing mindset, but it would at least offered intelligence agencies some protection from later criticism – fair enough – that they had not done their job.

What policy officials expect from intelligence also shapes how intelligence is organized and what kind of people it hires. On the American side of the Atlantic, the crown jewel of intelligence products is the President’s Daily Brief (PDB), perhaps the most expensive publication per copy, since Gutenberg. Often caricatured as “CNN plus secrets,” much of it is factoids from recent collection by a spy or satellite image or intercepted signal, plus commentary. On the British side of the ocean, there is less of a flood of current intelligence, and the assessments of the UK’s Joint Intelligence Committee are, in my experience, often thoughtful. But on both sides of the ocean, the tyranny of the immediate is apparent. As one U.S. analyst put it to me: “We used to do analysis; now we do reporting.”

The focus on the immediate, combined with the way intelligence agencies are organized, may have played some role in the failure to understand the contagion effects in the “Arab spring” of recent months. In the United States, especially, where analytic cadres are large, analysts have very specific assignments. The Egypt analysts are tightly focused on Egypt, perhaps even on particular aspects of Egypt. They would not have been looking at ways events in Tunisia might affect Egypt. To be fair, the popular media probably overstated the contagion effect of events from one Arab country to the next, but that there was some such effect seems apparent in retrospect. Worse, my bet is that if asked whether events in Tunisia might affect Egypt, even slightly, those Egypt analysts would have said “no” with more or less disdain.

In the end, what is expected of intelligence also shapes what capabilities it builds – and hires. At the tactical level, teams of young analysts from the big U.S. collection agencies (the National Security Agency for signals intelligence or SIGINT and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency for imagery, or IMINT), organized into “geocells” have become adept at combining SIGINT and imagery, and adding what has been learned from informants in the battle zones, in order to identify events of interests, and ultimately provide those DIMPIs. The demand for those DIMPIs is plain enough, and the PDB’s unusually collected secrets are beguiling if not always very helpful. The demand from policy officials for more strategic, and perhaps longer-term, assessments is less clear. When asked, officials say they would like them: how could they answer otherwise? But in practice too often the response is: “That looks interesting. I’ll read it when there’s time.” And there never is time. When I was at the National Intelligence Council (NIC) overseeing NIEs we got such a session on the deputies’ calendar exactly once.

Lacking demand, it is not at all clear that intelligence agencies either hire or train people who could do good strategic analysis – that is, analysis that locates choices in a wider context of other issues and perhaps a longer time stream. Most analysts are trained to look for measurable evidence and struggle with alternative possibilities, but are not always willing to venture beyond the facts and the level of policy description. To be sure, there are differences across agencies. The State Department’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research, while small, does value deep expertise, letting analysts stay on a particular account for an entire career. By contrast, the analytic arm of the CIA believes good analysts can add value quickly as they move from account to account. As a result, it has more the feel of a newsroom than a university.

At the NIC, I came to think that, for all the technology, strategic analysis was best done in person. Indeed, I came to think that our real products weren’t those papers, the NIEs. Rather they were the NIOs, the National Intelligence Officers – experts not papers. We all think we can absorb information more efficiently by reading, but my advice to my policy colleagues was to give intelligence officers some face time. If policymakers ask for a paper, what they get inevitably will be 60 degrees off the target. In 20 minutes, though, the intelligence officers can sharpen the question, and the policy official can calibrate the expertise of the analyst. In that conversation, intelligence analysts can offer advice; they don’t need to be as tightly restricted as on paper by the “thou shalt not traffic in policy” injunction. Expectations can be calibrated on both sides of the conversation. And the result might even be better policy.
1981 - 1989

**20 JAN**
Ronald Reagan inaugurated 40th President of the United States.

**10 NOV**
Soviet General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev dies.

**9 FEB**
Yuri Andropov dies after only 15 months as Soviet leader.

**13 FEB**
Konstantin Chernenko, at age 73, is named General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

**8 MAR**
In a speech to the National Association of Evangelicals, Reagan labels the Soviet Union an "evil empire."

**24 MAY**
President Reagan visits CIA HQs for the groundbreaking on the new headquarters building.

**16 DEC**
Margaret Thatcher and the UK Government, in a plan to open new channels of dialogue with the Soviet leadership candidates, meet with Mikhail Gorbachev at Chequers.

**20-21 NOV**
Reagan and Gorbachev meet for the first time at a summit in Geneva, Switzerland, where they agree to two (later three) more summits.

**19-20 NOV**
Reagan and Gorbachev meet for the first time at a summit in Geneva, Switzerland, where they agree to two (later three) more summits.

**26 MAY**
President Reagan visits CIA HQs for the swearing in ceremony of William Webster as DCI.

**12 JUN**
During a visit to Berlin, Germany, President Reagan famously challenges Soviet leader Gorbachev in a speech to "tear down this wall" (the Berlin Wall).

**26 APR**
Chernobyl disaster: A Soviet nuclear plant in Ukraine explodes, resulting in the worst nuclear power plant accident in history.

**15 MAY**
The Soviets begin withdrawing from Afghanistan.

**11-12 OCT**
Reykjavik Summit: a breakthrough in nuclear arms control, but SDI remains a sticking point.

**23 MAR**
Ronald Reagan proposes the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), or Star Wars.

**1 SEP**
Civilian Korean Air Lines Flight 007, with 269 passengers, is shot down by Soviet interceptor aircraft.

**8 DEC**
The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty is signed in Washington, DC by President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev.

**29 MAY**
Reagan and Gorbachev meet in Moscow. INF Treaty ratified. When asked if he still believes that the Soviet Union is an evil empire, Reagan replies he was talking about “another time, another place.”

**12 NOV**
The Berlin Wall is breached when a Politburo spokesman mistakenly announces at a news conference in East Berlin that the borders have been opened.
Dimensions of Civil Unrest in the Soviet Union

National Intelligence Council Memorandum

This Memorandum has been coordinated within the National Intelligence Council and with the Directorate of Operations. It has been discussed with the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments or queries are invited and may be directed to the author, (name redacted), Analytic Group, National Intelligence Council.
This paper presents the preliminary findings of an examination of all known reports of civil unrest in the USSR from 1970 through 1982. Some of the findings may challenge our image of the Soviet Union as an effectively repressed society. Thus, the larger significance of civil unrest in the USSR requires additional systematic and ongoing study by the Intelligence Community. This paper focuses primarily on defining and measuring civil unrest rather than attempting to assess its full implications.

