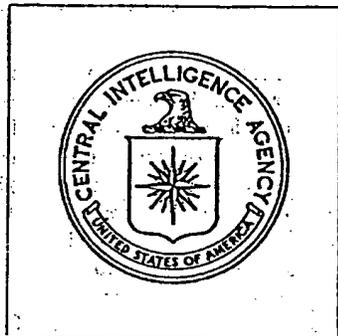


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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED  
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*Soviet Fisheries and Maritime Aid  
to Less Developed Countries*

~~Secret~~

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## SOVIET FISHERIES AND MARITIME AID TO LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

### ONE MAJOR NEW AID INITIATIVE IN 1975

1. Moscow's US \$33 million commitment to Somalia in 1975 was the largest it has ever made to a less developed country (LDC) for fisheries development (see Table 1). Otherwise in 1975, the USSR provided only small amounts of new assistance to Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Portugal, all of whom signed their first fisheries agreements with Moscow. The accords include technical services, training, equipment, and facilities as well as surveys on marine resources and offshore geological formations.

2. About 750 Soviet technicians were in LDCs in 1975 to conduct research, to train local personnel, and to construct and manage port facilities and fish-processing plants. About 300 trainees from LDCs went to the USSR for training.

3. Moscow joined at least 5 countries—largely in Africa—in joint commercial fishing ventures in 1975. This brought the Soviet-LDC total up to 12 by the end of the year, and negotiations were in progress with another eight countries for similar ventures (see Table 2). A new trilateral venture also was arranged in West Africa by a Soviet-French company that is licensed and operating out of Sierra Leone.

### STATUS OF FISHERIES PROGRAM

4. Since 1956 the USSR has signed fisheries agreements, valued at an estimated \$180 million, with 28 less developed countries (see Tables 3, 4, and map); about 46% of the aid was provided to Africa and 30% to the Middle East. Although accounting for about 2%

Table 1  
Soviet Fisheries Agreements with LDCs  
1975

Recipient	Value millions US \$	Provisions
Gambia .....	2.0 <sup>1</sup>	Port facilities; fishing vessels; and training.
Guinea-Bissau ...	0.5 <sup>1</sup>	To establish commercial joint ventures; USSR to supply refrigerated trawlers and 90% of crew.
Portugal .....	0.5 <sup>1</sup>	Training Portuguese technicians and equipment to outfit Portuguese fishing vessels.
Somalia .....	33.0	\$14 million in grants and \$19 million in soft loans for training, small vessels, fishing gear, fishing bases, onshore port and processing facilities, repair facilities, and a training school.

<sup>1</sup>Estimated.

Table 2  
Status of Soviet Joint Fishing Ventures<sup>1</sup> with Less Developed  
Countries As of 31 December 1975

Recipient	Current Status
Argentina .....	Agreement in principle
Bangladesh .....	Under negotiation
Benin .....	Under negotiation
Ecuador .....	Earlier offer in abeyance
Egypt .....	In operation
Gambia .....	Under negotiation
Guinea-Bissau .....	In operation
Indonesia .....	Under negotiation
Iraq .....	In operation
Liberia .....	Offer under consideration
Malaysia .....	Under negotiation
Mauritania .....	Company approved in April 1975
Mauritius .....	Agreement signed
Morocco .....	Agreement signed
Peru .....	Under negotiation
Sierra Leone .....	Agreement signed
Somalia .....	In operation
South Yemen .....	In operation
Spain .....	In operation
Sri Lanka .....	Agreement signed

<sup>1</sup>Joint ownership in some cases involves Soviet aid to the LDCs.



Table 3

Soviet Assistance Extended to Less Developed Countries For  
Fisheries and Maritime Development  
January 1956-December 1975

