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11P-39  
D/P 3674/4

7 December 1950

MEMORANDUM TO:

FROM:



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: Project on "Soviet Preparations for Direct Involvement in Major War within the Next Six Months"

PROBLEM: To review briefly the most pertinent available evidence indicating whether or not the USSR plans or expects to become directly involved in war with the Western Powers within the next six months. This survey assumes that the USSR has already achieved a high degree of war readiness, as concluded by ORE 53-50 of 19 October 1950 and NIE-3 of 15 November 1950.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. The conclusions and discussion put forth in ORE 53-50 and NIE-3 should be considered as valid as of this date. Generally, the USSR is continuing to prepare for the eventuality of a global war.

2. The available evidence accumulated since 19 October 1950 does not permit any conclusions, other than those found in ORE 53-50 of 19 October 1950 on the questions of whether the USSR is or is not:

a. Directing its efforts toward short term, as opposed to long term, war readiness;

b. Sacrificing long term plans and programs in the interest of short range achievements of strategic importance;

c. Taking measures which, because of their expense or their disruption effects on the economy, the USSR could ill afford unless early hostilities were expected;

d. Engaging in any "last minute" type of war preparations.

The available evidence does indicate, to some extent at least, that the urgent effort of the USSR to be ready in case of major war as early as the beginning of 1951 has been successful, but does not reveal any indications of the Soviet intentions for a major war in the immediate future.

*Handwritten notes:*  
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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. IF  
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