Civil unrest as defined in this paper does not, for the most part, involve the activities of dissident Soviet intellectuals whose efforts have been widely reported in the world's press. Rather, it refers to a broad range of actions by individuals belonging to a much wider mass of the Soviet public, who are either protesting specific policies of various levels of the Soviet government that affect them personally or who participate in spontaneous disorders even though they know that such action is strictly forbidden. We categorize and define these protest actions as follows:

- **Strike.** A collective action by workers at a job site to curtail economic production in support of specific objectives requiring redress by management to resolve.

- **Demonstration.** An activity of persons publicly assembled, or otherwise publicly identified, to protest a government policy or to advance a cause not supported by the government.

- **Riot.** A protest action that results in a temporary breakdown of public order involving property damage or injuries or that requires the mobilization of armed force to restore order.

- **Political Violence.** Acts of or attempts at violence in which political motives are readily apparent or can easily be inferred, including assassination of political leaders or state officials, self-immolation, and sabotage of state functions.

Approximately 280 reported incidents from 1970 to the present are the data on which this analysis is based. These incidents do not necessarily indicate the existence of great subterranean political dissension or represent any acute threat to the regime. For Western democracies, some 280 events spanning more than a decade would represent nothing significant. Throughout Soviet history, however, public political activity, such as protests and demonstrations, has been considered illegal and politically impermissible. Under Andropov, no less than his predecessors any public protest takes a significant risk, no matter how peaceful the act, and at the very least must expect harsh treatment by the militia, including immediate arrest or forcible dispersal. Repeat offenders and strike leaders can expect a combination of KGB harassment, loss of pay or jobs, longer prison terms, forced labor, or confinement in mental institutions.

The fact that civil unrest nonetheless occurs in the face of these constraints indicates the existence of a problem of some consequence for the USSR's leaders; at a minimum, Soviet elites are indeed more concerned now about the potential effects of popular discontent than they have been for the past 25 years or so. Because these incidents represent a political problem for Soviet authorities, virtually no information about them is available from public Soviet sources. We are aware that reporting validity—knowing that an event actually happened as the report states—is a nagging problem in research of this type. Most of the reports for this study have come from a variety of HUMINT sources: diplomatic reporting, travelers, emigres, defectors, and sensitive human sources.

The few incidents in this study can be considered "proven conclusively" in the sense that they have been reported by multiple, independent sources. We have used only those reports that appear to be credible, however, and we believe that the data base as a whole is reasonably sound.

Finally, the data base represents a thorough but undoubtedly incomplete compilation of incidents of civil unrest. In back-searching available reports for the period 1970-80, some have surely been missed. For 1981 and 1982 the compilation of available reports is probably more complete, but it is very likely that a larger proportion of incidents for these past two years is not yet covered in available reporting. This gap results necessarily from the time lag that occurs between actual events and subsequent reports that identify them. Nevertheless, if allowances are made for the uncertainties of reporting, the data base compiled for this study should provide a good approximation of the extent and nature of civil unrest in the Soviet Union since 1970.

In sum, care should be taken neither to overestimate the significance and potential of this study’s data nor to assume that the cited examples have negligible political importance to the Soviet regime.

*For a more detailed discussion of data validity and related methodological issues, see the appendix*.
Key Judgments

Information available as of 23 March 1983 was used in this Memorandum.

Dimensions of Civil Unrest in the Soviet Union

Civil unrest in the Soviet Union takes many forms. Since 1970 intelligence sources report over 280 cases of industrial strikes and work stoppages, public demonstrations, and occasional violence, including sabotage, rioting, and even political assassination attempts. Virtually none of these incidents has been reported in the Soviet media, and only a few in the Western press.

If there is error in the estimated total number of these incidents, it is almost certainly on the low side because of underreporting.

Such unrest is geographically widespread. Reported incidents have occurred in close to 100 Soviet cities (or oblasts) and in almost every republic during the past decade—from the Baltics to Siberia, Central Asia to the Arctic, in large cities, small towns, and rural areas. Apparently, no place is immune: disturbances have occurred in huge factories and small plants, coal mines and food stores, and at government buildings and Communist Party headquarters.

A wide cross section of the Soviet populace, including industrial workers, coal miners, bus drivers, and construction crews, has been involved in civil unrest. In several instances, white collar workers, union leaders, families, and Party members also have been involved.

The combination of economic grievances with ethnic nationalism in the non-Russian republics (especially in the Baltic states) accounts for most of the incidents of civil unrest observed since 1970 and for most of the apparent increase in unrest during the past four years.

In general, the regime has been careful to discriminate between strike actions and other forms of unrest, particularly if the issue is food shortages. Limited information suggests that striking workers are more likely to win concessions than demonstrated, the latter are much more likely to be arrested or dispersed.

Even though political violence in the USSR is neither widespread nor organized, scattered reports since the late 1970s of sabotage, arson, and political assassination attempts suggest a depth of commitment in some antisystem individuals that has been evident in earlier years. More than most kinds of civil unrest, political violence shatters tranquility and introduces a note of unpredictability in challenges to the public order.

The regime is known to be concerned about the disruptive potential of civil unrest. Efforts to buy off striking workers with food supplies instead of outright repression, the scale of the food program itself, and various expressions of concern by midlevel and higher political elites as seen in HUMINT source reporting point to an apparent sensitivity that anything resembling a Polish-type Solidarity movement must not be permitted to develop.

The scope and character of popular grievances that are suggested in recent civil unrest probably represent a greater long-range challenge to the regime than the narrower intellectual dissent movement. These incidents of civil unrest imply a popular willingness to hold the regime more accountable for perceived shortcomings. Moreover, the spontaneity inherent in much of the unrest examined here may complicate the maintenance of public order. Further, a policy response primarily based on repression may be more likely to cause additional popular alienation than to reduce it. Such an outcome would undermine current Soviet efforts to increase substantially labor productivity, one of the government's most important economic priorities. For the Soviets, this may be a vicious circle of greater potential domestic significance for the 1980s: if the regime has had to cope with anything in the past three decades
Possible Soviet Responses to the US Strategic Defense Initiative

Interagency Intelligence Assessment

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED] 8/7 JUN 84

As you prepare for your NSPG on Tuesday, I thought you might find this of use for the weekend.

Date 22 June 84

SECRET

Note: This paper was prepared under the auspices of the National Intelligence Officers for Strategic Programs. It was submitted in support of an interagency report in response to the President's strategic defense initiatives. The paper was coordinated at the working level by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency.
SUMMARY

In the near term, we expect the Soviets to rely principally on a concerted political and diplomatic effort first to force the United States to drop its ballistic missile defense (BMD) plans or, failing that, to negotiate them away. There are also certain limited military steps the Soviets could take initially for the purpose of improving their bargaining position and for preparing them for initial US deployment should it occur.

