STAT

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
14 July 1970

Approved For Release 2004/10/28 : CIA-RDP88-01314R000300600048-5

SAMIZDAT

The chief of our Moscow bureau, Frank Starr, has provided us and our readers with an account of Samizdat, a term for the considerable volume of Russian underground writing. In a totalitarian state, only approved writers have access to printing presses. But nonapproved writers and their readers may have typewriters. Samizdat is circulated in thin-paper carbon copies. Each reader is supposed to type some more copies and pass them along to others. Part of the Samizdat output is a bi-monthly Chronicle of Current Events, which reports with accuracy such unprinted news as political arrests and trials thruout the Soviet Union.

Starr reported several explanations that have been offered for the survival of Chronicle of Current Events: that the authorities value it as encouraging western illusions about Soviet mellowing; that the authorities get useful information themselves from the Chronicle; that the authorities are reluctant to go to the lengths necessary to eradicate it.

All these explanations strike us as plausible. Also, it should not be forgotten that tho tyranny can crush truth to earth innumerable times, it always rises again. Tho tyrannies can establish themselves for generations, they cannot hope to eliminate altogether the impulse to freedom of thought and expression. Samizdat illustrates that. If it were not to continue in its present form, it would have successors.

As for how mellow the Soviet Union is —it is not mellow as long as Samizdat is a dangerous operation, published anonymously, and circulated in carbon copies rather than in print.

Approved For Release 2004/10/28 : CIA-RDP88-01314R000300600048-5