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CURRENT SUPPORT MEMORANDUM

USSR RELEASES ADDITIONAL
DETAILED ECONOMIC INFORMATION

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED
1998

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This report represents the immediate views of the
originating intelligence components of the Office
of Research and Reports. Comments are solicited.

~~W-A-R-N-I-N-G~~

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Further evidence that the USSR is pursuing a policy of releasing detailed economic information (ID 1 y) is seen in an article in a recent Soviet technical periodical on hydroelectric resources. 1/ This article, giving the results of a recent survey, provided detailed statistical data by economic region and by republic on the distribution of hydroelectric resources. It is the first such data released since 1936.

This latest survey places total hydroelectric resources at 340 million kilowatts, as compared to a prewar estimate of 280 million kilowatts. 2/ Most of the difference is accounted for by the increase of estimated resources in the East Siberia economic region in which over two-fifths of total resources are located.

Another significant break in the strict censorship of economic information concerning electric power came in the summer of 1955. The total installed capacity of electric power stations at the end of 1950 was given as 19.2 million kw in an article in a Soviet periodical. 3/ Previously, the Soviets had not admitted any underfulfillment of the Fourth Five-Year Plan goal of 22.4 million kw. In fact, many Soviet writers up to that time had used the Plan figure of 22.4 million kw. as the actual capacity at the end of 1950. Whether they intended to deceive by claiming fulfillment of the Plan is not known. Possibly the writers of these articles and books were unaware that the Plan was not fulfilled. In the absence of any official statement on the subject, they may have assumed fulfillment.

Analyst: s er

1. Gidrotekhnicheskoye Stroitel'stvo, No. 4, May 56, pp 13-20, U
2. Weitz, B. I., Electric Power Development in the USSR, p 22, Moscow, 1936, U.
3. Voprosy Ekonomiki, No. 8, 1955, U

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