Over the long term, if the United States goes ahead with plans to develop and deploy its defensive system the Soviets will have a different set of problems. Assuming they know the likely structure and capabilities of US defensive forces, they will look for effective technical countermeasures.

It appears that there will be a large variety of possible measures the Soviets can choose from to preserve the viability of their ballistic missile forces. Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) can be upgraded with new boosters, decoys, penetration aids, and multiple warheads. The signatures of these systems can be reduced and new launch techniques and basing schemes can be devised which make them less vulnerable to US missile warning and defensive weapon systems. These systems can also be hardened or modified to reduce their vulnerability to directed energy weapons.

The Soviets can employ other offensive systems, particularly manned bombers and long-range cruise missiles with improved penetration aids and stealth technologies, to assume a greater burden of the strategic offensive strike role and to exploit the weaknesses in US air defense capabilities.

The Soviets can continue development and deployment of their own ballistic missile defense systems. The Moscow antiballistic missile system can be expanded and improved, and a more widespread system deployed, with additional launchers, improved missile detection and tracking capabilities, and more capable interceptors. The Soviets can expand their ongoing efforts on directed energy weapons, weapons which also provide antisatellite capabilities which could be used against some space-based elements of a US BMD system. In most of the directed energy weapons technologies, the Soviets are now on a par with, or lead, the United States. They are likely to pursue these efforts regardless of whether the United States sustains its strategic defense initiative.

We believe it is highly unlikely that the Soviets will undertake a "crash" program in reaction to US BMD developments, but rather will seek to counter them by steadily paced efforts over the decades the United States will need to develop and deploy its overall defense. They will look for solutions that are least disruptive to their way of doing business and involve the least possible change to their planned programs. The Soviets are not likely to embrace a fundamental shift in the strategic environment entailing reliance on strategic defenses by both sides.

The Soviets could choose to allocate the necessary R&D resources and could obtain some flexibility for new types of deployment by adjusting other programs. They are likely to encounter technical and manufacturing problems in developing and deploying more advanced systems. If they attempted to deploy new advanced systems not presently planned, while continuing their overall planned force modernization, significant additional levels of spending would be required. This would place substantial additional pressures on the Soviet economy and confront the leadership with difficult policy choices.

If, through some set of circumstances, the Soviets were faced with actual or impending deployment of a US system and had no effective military counter to it, we think there are various possibilities for Soviet actions, ranging from major arms control concessions, to threats of military action in other areas, to threatened attacks on space-based components of a US system, to sabotage against US facilities. In some extreme scenarios, the Soviets could carry out a massive attack against the US defensive system, although we think that to be highly unlikely, given the near certainty of thereby initiating general war with the United States.

1 The Soviets have extensive efforts in the advanced technology area applicable to strategic defense, but we do not know to what extent these are planned for deployment.
MEMORANDUM FOR:  D/SOVA
DO/SOVA

Mr. Casey will be distributing this memorandum to PDB principals.

Date: 6 January 1984

DECLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE DOCUMENTS

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE
30 December 1983

Soviet Thinking on the Possibility
of Armed Confrontation with the United States

Summary

Contrary to the impressions conveyed by Soviet propaganda, Moscow does not appear to anticipate a near-term military confrontation with the United States. With the major exception of the Middle East, there appears to be no region in which the Soviets are now apprehensive that action in support of clients could lead to Soviet-American armed collision. By playing up the "war danger," Moscow hopes to encourage resistance to INF deployment in Western Europe, deepen cleavages within the Atlantic alliance, and increase public pressure in the United States for a more conciliatory posture toward the USSR.

Soviet policymakers, however, almost certainly are very concerned that trends they foresee in long-term US military programs could in time erode the USSR's military gains of the past fifteen years, heighten US political leverage, and perhaps increase the chances of confrontation.

This memorandum was prepared by Office of Soviet Analysis.
27 June 1985

Dear Mr. President,

You may find this good airplane reading.

It is a good picture of Gorbachev's style, objectives and operating methods as shown in the first 100 days of his leadership.

You will sympathize with his targeting the massive bureaucratic apparatus.

Respectfully yours,

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

ALL WITH ATTACHMENT

Approved for Release by CIA
Date Jan 2011

This paper was prepared by of the Office of Soviet Analysis.
Comments and questions may be directed to the Chief.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE:
18-Nov-2008
Gorbachev’s Economic Agenda: Promises, Potentials, and Pitfalls

An Intelligence Assessment

Key Judgments
Information available as of 6 September 1981 was used in this report.

Gorbachev’s Economic Agenda:
Promises, Potentials, and Pitfalls

Since coming to power, Mikhail Gorbachev has set in motion the most aggressive economic agenda since the Khrushchev era. The key elements are:

- A reallocation of investment resources aimed at accelerating S&T and modernizing the country’s stock of plant and equipment.
- A revitalization of management and planning to rid the Soviet bureaucracy of incompetence and petty tutelage and put more operational control of enterprises in the hands of managers on the scene.
- A renewal of Andropov’s anticorruption and discipline campaigns, coupled with a new temperance campaign, to increase and perhaps improve worker effort.

All of Gorbachev’s initiatives are aimed at raising productivity and efficiency throughout the economy by matching more and better equipment with a motivated work force and an enlightened managerial cadre. He has put his finger on the very tasks that the economy has never done well and has become progressively less able to do as it has grown in size and complexity.

Although Soviet economic performance has improved in recent years from the low levels of 1979-82, Gorbachev still faces an economy that cannot simultaneously maintain rapid growth in defense spending, satisfy demand for greater quantity and variety of consumer goods and services, invest the amounts required for economic modernization and expansion, and continue to support client-state economies. Gorbachev, in our view, has a clear understanding of these limitations; he is obviously extremely impatient that they be addressed now.

Soviet officials probably were caught off guard by Gorbachev’s sweeping condemnation of past economic policies, particularly considering the recent economic rebound, and was surprised that he apparently was ready to take action so early in his tenure. Despite the urgency of his rhetoric, he seems aware that implementing his programs too rapidly carries substantial economic and political risks:

- He has prepared the party and bureaucracy for substantial change by bluntly laying out the need for management reorganization and renewal, but has yet to provide specific details on controversial issues that would provide a basis for organized resistance.
- He has moved aggressively to replace old-line economic managers but has yet to replace Council of Ministers Chairman Tikhonov, regarded by most Soviets as a major political obstacle to economic change.
He has talked about the potential need for "profound" changes in the area of economic reform, while strongly supporting the need to maintain central control.

