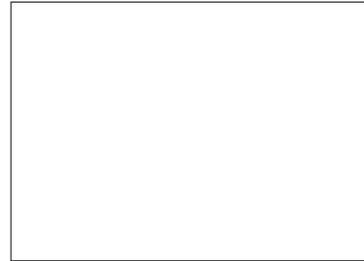




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National Intelligence Daily

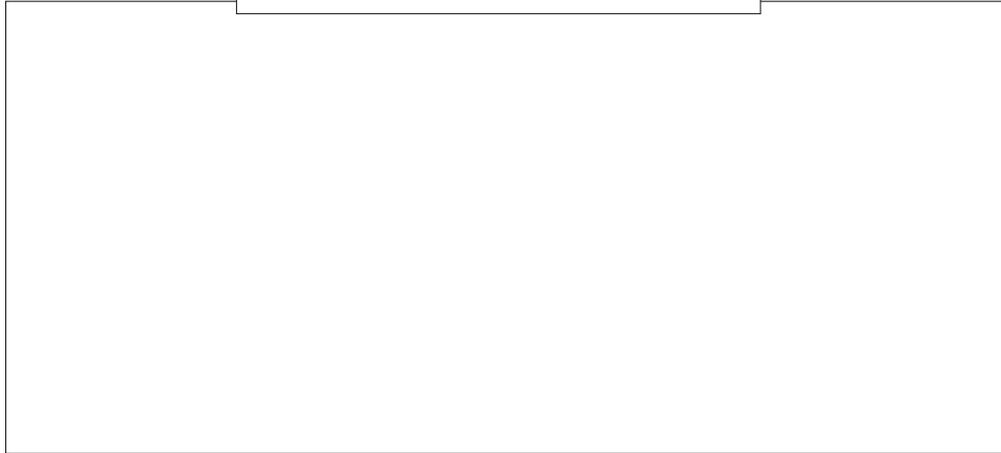
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10 November 1983

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SPAIN-LIBYA: [redacted]**USSR: Trends in Foreign Trade**

Recently released Soviet data show a growing shift in trade toward other Communist countries, particularly in Eastern Europe. Trade increased by 7 percent in the first half of this year compared to the same period in 1982, with almost all of the improvement occurring in trade with Communist nations. Moscow's hard currency position has changed little compared with last year, although incomplete Western trade data indicate a 30-percent increase in spending for Western machinery. This growth was offset, however, by a decline in purchases of agricultural products, particularly US grain, which dropped by about 50 percent. [redacted]

Comment: The USSR had stated its intention to increase trade with other Communist states. Much of the increased value of the Soviets' exports to their Communist partners is caused by higher Soviet oil prices, which in turn forced Eastern Europe to provide a greater volume of exports to the USSR. The rise in machinery purchases from Western countries largely reflects Soviet requirements for the gas export pipeline, as well as a rebound to levels recorded before hard currency shortages in 1981 forced spending cutbacks. [redacted]