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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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Soviet Imports Worsen Shortages of US Oilfield Equipment

Increased Soviet imports of oilfield equipment are adding to US shortages, which are hampering US exploration and development. The USSR ordered about \$400 million worth of oilfield equipment from Western firms in 1972-73, compared with roughly \$200 million worth during the preceding three years. Most orders have gone to US firms, their foreign subsidiaries, or their licensees since US export controls were relaxed in 1971. Soviet purchases are concentrated on pipeline construction materials and equipment, tubular goods for drilling, and high-volume submersible pumps -- all currently in short supply in the United States. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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Interruptions in Soviet Gas Supplies to Europe

Technical problems have caused interruptions in Soviet natural gas exports to East Germany, West Germany, and Austria. The brief stoppages, apparently caused by decreased pressure and possible leaks, began about one week after the new pipeline to West Germany was completed in early October and continued through November. Similar problems can be expected in 1974 as the USSR expands gas exports to Austria and Hungary and begins exports to Finland and Bulgaria. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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