Program specifics will be announced by next February along, we judge, with Tikhonov's replacement. It is unlikely that they will contain any radical departures from what Gorbachev has already announced. At present his game plan seems to be a realistic assessment of what can be done in the short run while planning and developing a consensus for more radical change over the long haul if he deems that it is needed.

Success with the initial stages of Gorbachev's program could provide a relatively immediate growth dividend that could be used to bolster worker morale and underwrite future growth. How much economic improvement will occur and how long it can be sustained, however, is very much an open question. Modernization is slow by nature in any economic system and in the Soviet case will run into the perennial conflict between meeting output goals and reequipping enterprises with new equipment and technology. Streamlining the bureaucracy will be resisted by countless officials whose jobs and perquisites are threatened, and a new set of incentives must be instituted to motivate a new type of Soviet manager. Discipline campaigns can go only so far in energizing a cynical work force.

Gorbachev will be hard pressed to find the resources necessary to underwrite his modernization goals. The economic dividend from management reforms and the discipline campaign will not substantially relieve the basic scarcity of resources nor obviate the need for fundamental systemic change:

- Improving worker morale and management effectiveness will require an effective incentive system and a greater availability of high-quality consumer goods at a time when the investment sector will be oriented toward producer goods and new defense programs will be coming on line. In fact, Gorbachev's investment program implies a potential decline of some 60 percent in the investment increment going to consumer-oriented sectors.

- The regime's plan to hold energy's share of investment constant comes at a time when demand for energy will grow and the cost of offsetting declining oil production will be rapidly rising. If the requisite investment is not forthcoming, the current decline in oil production could become precipitous.

The increased managerial independence necessary to spur effective technological development and utilization is inconsistent with a centrally planned pricing and allocation system, leading to the likelihood of management disillusionsment and subsequent reversion to the very methods that have led to waste, fraud, and mismanagement for years.

Gorbachev could employ various options to address these issues, but all contain serious pitfalls. East European countries could be ordered to shoulder a larger part of the economic burden, including increased exports of equipment to the USSR, but their own deep economic problems increase the likelihood of confrontation between Moscow and its allies. A drive to increase imports of Western technology would come at a time when the prospects for expanding hard currency exports, particularly oil, look dim. A shift of resources from defense to civilian uses could have considerable negative impact on the long run, but even the suggestion of such a shift might damage Gorbachev's relations with the military and risk deep divisions within the Politburo. Finally, major economic reforms to promote managerial effectiveness would encounter strong resistance on political and ideological grounds, particularly since they threaten the institutional prerogatives and thus the privileged position of the Soviet elite.

Indications that Gorbachev has decided on and gained consensus for more radical changes could include:

- New, dramatic initiatives to reach an accord at Geneva and concrete proposals for reduced tensions at the November meeting between the US President and the General Secretary, which might signal a willingness and desire to reduce the Soviet resource commitment in defense and create an atmosphere for expanded commerce with the West.

- Select legalization of private-sector activity, particularly in regard to consumer services, which would indicate a willingness to confront past economic orthodoxy in order to improve consumer welfare and thereby economic performance.

- Breaking the monopoly of the foreign trade apparatus, which would signal an increased reliance on managerial independence at some cost to centralized control.
Continued reliance on marginal tinkering despite clear indications that the plan for economic revitalization is faltering would indicate that Gorbachev, like Brezhnev before him, has succumbed to a politically expedient but economically ineffective approach.
Prospects for a Leadership Crisis

The renewal of large-scale unrest in the Caucasus comes at a time when Gorbachev is beleaguered with mounting economic problems and growing political opposition to his policies. He has had some recent successes in moving his reform agenda forward, but his very successes are alienating many elites at all levels of the system. There is a good chance that Gorbachev will succumb to his 'poliburo critics by backing off from some of his radical policies for change. Given the depth of divisions in the Politburo, however, there are increasing prospects that conflict will come to a head. Neither the timing nor the outcome of such a confrontation are possible to predict with any precision. The leadership appears to be pulling together to bring the current crisis situation in the Caucasus under control, but the configuration there could lead to further polarization within the leadership that will later result in a denouement.

A sizeable portion of the Soviet Politburo—including Ligachev, Chernenkov, Solosentsev, Gromyko, and Shcherbitskiy—have good reason for wanting to be rid of Gorbachev. There appear to be differences among these leaders on some policy issues and they do not necessarily constitute a cohesive coalition at present. But all of them must feel personally threatened by Gorbachev's plans and they now seem to share a belief that the Gorbachev 'cure' for the USSR is worse than the 'disease'; they fear his program will erode the old foundations of party rule before solid new foundations are built.

The burgeoning of nationality unrest has been a key factor leading some of Gorbachev's Politburo peers to conclude that his overall strategy in domestic policy is fundamentally flawed. In addition to the breakdown of order in Armenia and Azerbaijan and an acute situation in the Baltic, demonstrations took place last week in Georgia and last month in the Transcaucasian region, the least and most important non-Russian republic.

It is abundantly clear that nationality grievances, ideologically orthodox leaders are undoubtedly repelled by a policy toward the Baltic republics that smacks of appeasement, however hard Gorbachev may attempt to portray concessions to national interests there as necessary to coopt moderates and head off a lurch toward separatism. Strong backlash sentiment is growing among conservative Russian nationalists, and Ligachev is acting as their champion.

Elsewhere in the Bloc, conservative leaders are concerned that Gorbachev's policies will complicate political control problems. In particular, the public pressure that the Soviet regime recently exerted on the Poles to take a softer line in dealing with Solidarity makes Gorbachev open to accusations of adopting a capitulatory stance that will encourage opposition activity. One item in the bill of indictment against Gorbachev was that his policies were antagonizing conservative East European regimes. If the situation in Poland should continue to degenerate—or if the situation should get out of control of the authorities in any of the East European countries—it would now be a strong weapon in the hand of Gorbachev's opponents.

Much of the Soviet party bureaucracy is up in arms over Gorbachev's attack on their privileges, his drive to cut back the size of the apparatus, and his effort to infuse the elite with new blood by opening up the election process somewhat. Some special stores for the elite were closed in early September. If the procedures used in recently concluded elections at the lowest rung of the party are followed in the upcoming regional elections, officials at that level face the prospect of losing their sinecures to new cohorts of competition from rival candidates in many cases. Moreover, a party spokesman recently said that the number of officials working in the CPSU Central Committee apparatus would be slashed by half, and similar reductions are planned for the republics. In this environment, many party officials look to Ligachev as their protector.

