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31 December 1958

TO : AD/RR
THRU : Ch/E
Chief, D/S
Chief, S/CST
FROM : [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
SUBJECT : Attendance at the Proceedings of the American Economic Association

This is to express my appreciation for the opportunity of attending the Proceedings of the American Economic Association during 26-29 December. The following points of information are perhaps worthy of your attention.

The papers on the Soviet economy were interesting, but not particularly surprising in content or meaning, and were insufficiently oriented towards interpretation of the latest developments in the relevant areas of investigation. The opportunity of hearing the papers delivered is a less important aspect of attendance, for they may be perused later upon publication of the Proceedings and attendance is too large to permit frequent questionings of the speakers and discussants either during or after the session. Nonetheless, it was a pleasure to witness the very commendable performance of [REDACTED] of 25X1A9a Analysis Division in his discussion and critique of a paper concerning developments in the economy of Communist China. I was most happily impressed with [REDACTED] paper on "Economics by Admonition." Delivered by the author himself the paper sparkled with penetrating wit and a scholarly command of the economic problems examined, a combination rarely found in the writings of competent economists.

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It was a pleasure to see and talk with Professor [REDACTED] again, and a distinct pleasure to have him say that he is impressed both with the quality of ORR reports which he has had the opportunity of reading and with some individuals whom he has met who are working in the Economic Research Area of ORR. Professor [REDACTED] informally 25X1A5a1 mentioned to me that in his next contact with [REDACTED] he would

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mention the possibility of having some unclassified economic research reports delivered by the appropriate ERA analysts to his seminar students of the Soviet economy. It is my belief that this kind of contact, combining the personal and professional approach, could be invaluable as a means of strengthening the respect which many professionals in the academic community hold for the professionals and research product of ERA. By this means the recruiting of promising and qualified graduate economists probably could be made much easier.

In a roundtable discussion of the market for economists I was sorry to see that the Agency lost an excellent opportunity to have one of its representatives speak to the discussants concerning the qualifications the Agency desires and its needs in securing additional professionals for economic research. However, the arrangement of the agenda of the roundtable may have been informal so that there was no certainty that an agency representative would be called upon.

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Finally, I would like to indicate my pleasure at the opportunity of having (along with [REDACTED] Hallister at a meeting of graduates of Columbia University) a discussion of several minutes with [REDACTED], former Chief of the Council of Economic Advisers to the President, concerning the rate of development of the Soviet economy and related questions.

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