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7 November 1978

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OLC #78-3271/2

MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted]
Chief, Coordination and Review Staff

FROM : [redacted] 25X1
Congressional Support Staff, NFAC

SUBJECT : Response to GAO on CIA Research on the Soviet Union

1. With regard to your memo of 31 October, NFAC can contribute the following responses to GAO's questions:

A. Senior policymakers have jointly enumerated the intelligence matters of particular concern to them, and the various agencies of the Intelligence Community are charged with ensuring that their research is responsive to these concerns. The CIA's National Foreign Assessment Center has made a vigorous and concerted effort to do so with regard to its own research on the Soviet Union and has maintained contact with other agencies with a view toward eliminating duplication of effort and filling gaps in Community research. The interagency intelligence production programs developed by some National Intelligence Officers annually and by others aperiodically provide one means of coordinating Community research and analysis on the Soviet Union. It should be noted, however, that the intelligence components of the Department of Defense and Department of State also have research and analysis programs responsive to specific departmental needs. These agencies do not submit their production programs to CIA for review.

CIA-produced finished intelligence that appears in Community products (such as National Intelligence Estimates, Interagency Intelligence Memoranda, and the National Intelligence Daily) is coordinated with all members of the Intelligence Community within the limits imposed by timeliness. Dissenting views are clearly set forth. In addition,

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some finished intelligence is produced jointly by CIA and one or more other members of the Community. A large research program may also be apportioned out among Community agencies as appropriate.

B. NFAC draws extensively on research done on the Soviet Union by academia and private research institutions. CIA research and analytic personnel routinely attend conferences and seminars on their areas of specialization and many take additional graduate work as well. The Agency library has routinely purchased works on the Soviet Union (in Russian and English) in the following fields: technical books, collection of scientific papers by academicians, books on industrial management, agronomy, communications, meteorology, mining, regional travel, history, geography, industry, economics, weapons, civil defense, nuclear energy, laws, and guide books. Special emphasis is now placed on science and technology and military matters--ranging from Strategic Arms Limitation Talks to Soviet civil defense. We also continue to emphasize books on economic conditions, commerce, and national production, and works on Soviet political theory.

Unclassified projects undertaken by academic or private research institutions for the CIA are routinely listed in the publication "Government Sponsored Research on Foreign Affairs" prepared by the State Department.

C. An updated listing of unclassified CIA publications made available to the public through the Library of Congress DOCEX system is attached.

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CIA Publications Released to the Public Through Library of Congress DOCEX

Listing for 1972-1977

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