The trial of Brezhnev's son-in-law Churboev, and the accompanying escalation of media condemnation of the Brezhnev leadership, is a major source of disquietude for members of the Brezhnev Old Guard still on the Politburo. Reformers at the June Party Conference attacked Gromyko and Solosentsev by name and a liberal Soviet journalist recently criticized Shcherbitskiy in an interview with a European newsmen. A soothing critique of Brezhnev published in September in Literaturnoye Gazetey openly acknowledged that Brezhnev was in effect a surrogate for leaders who are still in office.

A media campaign directed against excessive secrecy on the part of the KGB has undoubtedly brought home to Chernenkov that he is on Gorbachev's hit list as well. Since his Shcherbitskiy Day speech a year ago made clear that Chernenkov had thrown in his lot with Ligachev, Chernenkov has looked for opportunities to cast aspersions on Gorbachev's policies. Most recently, in a June report, he challenged the ideological underpinnings of Gorbachev's foreign policy and let it be known that the glasnost he favors takes the form of publishing information about subversive activities of Western intelligence services inside the USSR. We believe that Chernenkov would almost certainly participate in any leadership coup against Gorbachev that he thought had a reasonably good chance of succeeding.

Gorbachev appears to have reached something of a modus vivendi with the military, and media pillorying of the military has virtually stopped. Both General Staff Chief Zhuromsky and Defense Minister Yevgeni Shaposhnikov have actually supported his recent control strategy for-
Gorbachev has also provided ammunition to opponents eager to portray him as a leader with an inflated ego, excessive personal ambition, a tendency to make high-handed decisions, and a penchant for demagogic behavior. Some Soviet officials view his walkabouts as unnecessary efforts to inflate the self-promotion techniques of Western politicians. Eyebrows have been raised by the limelight accorded Raisa as the Soviet "First Lady." Gorbachev's efforts to place the crowd by blasting the bureaucracy do not endear him to the mass media. Many Soviets regard Gorbachev's proposal to combine the top state and party jobs as a blatant power grab; even Gorbachev admirers such as Roy Medvedev were reminded of Khrukov's "harebrained schemes."

On the economic reform front, Gorbachev has scored some recent victories in terms of delaying the way for getting approval of desired legislation—for example, reduce state orders for enterprises and to reject high tax rates for cooperatives. He has made major new proposals for agricultural reform—especially the use of long-term leasing arrangements to expand the scope of private initiative in farming. Yet implementation of reforms already adopted proceeds slowly, and major economic actors feel threatened by them. Most factory managers fear that they will sink if forced to sink or swim. Most of the powerful ministerial bureaucracy remains left with considerable responsibility but reduced authority. Most of the industrial working class fears the loss of guaranteed job benefits and security.

Gorbachev so far has not achieved any significant improvement in the overall economic situation, and there is a widespread perception that living conditions are deteriorating. The General Secretary is trying to reach out to new constituencies to counter elite resistance to his program, and there is no question that he has caught the imagination of many patriotic, enterprising citizens at all levels of the society—people who believe they and the country will benefit from a more competitive economic environment and a less repressive political system. But growing distress over the standard of living is reducing the attractiveness of perestroika even for this "strong" minority of the population. Gorbachev has evidently succeeded in winning approval for a diversion of resources to the consumer sector in the annual plan. At this point, however, the only major element of the population enthusiastically behind his refor progress is the intelligentsia. Even if he is able to build a broader popular base of support, his ability to sustain this diffuse support very effectively will be limited until reforms that expand participation in the political process are implemented.

On the plus side, Gorbachev continues to enjoy major political advantages. As General Secretary, he has been able to dominate the policy agenda and pack the Secretariat with supporters. Although he has had some difficulty making changes in the Politburo, he does have powerful allies in that body—including Takhovlev and Shevardnadze—as well as reliable backing from a number of members who have found it politically expedient so far to follow his lead.

The most important source of his strength has been a leadership consensus that a new course for the country is necessary to avoid economic stagnation, the decline of the USSR as a global power, and a growth in societal alienation that could produce political instability down the road. Gorbachev has succeeded in preventing any other members of the political leadership from fully articulating a program that could serve as a viable alternative to his course, and by now the old Brezhnev order has been so thoroughly discredited that turning back the clock very far would be extremely difficult. Moreover, considering how much turmoil exists in the country today and how much the public's respect for the regime's will and ability to use coercion has diminished, many leaders may fear that attempting to remove Gorbachev could touch off widespread unrest. Finally, even his opponents realize that Gorbachev has had enormous success in foreign policy, managing the blue if not to obliterate the USSR's "enemy image" in the West, and that removing his could undo much of what has been achieved internationally. Nevertheless, these strengths do not guarantee the success of his policies or his ability to retain his office if the perception of serious disorder and disbegotten policies continues.

The problems facing Gorbachev are so serious that he may well take the course of political accommodation. He cannot compromise too far on fundamental parts of his program without causing an overall loss of momentum and the beginning of a process of piecemeal political defeat. But he is not a Tolstoy; he has shown a capacity for tactical retreat in the face of resistance, and a preference at times for political maneuver over direct confrontation.

On balance, however, we believe there is a greater chance that events will move toward a dramatic resolution. Politburo members appear to have closed ranks in dealing with the situation in the Caucasus, which poses an unprecedented challenge for the leadership as a whole. But over the next year, given the key positions held by some of the leaders opposing Gorbachev, the fact that a large portion of the Central Committee shares their fears and concerns, and the existence of reservations about Gorbachev within the KGB and military establishment, there is a good chance that they will move against Gorbachev or that Gorbachev himself will risk a preemptive move to consolidate his power. Any showdown at this level, in the midst of such a volatile political situation, would carry grave risks for all involved. It could involve Gorbachev's removal from his position but it could also result in his resigning success—similar to Khrukov's expulsion of the "anti-party group" in 1957.
Rising Political Instability
Under Gorbachev:
Understanding the Problem and Prospects for Resolution

An Intelligence Assessment

Rising Political Instability
Under Gorbachev:
Understanding the Problem and Prospects for Resolution

The Soviet Union is less stable today than at any time since Stalin's great purges in the 1930s. General Secretary Gorbachev clearly hopes that, by shaking up the Soviet system, he can reverse the population out of its lethargy and channel the forces he is releasing in a constructive direction. Even Gorbachev realizes, however, that it is far from certain that he will be able to control the process he has set in motion. That process could create so much turmoil and unrest that it will be very difficult for him to achieve his goals. In the extremes, his policies and political power could be undermined, and the political stability of the Soviet system could be fundamentally threatened.