	Million US \$	
	Fisheries <sup>1</sup>	Maritime
Total <sup>2</sup> .....	183.1	65.0
Africa .....	84.4	6.1
Algeria .....	4.5	3.0
Equatorial Guinea .....	0.5	N.A.
Gambia .....	2.0	N.A.
Ghana .....	11.2	....
Guinea .....	7.8	2.5
Guinea-Bissau .....	0.5	....
Kenya .....	2.2	....
Mauritania .....	2.0	....
Mauritius .....	6.5	....
Morocco .....	1.5	N.A.
Senegal .....	4.4	....
Somalia .....	38.4	N.A.
Sudan .....	2.0	....
Tanzania .....	0.9	....
Tunisia .....	....	0.6
Middle East .....	56.6	36.1
Egypt .....	15.0	16.6
Iran .....	8.3	1.5
Iraq .....	19.0	1.5
North Yemen .....	7.8	16.5
South Yemen .....	6.5	....
Syria .....	....	N.A.
South and East Asia .....	17.1	15.1
Bangladesh .....	8.0	N.A.
India .....	2.2	....
Indonesia .....	0.3	15.1
Pakistan .....	3.6	....
Sri Lanka .....	3.0	....
Latin America .....	24.5	....
Argentina .....	5.0	....
Chile <sup>3</sup> .....	17.0	....
Peru .....	2.5	....
Europe .....	0.5	7.7
Greece .....	....	7.7
Portugal .....	0.5	N.A.

<sup>1</sup>In the case of joint ventures, only the aid portion is included here.

<sup>2</sup>Total based partly on estimated figures.

<sup>3</sup>Programs have been discontinued.

of Moscow's total economic aid to LDCs, fisheries assistance has helped to spread Soviet influence from the Indian Ocean across the Atlantic to countries adjacent to major fishing grounds. The joint research effort with LDCs has assisted Moscow in exploring

extensively the southern reaches of the Indian, South Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans.

5. The aid is provided either as outright grants or under long-term credits that are repaid in reciprocal services. In either case, Moscow often requires LDC concessions for its fishing fleet. These include port rights for Moscow's trawler fleet, use of repair facilities, refueling, transfer of crews, and onshore processing. The services provided at low cost by LDCs greatly enhance Soviet fleet efficiency.

6. Recent Soviet efforts to expand their participation in the ownership of LDC fishing companies are intended to ensure exploitation of marine resources within national waters boundaries, regardless of new international boundaries that may be agreed to at the Law of the Sea Conference. Joint ventures usually give the USSR 49% ownership of the companies. These are small investments with a high return. Soviet vessels are leased or purchased by the joint company; they are jointly manned and used for training, research, and fishing. Part of the catch is delivered to LDCs for local distribution; the remainder is frozen and sold in Western markets. Profits are divided on the basis of ownership shares. The extent of Soviet aid to the companies is not known, although the USSR probably provides training without charge and possibly some equipment on credit or as grants.

#### SOVIET MARITIME AID

7. The USSR extended no new maritime aid to LDCs in 1975, although it continued to work on projects agreed to previously. Through 1975 the Soviets had pledged about \$65 million to 16 nations in the form of merchant vessels and harbor and shipbuilding equipment. Usually maritime aid has been given to help LDCs make up deficiencies that limit their trade with Moscow—Egypt and North Yemen, for example. In the past few years Moscow also has begun to form joint shipping companies with LDCs. The most important ones already in operation are with Iraq, Somalia, and Egypt.

#### OUTLOOK FOR CONTINUED FISHERIES AID

8. Soviet fisheries aid will continue as a profitable, low-cost form of assistance. Emphasis on joint ownership of shipping companies and fisheries research are likely to increase.

