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SECURITY INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the Deputy Administrator, Mutual Security Agency

FROM: Acting Assistant Director, Research and Reports

SUBJECT: Financing of Department of Commerce Project "Trade Between the Free World and the Soviet Bloc"

1. I refer to the question of financing this project, as discussed at the meeting held in Admiral Dupre's office on 6 February, and for your information and use, if necessary, briefly outline CIA's interest in this matter.

2. Our primary objective or obligation, as you know, is to supply strategic intelligence, and the project under discussion relates specifically to an important segment of this activity. One of our indicated functions is to follow trade and payments between Bloc countries and the Free World, as well as intra-Bloc and internal trade and finance, and for this the material to be provided by the project under discussion constitutes a basic requirement. While the development of intelligence in the field of East-West trade will involve also the use of other material, basic trade statistics are manifestly necessary to any work in this field; they provide the bases for analyses relating to a subject currently important to several government agencies, and as we provide such analyses I would express a modest hope that this agency may make to the project, in its final form, a substantial contribution.

3. As discussed at the meeting, it is believed desirable that the method of financing the subject be taken up with representatives of the Bureau of the Budget before a final determination is made concerning the contributions that may be necessary for this and other participating agencies.

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