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JUL 29 1949

Rear Admiral R.H. Hillenkoetter
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D.C.

My dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

We have recently received telegrams from Ambassador Harriman and some of our Missions reporting significant shipments of ball bearings to Eastern European countries. In connection with his responsibilities for conducting conversations with the participating governments regarding control of strategic items to Eastern Europe, Ambassador Harriman has recommended that the United States should survey its position relative to the strategic rating of ball bearings at once.

As you know, at the present time all ball bearings are on the U.S. I-B list. However, we understand that certain sizes and specifications for precision ball bearings are of important significance for military purposes. Accordingly, we should like to call upon the assistance of your agency to provide the necessary information for us to make an informed judgment as to the strategic significance of the ball bearing trade moving to Eastern Europe. To be of maximum assistance, this study should include a breakdown of the specifications and sizes of those ball bearings which are considered of war potential significance. This study is urgently needed and we would appreciate receiving it as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Administrator

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- ACTION
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- PREPARATION OF REPLY
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REMARKS: Note urgency expressed in IP 2. Suggest a check with OSC in making up required report.

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