A Concept of An Atlas on the USSR

The purpose of an atlas of this nature is to make it easy for people to find out things they ought to know about the Soviet Union. Basically, it will provide information about place (where things are) and make it easy to find them by means of a gazeteer. Beyond that, it will provide insight into the dynamics of relationships, such as people and transport, climate and food, resources and energy, language and government, etc. It will also be a lesson in geography, using pictures to show landscape types. It will provide a look at economic trends through graphs. Maximum use will be made of ADP to analyze data and present it in a meaningful way by means of 3-D cartograms and graphs. Also, World Data Banks I and II will be used to full advantage in producing line drawings ready for the camera, thus reducing the manpower costs of technical construction to far below that expected in an atlas of this type done by traditional means. For example, the railroads on the railroad map would come out of the same data as the railroads on the reference map, but be visually quite different. Other topics, such as boundaries and hydrography, would profit similarly.
Functions of the Members of the Atlas Working Group

1. The function of Ch AWG will be to plan, supervise and manage all aspects of the Atlas, under the general direction of the EAB. He will be responsible for coordinating the work of the unit with other components both inside and outside OBG1 to assure correctness of data and adherence to the guidelines established by the EAB. (See Exhibit C). He will clear through the EAB requests for support to other components in OBG1 and elsewhere, as appropriate.

2. The function of the I.O.’s (Cartography) and Cartographers will be to compile maps and cartograms on topics and at scales established in the working dummy, and to participate as team members in formulating approaches and policy. Normal rules of procedure - such as specifications, type orders, editing, relations with analysts, etc., will apply.

3. The function of the Visual Information Specialist will be to handle the production of non-cartographic material and to provide the Atlas with design continuity.

4. The function of the I.O. (Geography) will be to act as resident geographer who will advise the other members of the unit on the whereabouts and reliability of research materials. He will act as chief researcher, including drafting commentary for captions and text pages. He will recommend to Ch AWG topics which should be contracted to other researchers in OBG1, OER, or elsewhere, and will serve as a conduit for obtaining material and support from those researchers.

5. The function of the Editor will be to review all language in legends, captions and text for clarity, to polish syntax, and to supervise the typing of the manuscript and the preparation of a gazetteer. Though he will be a full member of the team, participating in establishing production goals and guidelines, he will not be occupied full time until production has moved into the final phase.
Function of the Editorial Advisory Board

1. The function of the EAB will be to advise the Chief of the Atlas Working Group (Ch/AWG) on the soundness of concepts developed within the team, and to make suggestions on topics and relative magnitudes of effort to be expended in the production of individual sheets, sections, and the overall project.

2. The EAB would meet as a group periodically to hear progress reports from Ch/AWG, to approve requests for topical and research support external to the AWG and, after production has reached the proof stage, to give go/no go instructions sheet by sheet.

3. The existence of this body would clear away the confusion experienced in the last two similar projects over lines of authority. It would also provide a forum for airing diverse opinions and obtaining a decision from D/BGI at one sitting. An obvious advantage would be in the way it would reflect the interdivisional nature of the product.