Gorbachev's reforms—while yet to remedy existing problems—have caused new challenges to surface. Having seen their quality of life stagnate under Gorbachev, Soviet citizens are becoming increasingly skeptical of reform, seeing it more and more as a threat to the secure existence they recall they enjoyed under Brezhnev. Moreover, the aspects of reform that are potentially most destabilizing are only in their early stages. The political reforms being introduced could further erode central authority and could give disaffected groups new platforms to challenge the regime. Radical economic reform appears further away because the kinds of market-oriented measures required to meet economic objectives would heighten social tensions by raising prices, creating unemployment, and increasing economic inequality. Moreover, such a transition could create a period of economic chaos and a sharp drop in production before the reforms began to yield positive results.

Over the past two years, incidents of political unrest in the USSR, ranging from benign small gatherings to major acts of political violence, have sharply escalated. Under the banner of glasnost, Soviet citizens are organizing groups that could form the basis of a political opposition and are advancing a wide range of demands that challenge central authority. The most dangerous of these are the nationalist movements that have bloomed in many republics, unleashing centrifugal forces that, if unchecked, could threaten to tear the system apart. This increasing assertiveness by national minorities is provoking a backlash among the Russians, emboldening Russian nationalist groups and setting the stage for violent clashes in the republics where the Russians are in danger of becoming second-rate citizens.
The comprehensive nature of Gorbachev's reforms has polarized the Soviet elite, alienating many party members who stand to lose privileges and social status and increasing the potential for a debilitating split in the leadership. Party conservatives fear that the cure being offered by Gorbachev is worse than the disease, arguing that the reforms may undermine party rule and produce crises of their own. Although the influence of Gorbachev's opponents on the Politburo has been weakened, they have a strong base of support among members of the elite who feel threatened by his reforms, including sizable elements in the Central Committee, the party and state apparatus, the military, and the KGB.

There have also been growing signs of frustration among Soviet citizens. Reforms are fueling expectations for improvements in the quality of life, but, from the standpoint of the Soviet workers, Gorbachev's economic program has been a near disaster, and there is a widespread popular perception that conditions have deteriorated. Moreover, the secure existence that came to be a granted under Brezhnev is being threatened by pressures to work harder and a fear that only the most productive workers will be rewarded. Glasnost and political liberalization have enhanced regime legitimacy among some elements of the population, especially the intelligentsia, by giving them hope that things can be improved by working through the system. At the same time, as the 26 March election demonstrated, such reforms have released pressures for further changes that could undermine the party's monopoly on political power.

Nevertheless, the Soviet leadership has undertaken the hazardous path of radical reform because it believes that the old system was failing and that, in the long run, it would have been more dangerous to do nothing. Particularly while Gorbachev remains at the helm, the leadership will not be easily swayed from this path. Specifically recognizes that the highly centralized Stalinist economic model was increasingly ill suited to reversing the economic slide that began under Brezhnev and narrowing the technological gap with the West. At the same time, Soviet political Institutions were failing to provide social liberties and legitimate channels for airing concerns to a population that is increasingly well educated and informed. Corruption, abuse of privilege, and unfulfilled promises under Brezhnev compounded these problems by increasing popular cynicism and alienation and helping to erode the legitimacy of the regime.

The Soviet leadership possesses tremendous capabilities for controlling unrest and preventing opposition from threatening the regime. Gorbachev himself is a major asset, demonstrating masterful political skills in building support for his radical agenda, keeping the opposition off balance, and maintaining cohesion in the leadership. He is also a risk taker, however, increasing the possibility he could miscalculate in a critical situation. Should political skills alone not be sufficient to control opposition, the regime still possesses the powerful coercive forces of the KGB, military, and militia. While it has already used these to address particular outbreaks of unrest, any broad-scale reliance on coercion to maintain stability would seriously undermine the reform process. Short of resorting to force, the considerable degree of centralized control the Soviet state exerts over key aspects of society—jobs, prices, wages, housing, transportation, media, and imports—gives it other important levers it can use to help maintain stability.

The next several years promise to be some of the most turbulent in Soviet history. Indeed, while the kind of turmoil now being created in the USSR has been effectively managed in many countries, in other countries it has contributed to the destabilization of the political system. There are too many unknowns to determine whether Gorbachev will be able to control the process he has started, or if it will increasingly come to control him, making a wide range of outcomes possible over the next five years:

- If Gorbachev's reforms begin to produce tangible results and if he is lucky, he should remain in power and prevent any of the potential problems he faces from getting out of control, while continuing to move his reforms ahead.
- A growing perception within the leadership that reforms are threatening the stability of the regime could lead to a conservative reaction. This would probably, but not necessarily, involve a transfer of power—with a majority of the Politburo voting Gorbachev out, as happened with Khrushchev in 1964—and a repudiation of many aspects of reform.
- Those pressing for a maximalist agenda could gain control of the political system as a result of democratization and glasnost—as happened in Czechoslovakia in 1989—and force Gorbachev out.
• Should a sharp polarization of the leadership prevent it from acting resolutely to deal with a growing crisis, the prospects would increase for a conservative coup involving a minority of Politburo members supported by elements of the military and KGB. The prospects of a unilateral military coup are much more remote.

• If ethnic problems mount, consumer and worker discontent grow, and divisions in the leadership prevent it from acting decisively, organized political opposition could threaten the regime. Under these conditions, opposition groups could come to share power, as Solidarity did in Poland in the early 1980s, or individual republics might win de facto independence.

To get through this difficult period, the Soviet leadership can be expected to continue to place a high premium on creating a stable and predictable environment—minimizing the possibility of threats to Soviet interests from abroad. East-West relations, especially with the United States, will be particularly important. To help ease the strain on the economy and improve the prospects for delivering on promises to the consumer, the Soviet leadership will continue to vigorously pursue arms control and seek ways to reduce military spending.