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Table 4

Soviet Assistance to Fishing Industries in Less Developed Countries  
1956-75

Country	Year	Character of Assistance	Status as of 31 December 1975	Aid Extended Million US \$
<b>Africa</b>				
Algeria	1968	Included under an October 1963 \$100 million line of credit: 18 trawlers; port construction, after feasibility studies; fisheries training for Algerians; and oceanographic research assistance.	Fishing port at La Calle under construction.	4.5
Equatorial Guinea	1973	The USSR agreed to provide fish and training on Soviet trawlers in exchange for fishing rights in Equatorial Guinea's territorial waters and use of Luba port facility.	N.A.	(0.5) <sup>1</sup>
Gambia	1975	Agreement to construct port facilities, to provide training and fishing vessels.	About 10 Soviet technicians are studying construction of port facilities. Talks to increase Soviet assistance are continuing.	(2.0)
Ghana	1960	Fisheries agreement under \$40 million credit, extended August 1960, for constructing a fishing complex at Tema, to include port and processing facilities, cold storage and ice plant, a workshop to produce fishing gear, and several fish-processing plants.	Work suspended after 1966 coup. Dry-dock facilities completed by Ghana, 1967. Presently, 31 Soviet fisheries technicians are in Ghana.	11.2
	1963-64	Protocol to 1960 agreement for temporary facilities for floating dock; training 100 Ghanaians in fishing techniques; equipment for fisheries school; and joint research studies.	Completed training before 1966 coup.	
Guinea	1959	Under a \$35 million line of credit allocated aid to a cold storage plant at Conakry.	Completed by mid-1963 and expanded in 1968. Technical training also provided.	2.3
	1966	Under a \$13 million 1962 line of credit, allocated aid for 10 fishing seiners, three-year technical training in the USSR for 60 students, and a ship and dock for fishing boat repair at Conakry.	Four seiners delivered in 1966; six cancelled. Soviet and Guinean personnel operated boats. In 1969 Guinea rented two refrigerator trawlers. Thirty Guineans accepted for training in the USSR in 1971-72.	4.0
	1973	Grant for oceanographic research center at Conakry.		(1.5)
Guinea-Bissau	1975	Agreement for joint commercial ventures. Soviets to supply refrigerator trawlers and 90% of the personnel.	In operation. The first of five refrigerator trawlers delivered to Guinea-Bissau in July. Approximately 10 Soviet technicians are engaged in fisheries research.	(0.5)
Kenya	1964	Under a \$44 million line of credit the USSR agreed to construct a fish cannery and other facilities.	No progress.	(2.2)
Mauritania	1973	Agreement included Soviet training of Mauritanian personnel and fisheries research in coastal waters.	15 Soviet vessels operate in Mauritanian territorial 19-48 kilometer (12-30 mile) zone. As of 1974, 8 Mauritians had been trained.	(2.0)
	1975	Protocol under 1973 agreement for research facility, Soviet vessels, joint fishing company. 250 Mauritians to be included in enterprise.	Feasibility studies are being completed for research center.	

<sup>1</sup> See footnote at end of table.

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Table 4 (Continued)

Soviet Assistance to Fishing Industries in Less Developed Countries  
1956-75

Country	Year	Character of Assistance	Status as of 31 December 1975	Aid Extended Million US \$
<i>Africa (Continued)</i>				
Mauritius	1970	Credit for two SRIM trawlers, marine equipment, and services of Soviet fishery specialists.		5.0
	1974	Agreement signed in 1974 and renewed in 1976 to replace 1970 accord included a joint fishing company which would conduct research and supply local markets with 60 metric tons of fish a year as a grant. Trainees to study in USSR to number 10 per year.	As of late 1975 research vessel <i>Aelita</i> operating in Mauritius territorial waters. Five Soviet research technicians in Mauritius.	(1.5)
Morocco	1973	Fisheries research on Soviet vessels under UNDP-FAO program, training of specialists in USSR, and creation of training center in Morocco. Joint company to be organized to operate leased Soviet vessels in Moroccan coastal waters and to construct and operate a fish-processing plant and refrigeration warehouse.	Feasibility studies completed for joint venture. Morocco rejected Soviet proposals for implementation suggested by joint commission early in 1975. An estimated 25 Soviet fisheries technicians are in Morocco.	(1.5)
Senegal	1965	Credit for tuna fishing complex, including 10 fishing boats, a fish cannery, workshop and repair facility, and cold storage plants.	The plant, cannery, and cold storage facility canceled after a 1966 feasibility study and credit reduced from \$6.9 million. In 1973 all 10 tuna boats had been delivered. Five Soviet technicians are in Senegal.	4.4
	1968	Protocol for study of deep-sea fish resources.		
	1971	Protocol for joint fishery survey and Soviet training program.	Survey completed. Four Senegalese trained in the USSR.	
Somalia	1963	In a protocol to a 1961 line of credit, the USSR agreed to provide equipment for constructing fish-canning plant with annual capacity of 6 million cans at Las Koreh.	Plant completed in 1970.	4.2
	1974	Joint deep-sea fishing venture to run 10 years to use 12 Soviet-built trawlers.	In operation.	(1.2)
	1975	Agreement includes \$14 million in grants, the remainder in soft loans to train 2,200 personnel, to supply 400 boats (\$4 million), fishing gear worth \$800,000, 4 or 5 fishing bases, on-shore port and processing facilities costing \$9 million, repair facilities, and a training school for supervisory personnel.	Forty trawlers delivered. Local training includes fish-processing technology in 40 cooperatives set up along the coast. An estimated 200 Soviet fisheries technicians present in Somalia in 1975.	33.0
Sudan	1961	Survey of fish potentials of the Red Sea and Nile River. Fish cannery to be established at Jabel Anlia.	Survey completed in 1964. Cannery feasibility report prepared in 1965, but no subsequent activity.	2.0
Tanzania	1966	Protocol under a \$20 million credit for marine equipment, to construct a fish-drying plant at Kigoma and four cold storage plants.	Marine equipment delivered. Cold storage and fish-drying plants canceled.	0.9
<i>Middle East</i>				
Egypt	1964	Agreement included Soviet ships for deep sea fishing and research, Soviet technical and research assistance, training Egyptian personnel, and assistance in developing a fishing center at Ras Benas in the Red Sea.	Ten trawlers delivered. Research studies continuing.	7.0

