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8 September 1959

TO: Assistant Director for Research and Reports
FROM: Chief, Economic Research Area
SUBJECT: Activity Report for the Month of August 1959

Support Activities

Intra-Agency Support

1. During August, about half of ORR support for OCI concerned Soviet economic activities in the free world--Afghanistan, Indonesia, UAR, North Africa, Yemen, Ethiopia, and West Africa. Other subjects of articles prepared in ORR and appearing in OCI media included the EuSats half year economic report, crop prospects in the Sino-Soviet Bloc, new Soviet "closed areas," and modification of the Chinese Agricultural Program.

2. Support for the DCI/DDI--limited by the cancellation of several NSC meetings--consisted of contributions to NSC Briefings on China, Afghanistan, and the Near East-UAR. In addition, notes were prepared for DCI use at a Draper Committee luncheon as was a briefing on Soviet Civil Defense for DCI presentation to the US Governors Conference.

3. Chief, D/I, was detailed to support ONE in its production of certain key estimates now in preparation.

4. I/GM support to ONE on NIE 11-8-59, Soviet Capabilities for Strategic Attack through Mid-1964, continued throughout August. The GMAIC, in accordance with recommendations [redacted] has now revised its estimates of probable Soviet ICBM warhead weights and ICBM accuracy. This will require a new set of calculations and findings by ORR as to probable Soviet requirements for ICBMs.

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5. Chief, I/GM, briefed the DCI's ad hoc Special Consultant's Panel [redacted] on current evidence of Soviet ICBM production and deployment. [redacted] This Panel was convened to provide an independent assessment of the status of the Soviet ICBM program in conjunction with national estimates now being drafted. A major conclusion of the Panel was that the continued absence of direct evidence of ICBM production and deployment was alarming, and intensification of collection efforts on these aspects of the program should be vigorously pursued with all available collection means.

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6. At the request of the Special Assistant to the DD/I (Planning), I/GM prepared a special study related to an important aspect of Soviet ICBM deployment. The study, which required a sizeable allocation of branch effort, was concurred in by other DD/I offices and became the basis for an agreed position in the community on this aspect of the ICBM problem.

[Redacted]

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8. M/FP reviewed and commented extensively on an NED/OSI draft paper entitled Estimate of Electric Power Supply to Soviet Atomic Energy Plants in the Urals.

9. M/FP prepared comments for the DD/I on published information concerning the feasibility of transporting natural gas from Algeria to Western Europe by pipeline.

Extra-Agency Support

10. USIB Watch Committee support concerned Sino-Soviet Bloc arms and aid to the Middle East and Africa, tower construction in East Germany, current Chinese economic developments and weather, background on supply-line to the Laotian-Vietnam border, increased Soviet military construction, reports of EuSats unrest, missile deployment in East Germany and newly closed Soviet areas.

[Redacted]

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12. M/AG has prepared material for a briefing to be given to Secretary of Agriculture Benson prior to his proposed visit to Poland and the USSR in September.

13. M/NF prepared a report on the current USSR copper situation with specific details on the Degtyarka copper mines in the Urals, for the use of Vice President Nixon

[Redacted]

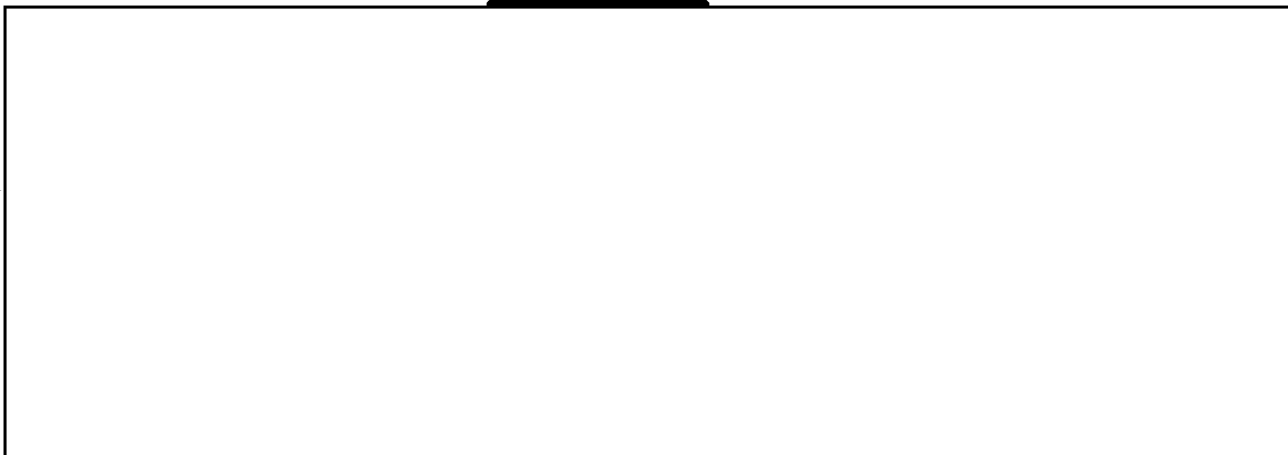
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14. M/FP prepared a memorandum for the Department of State covering background information on the proposed oil pipeline system from the USSR to four European Satellite countries and Klaypeda on the Baltic.

15. M/FP has prepared material for a briefing on hydroelectric power in the USSR to be given to Senators Murray, Moss, and Gruening prior to their proposed three week visit to the USSR beginning in September.

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19. S/TD furnished intelligence support to the Department of Commerce on proposals to export to Bloc destinations technical data related to the production of petrochemical equipment, manufactured gas, high alpha cellulose, spectroscopic and gravimetric equipment, and commercial aircraft.

20. At the request of the American Embassy, S/TD prepared a summary of the role played by a Brussels firm in a 1958 diversion of 1500 tons of Argentine borax.



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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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