Gorbachev can be expected to seek more foreign policy successes to enhance his legitimacy, build his personal prestige, and distract attention from domestic problems. For this and other reasons, he can therefore be expected to maintain his very high profile in the international arena, continuing to advance major foreign policy initiatives. At times, however, domestic crises—some of which may not be visible on the surface—will probably distract the Soviet leadership from foreign policy. This could result in temporary reversals on specific issues, or unexplained periods of indecision—such as occurred during the US Secretary of State’s October 1987 visit to Moscow in the midst of the Yeltsin crisis—when the Soviet leadership failed to set a date for a summit.
KENNETH ADELMAN  
Former Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

During the Reagan Administration, Ken Adelman was a U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations for two-and-a-half years and then Director of the U.S. Arms Control & Disarmament Agency for nearly five years. He accompanied President Ronald Reagan on his superpower summits with Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. Along with his wife Carol, Adelman conducts leadership training for top executives in Movers and Shakespeares, which draws leadership lessons from Shakespeare. He began teaching Shakespeare in 1977 at Georgetown University, and taught honors students in New York, conducting espionage and influence operations. From 1965 to 1970, he served as deputy resident and acting chief of the Residency at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C. General Kalugin rose quickly in the First Chief Directorate, becoming the youngest general in the history of the KGB, and eventually he became the head of worldwide foreign counterintelligence. In addition to currently teaching at The Centre for Counterintelligence and Security Studies, Kalugin has taught at Catholic University and lectured throughout the country. He is also chairman of Intercon International, which provides information services for businesses in the former Soviet Union. Since 1998, General Kalugin has been representing in the U.S. the Democracy Foundation, headed by Alexander Yakovev, a former politician and close ally of Mikhail Gorbachev.

KENNETH ADELMAN
Former Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

OLG KALUGIN
Former Major General in the Soviet KGB

Oleg Danilovich Kalugin is a retired Major General in the Soviet KGB. Born in Leningrad in 1934, his father was an officer in Stalin’s NKVD. Oleg Kalugin attended Leningrad State University and was recruited by the KGB for foreign intelligence work, serving in the First Chief Directorate. Undercover as a journalist, he attended Columbia University in New York as a Fulbright Scholar in 1958 and then worked as a Radio Moscow correspondent at the United Nations in New York, conducting espionage and influence operations. From 1965 to 1970, he served as deputy resident and acting chief of the Residency at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C. General Kalugin rose quickly in the First Chief Directorate, becoming the youngest general in the history of the KGB, and eventually he became the head of worldwide foreign counterintelligence. In addition to currently teaching at The Centre for Counterintelligence and Security Studies, Kalugin has taught at Catholic University and lectured throughout the country. He is also chairman of Intercon International, which provides information services for businesses in the former Soviet Union. Since 1998, General Kalugin has been representing in the U.S. the Democracy Foundation, headed by Alexander Yakovev, a former politician and close ally of Mikhail Gorbachev.

OLG KALUGIN
Former Major General in the Soviet KGB

ANNELISE ANDERSON  
Fellow, Hoover Institution

Annelise Anderson is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution. From 1981 to 1983, she was associate director for economics and government with the US Office of Management and Budget, where she was responsible for the budgets of five cabinet departments and over 40 other agencies. She has also advised the governments of Russia, Romania, and the Republic of Georgia on economic reform. Anderson coauthored Reagan’s Secret War: The Untold Story of His Fight to Save the World from Nuclear Disaster (2010) with Martin Anderson. She has coedited a number of books, including Stories in His Own Hand: The Everyday Wisdom of Ronald Reagan (2007), with Kiron K. Skinner, Martin Anderson, and George Shultz; Reagan’s Path to Victory: The Shaping of Ronald Reagan’s Vision: Selected Writings (2004), with Kiron K. Skinner and Martin Anderson; Reagan: A Life in Letters (2004), with Kiron K. Skinner, Martin Anderson, and George Shultz; Reagan In His Own Voice (2001), with Kiron K. Skinner and Martin Anderson; and Reagan, In His Own Hand (2001), with Kiron K. Skinner and Martin Anderson. The holder of a Ph.D. in business administration from Columbia University, she has been a Hoover fellow since 1983.

ANNELISE ANDERSON
Fellow, Hoover Institution

MARTIN ANDERSON  
Former Economic Policy Adviser to President Reagan

A Hoover Institution fellow since 1971, Anderson served as special assistant to President Richard Nixon from 1969 to 1971 and as domestic and economic policy advisor to President Ronald Reagan from 1981 to 1982. He is also the co-editor of “Reagan In His Own Hand” (2001) and “Reagan: A Life in Letters” (2003), both with co-editors Annelise Anderson and Kiron Skinner. Martin Anderson is the Keith and Jan Huri but Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. Born in Lewell, Massachusetts, August 5, 1936, son of Ralph and Evelyn Anderson. A.B. summa cum laude, Dartmouth College, 1957; M.S. in engineering and business administration, Thayer School of Engineering and Tuck School of Business Administration, 1958; Ph.D. in industrial management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1962.

MARTIN ANDERSON
Former Economic Policy Adviser to President Reagan

PETER CLEMENT  
Deputy Director for Intelligence for Analytic Programs

Peter Clement was appointed Deputy Director for Intelligence for Analytic Programs in January 2005. Mr. Clement joined the Agency in 1977 and spent much of his first 25 years focused on the Soviet Union—in analytic and management positions, including Director of the Office of Russia-Eurasian Analysis and as CIA’s Russia Issue Manager from 1997-2003. Mr. Clement later was a PDB briefer for then Vice President Cheney and NSC Adviser Rice, and subsequently served as the DDI’s Representative to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations before assuming his current duties. Mr. Clement holds a Ph.D. in Russian history and an MA in European history, both from Michigan State University, and a BA in liberal arts from SUNY-Oswego. He has been a member of the Council on Foreign Relations since 2001. Mr. Clement taught Russian history and politics for over ten years as an adjunct professor at local universities, and has published some ten journal articles and book chapters on Russia, Central Asia, and the Cuban missile crisis.

PETER CLEMENT
Deputy Director for Intelligence for Analytic Programs

DOUGLAS J. MACEACHIN  
Former Deputy Director of Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency

Douglas MacEachin is a former Deputy Director of Intelligence at the Central Intelligence Agency from March 1993 until June 1995. He joined the CIA in 1965 and, for the next twenty years, worked mainly on research and analysis of Soviet and European security affairs. He was Director of the Office of Soviet Analysis from 1984 until March 1989, when he became Special Assistant to the Director of Central Intelligence for Arms Control. Mr. MacEachin holds baccalaureate and master’s degrees in economics from Miami University of Ohio. During the period 1964-65, he was a full-time member of the faculty there. Before retiring from the CIA in 1997, Mr. MacEachin was a CIA Officer-in-Residence at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.
people included in the Shadow of the Future (2010); Reorganizing U.S. Domestic Intelligence: Assessing the Options (2008); Assessing the Tradecraft of Intelligence Analysis (with C. Bryan Gabbard, 2008); Breaking the Failed-State Cycle (with Maria C. Hains et al., 2008); War and Escalation in South Asia (with John E. Peters et al., 2006); and The Next Steps in Reshaping Intelligence (2005).