See footnote at end of table.

Table 4 (Continued)

Soviet Assistance to Fishing Industries in Less Developed Countries  
1956-75

Country	Year	Character of Assistance	Status as of 31 December 1975	Aid Extended Million US \$
<i>Middle East (Continued)</i>				
Egypt (Continued)	1967	Mixed Soviet-Egyptian commission increased the number of Egyptians receiving fisheries training in the USSR from 200 to 300.		
	1969	The USSR agreed to train an additional 110 Egyptians.		
	1971	Agreement at seventh mixed commission meeting to provide Egypt with 12,000 metric tons of fish annually, to undertake a joint fisheries survey, and to assist in developing Lake Nasser.	Survey completed.	(8.0)
	1972	Soviets to provide additional equipment and technical assistance, to train 22 additional Egyptians in the USSR, to construct a wharf on the Red Sea, and conduct another fisheries survey.	Survey and training completed.	
	1973	Soviet vessels to aid Egyptians fishing off African coast with fuel, fishing tackle, and fish-processing equipment and to deliver frozen fish to Alexandria from areas of joint fishing operations.	Joint venture operating in Atlantic and Indian oceans.	
	1975	Joint commission provided for further Egyptian training in the USSR, trawling equipment for deep-sea operations, and possibly doubling the Soviet fishing quota.	Of the 432 trainees sent to the USSR over the 11-year period since the 1964 agreement, 323 had returned by 1975. Approximately 50 Soviet fisheries technicians were in Egypt at the end of 1975.	
Iran	1963	Agreement for Soviet assistance in developing Caspian Sea resources, including equipment for large fish hatchery, marine resource survey, reclamation work, and technical assistance.	First section of hatching and cold storage plant completed in 1969. Port equipment has been arriving periodically since 1968.	(2.0)
	1966	As part of a \$17 million trade credit, USSR agreed to assist in port expansion and to construct a cold storage plant.	Port expansion under way.	2.7
	1969	Agreement for trawler and five seiners.	Delivered in late 1971.	3.0
	1973	Agreement for six additional fish hatcheries on the Caspian.	Construction under way. Estimated 80 Soviet technicians are working on project.	(0.6)
	1973	Agreement for six additional fish hatcheries on the Caspian.	Construction under way. Estimated 80 Soviet technicians are working on project.	(0.6)
Iraq	1969	Agreement to construct processing plants and refrigeration facilities.	Completed.	5.0
	1970	Protocol allocated aid to develop marketing facilities and two technical training centers from a \$137.5 million 1959 credit.	Completed.	
	1972	USSR agreed to build cold storage plants and a port in Umm Qasr. Iraq will rent two Soviet fishing boats, and 50 Iraqis will study fisheries in the USSR in 1973.	Facilities at Umm Qasr not yet completed.	(2.0)

See footnote at end of table.

