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TERU : Chief, Intelligence Information Staff, ORR
: Chief, Economic Research Area
: Chief, Services Division
: Chief, Trade Branch

5 October 1956

Evaluation of U.S. Military Attache Reports

1. Military attache reports from the Sino-Soviet Bloc and from non-Bloc areas dealing with relations with the Bloc have made a significant contribution to our data on Bloc trade and finance. Particularly important have been reports from Middle East attaches on arms deals, with the Bloc. In addition, attache reports have provided considerable detail on trade agreements, credits, conferences, etc. involving Bloc countries. At the same time, they are not nearly as important to our intelligence mission as foreign service or CIA reporting.
2. Attache reporting from and on non-Bloc areas is not pertinent to the intelligence mission of this branch.
3. Joint [redacted] reports are used extensively by this branch, but it is assumed that the sections related to economic activities are prepared by the Foreign Service. The military parts of these reports, however, are a source of data on arms deals involving the Bloc.

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