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MR

OLC 78-3271/1
31 October 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Letter From GAO Dated 24 October 1978 -- Requesting Data as to How CIA is Spending Its Research Dollars to Study the Soviet Union

1. I called Sam Goldberg, Administrative Assistant to Senator H. John Heinz, III (R., Pa.), expressing serious problems that the Agency would have in responding to the attached letter from GAO. I subsequently was called by Joe Frumkin, Legislative Assistant to Senator Heinz, who is the principal staffer in prompting the inquiry from GAO.

2. I explained to Frumkin that the information requested by GAO is so broad that it would cut across practically every major activity within the Agency since research on the Soviet Union is one of the Agency's principal requirements. I further explained that our response would involve the revelation of intelligence sources and methods and would be highly classified. Frumkin said that the purpose of the inquiry stems from the concern that the U.S. Government pays out vast sums of money for studies on the Soviet Union which are initiated and funded by various agencies and departments who have diverse interests. The belief is that there is a large waste of money due to duplication, unnecessary research and important informational requirements on the Soviet Union are not being met. The inquiry is being conducted to surface these problems with a view toward establishing "an Institute on the Soviet Union" comprised of representatives from the Congress, the Executive Branch and academia which would direct and focus the research on the Soviet Union. Frumkin made an analogy to the "Institute for the USA" which exists in the Soviet Union, however, he was quick to state his recognition that this organization serves as a front for the intelligence arms of the Soviet Union.

3. Frumkin acknowledged that Senator Heinz is principally interested in the nonclassified research on the Soviet Union and made clear that he would not want to delve into any detail

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as to the Agency's intelligence activities directed against the Soviets. After some discussion, he narrowed his request as concerns CIA as follows:

A. Stated in general terms, to what extent does the Agency coordinate its research on the Soviet Union with other agencies and departments of the Intelligence Community;

B. Stated in general terms, to what extent does CIA draw from the research on the Soviet Union by academia and private research institutions. This would include the Agency as a consumer of the product of these organizations and special studies conducted by these organizations at the direction of the Agency; and

C. The furnishing of a listing of unclassified publications on the Soviet Union prepared by the Agency.

4. In regard to C above, Frumkin noted a listing in the publication "Government Sponsored Research on Foreign Affairs" prepared by the State Department's Office of External Research. This lists the publication of various studies on the Soviet Union conducted by various outside organizations and funded by the U.S. Government. Frumkin felt that the Agency could provide a similar listing of its sponsored research on the Soviet Union if unclassified and if Agency sponsorship could be disclosed.

5. I told Frumkin that I would check as to whether or not the above can be provided and would get back to him if there are any problems. Frumkin requested that anything that we prepared should be submitted to GAO in response to their letter. He said he would explain to GAO that the response is being narrowed in accordance with our discussion. He agreed not to contact GAO until he had received a call from me as to the extent to which the Agency can respond.

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Chief, Coordination and Review Staff

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1 - OLC Subject
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