Table 4 (Continued)

Soviet Assistance to Fishing Industries in Less Developed Countries  
1956-75

Country	Year	Character of Assistance	Status as of 31 December 1975	Aid Extended Million US \$
<i>Middle East (Continued)</i>				
Iraq (Continued)	1973	Mixed commission agreed to set up a Soviet-Iraqi fishing company with six Soviet trawlers. Soviets to train Iraqi technicians in servicing deep-sea vessels. USSR agreed to aid construction of additional trawlers and refrigeration ships and to establish a fisheries research center in Bessal.	Two 150 GWT Soviet trawlers (\$7.6 million) will be added by the end of 1976 to the six vessel, joint company fleet already in operation. Sixty Soviet fisheries experts are in Iraq.	(12.0)
North Yemen	1964	Fisheries and related projects, including two repair shops, seven fishing boats, processing facilities, and technical training.	Workshop and cold storage plant at Huclaydal completed, fishing boats delivered.	7.8
	1971	Protocol for construction of fish-processing facilities and technical training.	Construction began late in 1975.	
South Yemen	1969	Agreement included credit for research, maritime equipment, construction of a training center, a fishing boat and feasibility studies for canning and cold storage facilities. Also included grant aid for two completely equipped seiners.	Seiners, engine, and nets delivered in 1970. Training center established. Cannery design completed in 1971 and the Soviets agreed to supply an oil and flour unit. Surveys for six cold storage plants completed.	6.0
	1972	Protocol for Soviet supply of three fishing boats and for a joint venture.	Delivered.	
	1974	Joint fishing company to begin operations in July.	In operation.	0.5
<i>South and East Asia</i>				
Bangladesh	1972	USSR grant for 10 fishing boats, port refrigeration facilities, and training center at Chittagong and Soviet fisheries technicians.	Boats delivered. Cold storage plants partially completed. Training center completed. An estimated 240 Soviet fisheries technicians in country.	8.0
India	1966	Deep-sea fisheries assistance to include use of two Soviet trawlers and construction of a shipyard for fishing vessels.	An estimated 30 Soviet fisheries technicians in country.	2.2
Indonesia	1964	Agreement under a 1956 credit to establish fishing complex that would include processing facilities and trawlers.	One trawler delivered in 1965. Agreement suspended in 1966.	0.3
Pakistan	1965	Soviet trawlers to be purchased under November line of credit.	Delivered.	1.6
	1968	Agreed to conduct oceanographic research, design a fishing port, and train fishermen.	Four Soviet experts studied land facilities in 1968. In January 1969, three Soviet trawlers used to train fisheries personnel and conduct a two-year fishing survey. Survey completed.	(2.0)
Sri Lanka	1971	Fisheries agreement includes technical training and development of a training center in Ceylon, joint fisheries operations, and possible future sale or rental of Soviet fisheries vessels.	Oceanographic research survey began in February 1972 and Soviet technicians arrived in June 1973 to assist in setting up training center. In 1975, the USSR granted 20 scholarships for training Sri Lankan personnel.	(3.0)

See footnote at end of table.

Table 4 (Continued)

Soviet Assistance to Fishing Industries in Less Developed Countries  
1956-75

Country	Year	Character of Assistance	Status as of 31 December 1975	Aid Extended Million US \$
<b>Latin America</b>				
Argentina	1974	Fisheries assistance agreement for joint research and exploration program; training for Argentine fishermen; construction, modernization or adaption of fishing port south of 42d parallel; and setting up of joint fishing company.	Preliminary oceanographic studies completed.	(5.0)
Chile	1968	Following surveys by Soviet fisheries experts, USSR agreed to establish a fishing port and a king crab plant under a 1967 line of credit.	In abeyance.	17.0
	1971	Agreement calls for building one or more fishing ports with complementary industrial installations, training Chilean fishermen on Soviet vessels, creating training center for middle-level fisheries technicians, and renting Soviet fishing vessels.	In abeyance.	
Peru	1971	Agreement provides aid for constructing a fishery complex in Paitu, training Peruvians at Soviet fisheries institutes, and joint fisheries research.	Commission on Soviet-Peruvian fisheries cooperation formed in 1972.	2.5
	1972	Protocol to begin construction of Paitu port and to train 30 Peruvians on Soviet research vessels.	First and second stage of Paitu complex completed in 1975.	
<b>Europe</b>				
Portugal	1975	Agreement for Soviet equipment to outfit fishing vessels and Soviet training for Portuguese personnel.	N.A.	(0.5)

<sup>1</sup> Parentheses indicate estimated aid.