

25556

COPY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

14 October 1948

Director of Central Intelligence

Assistant Director, Reports and Estimates

IM/75/Supplement: Export Shipment of Ball Bearings to Satellite Countries.

REFERENCE: Memorandum of AD/R&E to DCI, dated 11 October 1948, same subject (Im-75)

ENCLOSURES:



1. Additional reports received concerning the export shipment of ball-bearing-component steel balls to Czechoslovakia and Poland confirm the following:

a. The shipment destined for Poland, ordered from a US manufacturer by the [redacted] was delivered by truck to [redacted]. So far, no export license for this shipment has been secured, but shipments to the [redacted] are continuing. Inasmuch as no copy of the enclosed reports has been sent to the FBI, it is suggested that the FBI be notified of possible smuggling.

b. Licenses for shipment of the Czechoslovakian order were granted by the Department of Commerce. The contract executed under export license has been for about 5,000,000 steel balls, including supplies. CIA inquiries to the Commerce Department, made through interdepartmental committee channels, have elicited the information, however, that export licenses had not been granted for any one purchase exceeding a five-digit figure, which is in direct contradiction to the evidence above.

c. It is also noted that, according to the manufacturer, the license action was taken despite his own request that no license be issued for export of precision ball bearings of a type that could be used for belligerent purposes.

d. Precision bearings are under priority control in US zones abroad as well as officially in the US. Both shipments involve what would be considered a sizable quantity of precision bearings.

Document No. 001

G/SI: [redacted] CHANGE in Class. DECLASSIFIED

Distribution: AD/R&E Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

B/Ec DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

B/EE Auth: DBA REG. 77/1763

G/SI Date: 14/11/77 By: [redacted]

THEODORE HABBITT

copy: mpp

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OCT 11 1946

Director of Central Intelligence

Assistant Director, Reports and Estimates

IK-75: Export Shipment of Ball Bearings to Satellite Countries

1. This office has received recent information which indicates that an American Firm has manufactured and been licensed to export to Poland between two and three million precision ball bearings. All sizes included in the order indicate a type of bearing which can be used in the manufacture of instruments, including the full range of military and aircraft instruments. (None of the bearings is over one inch in diameter.)
2. A similar order was received by the same company for shipment to Czechoslovakia of a quantity in the neighborhood of forty-five million ball bearings. Information indicates that export licenses are pending on this shipment.
3. This office has an increasing amount of information indicating the extremely critical nature of this commodity in countries behind the Iron Curtain. In all probability the need for ball bearings by these countries will become desperate within the next twelve months.

THEODORE BABBITT

GRE:G/SI: [redacted]

Distributions

2 - AD/RAE

1 - G/SA

1 - B/SE ✓

1 - G/ST

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY **Poland**
 SUBJECT **Order for Ball Bearings**
 PLACE ACQUIRED **- - -**
 DATE ACQUIRED **Mid-Aug 48**

DATE DISTR. **24 Sept. 1948**
 NO. OF PAGES **1**
 NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)
 SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

GRADING OF SOURCE						COLLECTOR'S PRELIMINARY GRADING OF CONTENT					
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	CANNOT BE JUDGED	CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES	PROBABLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	DOUBTFUL	PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED
A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F. X	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6. X

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT OF U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED, HOWEVER, INFORMATION CONTAINED IN BODY OF THE FORM MAY BE UTILIZED AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE RECEIVING AGENCY.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

SOURCE

We have received the following order for chrome alloy steel ball bearings from the Approximately 30% of this order has been delivered to and the balance of the order is in production. This entire order is comprised of Grade 1 ball bearings.

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Size</u>
18,000	3/16	100,000	17/32
77,000	7/32	80,000	9/16
200,000	15/64	119,000	19/32
40,000	1/4	48,000	5/8
200,000	17/64	30,000	21/32
49,000	9/32	100,000	11/16
1,000,000	5/16	25,000	23/32
140,000	11/32	30,000	3/4
510,000	3/8	7,500	25/32
42,000	13/32	40,000	13/16
153,000	7/16	20,000	7/8
49,000	15/32	8,000	29/32
70,000	31/64	15,300	15/16
150,000	1/2	6,000	1

- end -

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB	DISTRIBUTION						
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 24 Sept. 1948

SUBJECT Order for Ball Bearings

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED - - -

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED Jun 48

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

GRADING OF SOURCE						COLLECTOR'S PRELIMINARY GRADING OF CONTENT					
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	CANNOT BE JUDGED	CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES	PROBABLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	DOUBTFUL	PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED
A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F. X	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6. X

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT SO U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED UNLESS INFORMATION CONTAINED IN BODY OF THE FORM MAY BE UTILIZED AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE RECEIVING AGENCY.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

SOURCE

We have received the following order for ball bearings from the acting on behalf of the Czechoslovakian government. All of these chrome alloy steel ball bearings have been manufactured and packed, although none have been shipped since the necessary export licenses have not as yet been secured.

Quantity	Size	Grade	Quantity	Size	Grade
15,000,000	1/8"	3	200,000	7/16"	1
7,000,000	3/16	3	40,000	1/2	1
12,000,000	5/32	3	24,000	5/32	1
1,500,000	7/32	3	150,000	4 mm	3
18,000,000	1/4	3	50,000	7 mm	3
5,000	7/32	1	50,000	7 mm	2
150,000	1/4	1	100,000 (SS)*	5.5mm	2
150,000	5/16	1	180,000	9.5mm	1
150,000	9/32	1	200,000	12.5mm	1
40,000	11/32	1	1,200,000	5/16	1

* SS - Stainless Steel

- end -

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISTRIBUTION					
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								