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Chief, Services Division

14 March 1956

Chief, Trade Branch

Information Requirements on Austria

Although the several hundred industrial and commercial organizations formerly operated by USIA and the SMV were formally returned to Austrian control under the terms of the 1955 treaty, it is possible that the Soviet continue to have an abnormal influence on the Austrian economy. Information is desired on covert Soviet influence in any of the organizations formerly controlled overtly by USIA or the SMV as well as on newly-developed means of exerting influence on other economic organizations.

The questions below should help to guide collection efforts.

1. Have any of the former Soviet advisors been retained in other capacities?
2. Have known Communists or Communist sympathizers assumed control of any of the former USIA or SMV enterprises?
3. Are any Austrian industrial enterprises dependent upon Bloc markets?
4. What new trade promotion activities on the part of Soviet Bloc organizations have developed since mid-1955? (e.g. Have new commercial sections of diplomatic staffs been established or have existing staffs been enlarged?)
5. What Austrian traders deal predominantly in Soviet Bloc products?
6. Is there evidence that the bank Credit-Anstalt is controlled by pro-Communists or being operated to further Soviet interests?
7. What procedures were followed by the Soviet Military Bank or other Soviet banks in accounting for the foreign trade of the Soviet Zone of Austria with the rest of the Bloc? Be as detailed as possible (e.g. what accounts were used, what types of transactions went into various accounts, how prices were established, what exchange rates were used).

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RR/S/TF: 25X1A9a [redacted] (14 March 1956)