

CONFIDENTIAL28th April, 1960COCOM Document No. 3953COORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSIONONUNITED STATES ESTIMATE OF POLAND'S SUPPLIES OF AND
CIVILIAN REQUIREMENTS FOR BORON MATERIALS7th and 25th April, 1960

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy,
Japan, Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM Documents 3881, 3945.

1. The UNITED STATES Delegate said that he could now give the Committee details of the result of the United States reappraisal of Polish supply and civilian requirements of boron materials (Item 1715). His authorities had informed him that, with an increased domestic demand for and consumption of enamelware in the second half of 1959, the Polish economy had required 5,500 tons of boron materials in 1959, and that Polish civilian requirements for 1960 and 1961 were also now placed at 5,500 tons for each year. As of January 1st, 1960, the Polish stocks were estimated at 2,240 tons. If to this figure (2,240) were added the 2,500 tons to be delivered by Turkey (as of January 1st, 1960) under an exception approved by the Committee, Poland would have 4,740 tons available for 1960, and would need an additional 760 tons for the year. The Delegate said that all of the above figures (as well as the 500 tons involved in the United States proposal - Document 3945) were in metric tons. These figures were given in gross terms rather than in B₂O₃ content and different materials from different sources would vary in B₂O₃ content; an exact calculation of supply and requirements in terms of B₂O₃ content would be difficult and would not affect the total estimate of Polish requirements for a strategically significant degree.

2. The Delegate added that, as the Committee would appreciate, his authorities were not attempting to set a precise ceiling on Polish needs but were merely endeavouring to provide a framework within which new exceptions cases could most easily be judged by Member Governments. Nothing could take the place of a review of each case on its own merits so as to ensure that the conditions of the special Polish procedure were fulfilled, i.e. that the export was in itself reasonable and necessary to the Polish civilian economy and that the materials would be consumed in Poland for domestic civilian purposes.

3. The Delegate concluded by saying that he would welcome comments on the figures he had given and would be pleased if other Delegations would be prepared also to contribute the results of their own research.

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4. Replying to questions from the German Delegate and other colleagues, the United States Delegate confirmed that the 500 tons involved in the United States export proposed in COCOM 3945 would, if the shipments were made, be deducted from the figure of 760 tons in calculating the balance required to complete Poland's needs for 1960. The reference to 2,500 tons still to be delivered by Turkey related to an earlier Turkish submission and not to the new request involving 7,500 tons (COCOM 3929) which the Committee had not yet debated. The Delegate undertook to let the Committee have any additional details which he might receive.
5. The FRENCH Delegate thanked his United States colleague for the figures supplied. He noted that it was estimated that Poland's requirements for civilian domestic use amounted to 5,500 tons annually. The French authorities might consider taking this figure as a basis for their appreciation of any cases submitted in the future. They would, however, welcome more specific details than had so far been given. It was unusual to find that a country's economy remained static in successive years.
6. The GERMAN and UNITED KINGDOM Delegates, after expressing their thanks for the analysis supplied by the United States Delegate, stated that they were not in a position at this stage to accept the figure of 5,500 tons.
7. The GERMAN Delegate added that it seemed to be necessary to obtain supplementary information on the details which had enabled the United States authorities to arrive at the figure of 5,500 tons per year. It would be, for instance interesting to know boron requirements for the different uses. The Delegate furthermore felt that production both in Soviet Bloc and Free World countries was increasing. He therefore felt that the figures for yearly boron requirements would also increase. He would transmit the United States Delegate's statement to his authorities, but feared that a useful study would be made only if the United States authorities were ready to release some of the background material as mentioned above.
8. The TURKISH Delegate thanked his United States colleague for the information he had contributed and agreed with him that each case should be studied on its merits, bearing in mind the criteria for application of the special Polish procedure.
9. Replying to his Netherlands colleague, the UNITED STATES Delegate said that a previous United States evaluation of Polish requirements was recorded in COCOM 3295, and that consideration of this matter in Washington was more or less a continuing process. He concurred in the French Delegate's view (shared by the German and Italian Delegates) that a national economy was rarely static, the fact that the United States estimate of Polish requirements was now 500 tons more than the previous estimate demonstrated this; the statement he had just made represented the situation as his authorities saw it at the present time and which, in their view, justified the re-submission of the case dealt with in COCOM 3945. He would of course transmit to Washington the comments made at the present meeting and would provide the additional details received.

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10. The CHAIRMAN reminded Delegates that the United States Delegate had already stated that no attempt was being made to set a precise ceiling. The United States Delegation had contributed this analysis in order to help the Committee. He hoped that other Delegations would be prepared also to make a contribution by studying the facts available in their capitals and comparing the results with those arrived at in Washington.

11. It was agreed that view on the United States submission in COCOM 3945 would be heard on the 25th April.

12. On the 25th April, the UNITED STATES Delegate stated that he had received some further information from his authorities with respect to their estimates of Polish civilian requirements. The estimate of Polish current annual civilian requirements as 5,500 gross metric tons was based on a B₂O₃ content of 46 percent, thus constituting 2,530 metric tons in B₂O₃ content. The additional 760 gross metric tons still needed by Poland for 1960 (paragraph 1, above) could thus be converted (at 46 percent) to 350 metric tons B₂O₃, of which the 500 gross metric tons of refined borax the United States proposed to export (36 percent B₂O₃) would provide 180 metric tons of B₂O₃ content. With respect to the German Delegate's request for an end-use breakdown, the United States estimate of Polish annual requirements at 2,530 metric tons B₂O₃ was considered to be distributed about as follows (B₂O₃ content):

1,300 M.T. to be used in chemical conversion plant for production of borax for use in ceramics industry and in glass works; and of boric acid for use in the pharmaceuticals industry (including talcum and various other products), in the fats and oils industry to prevent oxidation, and in the glassware and enamel industries.

930 M.T. for manufacture of enamelware.

300 M.T. for direct assignment to glass works, the ceramics industry, the detergents industry, and certain other small industries.

2,530 M.T.

The Delegate concluded by saying that he expected to be able to report further by the end of the year, confirming or correcting the above figures on the basis of the results, as of that time, of the more or less continuing United States study of Polish requirements.

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