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10 DEC 1957

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Assistant Director for Central Reference

**ATTENTION:** Chief, Liaison Division

**SUBJECT:** Comment on Army SRI ID-15-302, re Collection of Soviet Bloc Maps and Mapping Information

**REFERENCE:** Memorandum to AD/RR, from Chief, LD/CR, dated 27 August 1957, subject: "Collection of Soviet Maps and Mapping Information", with enclosures

1. In compliance with your request in the referenced memorandum, the following information is furnished as a basis for reply to Army SRI ID-15-302 of 9 August 1957.

2. The preparation of RD No. C-1157, "Guide Requirements in Soviet Geodesy and Cartography" by the Geography Division, ORR, resulted from detailed study of Soviet geodesy and cartography for more than a decade. The number and variety of items listed in the requirement were designed to provide targets of opportunity to a large number and variety of collectors scattered over many points throughout the world. It will be noted, however, that the "highest priority" (Attachment B of RD C-1157) is assigned to the procurement of postwar Soviet geodetic control and topographic maps, with all of the scales from 1:500,000 to 1:10,000 listed as equally desirable. Whether the 1:100,000 series should be singled out in priority over the 1:50,000 or 1:25,000 is a moot point at this stage of procurement capabilities, as the luxury of multiple choice is not likely to occur to any single collector.

3. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with ACSI working-level personnel in order to draw up a priority for the large-scale series. This would be reflected in a detailed collection guide now in preparation in the Geography Division, which is also to outline the organization of the Soviet geodetic and mapping organizations -- with particular reference to the control mechanisms guarding access to these classified materials and listing the locations and addresses where the Soviet maps are known to be located.

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4. In our judgment, however, the refinement and detailing of requirements represent the lesser of many problems that underlie the successful collection of large-scale Soviet topographic maps. It is our view that Soviet large-scale topographic maps can be obtained, if at all, [redacted] Such a program can best be developed through an IPC examination of the outstanding nature of this requirement and the raising of its priority to a level that would warrant a distinctive operation.

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5. The statement of Army interest and the outstanding need for large-scale Soviet topographic maps, as expressed in SRI ID-15-302, adds justification for the extended research devoted to this problem by ORR. It also provides support to plans for continuing such research, provided [redacted] priority is accorded to this requirement by the IPC mechanism. This assurance of higher priority is necessary to justify the tedious, time-consuming research needed to ferret out the essential details on Soviet personnel and operations in order to support a successful program. To this end, it is requested that ACSI transmit a statement comparable to SRI ID-15-302 to the National Security Agency to support requirements levied by CIA. Further Army support would be needed [redacted] in the collection of photographs and observations [redacted] facilities for use in planning.

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**OTTO E. GUPPE**  
Assistant Director  
Research and Reports

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