Reshaping National Intelligence for an Age of Information was published by Cambridge University Press in 2001. Tarevton holds an A.B. summa cum laude from Princeton University and an M.P.P. and Ph.D. in economics and politics from Harvard University.

Mary Elise Sarotte’s newest book, 1989: The Struggle to Create Post-Cold War Europe, appeared with Princeton University Press on the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The Financial Times selected it as one of their “Books of the Year” and it has won three prizes: the Robert H. Ferrell Prize of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR), for distinguished scholarship on US foreign policy; the German government’s Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Prize for distinguished scholarship in German and European Studies; and the Marshall Shulman Prize of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS, recently renamed ASEEES; co-winner). In addition, the book received reviews in Foreign Affairs, The London Review of Books, The New York Review of Books, The New York Times Book Review, Süddeutsche Zeitung, and The Wall Street Journal, among other places. Sarotte’s previous publications include the books Dealing with the Devil, and German Military Reform and European Security; plus a number of scholarly articles. She has also worked as a journalist for Time, Die Zeit, and The Economist, and appears as a political commentator on the BBC, CNN International and Sky News. Sarotte earned her B.A. in History and Science at Harvard and her Ph.D. in History at Yale. After graduate school, she served as a White House Fellow, and subsequently joined the faculty of the University of Cambridge. She received tenure there in 2004 and became a member of the Royal Historical Society before returning to the US to teach at USC. Sarotte is a former Humboldt Scholar, a former member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

David Holloway is the Raymond A. Spruance Professor of International History and the Arms Race, University of Southern California. His book Stalin and the Bomb: The Soviet Union and Atomic Energy, 1939-1956 (Yale University Press, 1994) was chosen by the New York Times Book Review as one of the 11 best books of 1994; and it won the Vucinich and Shulman prizes of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. It has been translated into six languages, most recently into Czech in 2008. Holloway also wrote The Soviet Union and the Arms Race (1983) and co-authored The Reagan Strategic Defense Initiative: Technical, Political and Arms Control Assessment (1984). He has contributed to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Foreign Affairs, and other scholarly journals. Born in Dublin, Ireland, he received his undergraduate degree in modern languages and literature, and his Ph.D. in social and political sciences, both from Cambridge University.

Bruce Berkowitz is the author of several books about intelligence and national security. He began his career at the Central Intelligence Agency and has since served in a variety of assignments in the Department of Defense and Intelligence Community. Berkowitz is a frequent contributor to the Wall Street Journal and has published in Foreign Affairs, The National Interest, Foreign Policy, Technology Review, and Issues in Science and Technology, the policy journal of the National Academies of Science and Engineering. He also writes regularly for the International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, where he is member of the editorial board. Berkowitz received his bachelor’s degree from Stetson University and his master’s and doctorate at the University of Rochester.

Dr. Nicholas Dujmovic has served as a CIA historian since January 2005. He came to the Agency in 1990 as an analyst on the Soviet Union. He has also served as speechwriter for Directors of Central Intelligence John Deutch and George Tenet and was the deputy chief editor of the President’s Daily Brief. A frequent contributor to Studies in Intelligence and other intelligence journals, Dr. Dujmovic also is the author of The Grenada Documents: Window on Totalitarianism (1988) and, under the pen name Charles Latroph, a quotation book on intelligence, The Literary Spy (2004).
David Lodge served during the Reagan administration as a “Kremlinologist” and leadership analyst in the CIA Directorate of Intelligence. Throughout his 30-year career with the Agency, he also specialized in coordinating counternarcotics and related counterterrorism analytic and operational programs between the intelligence and law enforcement communities. Since retiring from CIA in 2005, he has worked for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), serving as a full-time analyst and writing instructor training new analysts in the CIA University’s Sherman Kent School for Intelligence Analysis. Mr. Lodge has a BA Degree in Soviet Studies from Syracuse University and an MA Degree in Soviet Studies from the University of Michigan, and he spent three years as an intelligence specialist in the US Army before joining the Agency.

Admiral Inman graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1950, and from the National War College in 1972. He became an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at Austin in 1987. He was appointed as a tenured professor holding the Lyndon B. Johnson Centennial Chair in National Policy in August 2001. He served as Interim Dean of the LBJ School of Public Affairs from 1 January to 31 December 2005 and again from January 2009 to March 2010. Admiral Inman served in the U.S. Navy from November 1951 to July 1982, when he retired with the permanent rank of Admiral. While on active duty he served as Director of the National Security Agency and Deputy Director of Central Intelligence. After retirement from the Navy, he was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation (MCC) in Austin, Texas for four years and Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Westmark Systems, Inc., a privately owned electronics industry holding company for three years. Admiral Inman also served as Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas from 1987 through 1990.
The Historical Collections and Information Review Divisions of the Central Intelligence Agency’s Information Management Services have reviewed, redacted, and released a body of documents highlighting what the Central Intelligence Agency provided President Reagan and other top members of his national security team on key issues affecting US-Soviet relations. The accompanying DVD contains over 200 documents, some 60 of which are either being made available to the public for the first time or are being re-released with new material.

The material is organized into the following categories:

- **Document Collection**—Features intelligence assessments, National Intelligence Estimates, high-level memos, DCI talking points, and other reporting. To help put this material in perspective, we have also included non-CIA documents from the archives of the Reagan Library, including minutes from relevant National Security Council and National Security Planning Group meetings on key US-Soviet issues, as well as copies of key National Security Decision Directives (NSDDs).

- **DI Videos**—The highlight of the collection are the video briefings produced by CIA’s Directorate of Intelligence on such varied topics as the Soviet space program, the Andropov succession, the Chernobyl disaster, and the Moscow summit. This was the first time the Agency used videos on a regular basis to deliver intelligence to the policymaker, and this collection marks the first substantial release of such material in one of our historical collections.

- **Other Multimedia**—Includes photos, videos, and an interactive timeline featuring material from the Reagan Library’s AV archives and other sources.

- **Background Material**—Includes several assessments and overview articles on President Reagan’s use of intelligence and the end of the Cold War written by historians and leading experts.

This DVD will work on most computers and the documents are in .PDF format.

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