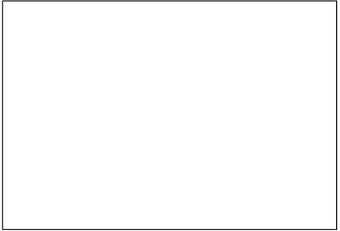




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**USSR: Long-Term Transportation Program**

*A senior Soviet transportation official recently announced that a comprehensive plan for a transportation program through the year 2000 has been developed.* [redacted]

The plan proposes that a new centralized organization oversee all transportation ministries and unify the transport system. The program includes an important role for foreign assistance. Construction of a 250-kilometer coal slurry pipeline in central Siberia to relieve railroad congestion, for example, was singled out as one of the projects that would require help from the West. [redacted]

**Comment:** The transportation program is one of several long-term plans the Soviets have developed to assign resources more efficiently for national economic problem areas. There was no specific mention, however, of an increase in resources slated for the transportation sector. The program is broad and, when approved, will enlarge the authority of First Deputy Premier Aliyev who oversees the transportation sector in the Politburo. [redacted]

The plans for the transportation sector are tied closely to the development of existing and future energy programs. For example, the Soviets intend further development of the rail system in the Tyumen oil and gas producing region, and they plan to invest in developing coal pipeline technology—possibly as early as the 1986-90 period—for which they almost certainly would require Western assistance. [redacted]

[redacted]