

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMIS,

STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION

CIA REP, TREASURY DEPT//INFO FOR [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

ITEM NO: 4 DATE: 2 MARCH 74

SUBJECT: SOVIET HARVEST

REF : DOM-JONES QEZB, 010825Z MAR 74 (EDT), UNCLAS

TODAY'S DOM-JONES REPORT FROM MOSCOW ALLEGING A PLANNED DROP IN GRAIN PRODUCTION FOR 1974 DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE REDUCED THEIR GOALS BECAUSE OF (1) PROBLEMS WITH THEIR WINTER GRAINS, OR (2) EXCESS MOISTURE AND WASTE IN THEIR SUMMER 1973 HARVEST.

THE EXPECTED SIZE OF THE SOVIET GRAIN HARVEST IN 1974 CITED BY TASS--2085.6 MILLION TONS--IS THE SAME FIGURE ANNOUNCED BY MOSCOW LAST DECEMBER AS PART OF THE OVERALL 1974 ANNUAL PLAN. INDEED, TASS POINTED OUT THAT "THE 205.6 MILLION TON FORECAST IS ABOUT THE LEVEL TARGETED FOR THIS YEAR BY THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN"--1971-75. THE 1974 ANNUAL PLAN GOALS PROBABLY WERE FIRMED UP EARLY LAST FALL, WELL BEFORE THE 1973 HARVEST RESULTS

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WERE KNOWN.

BECAUSE OF UNFAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE SOVIET WINTER GRAIN CROP IS LIKELY TO SUSTAIN ABOVE-NORMAL WINTERKILL THIS YEAR. NEVERTHELESS, THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE A "NORMAL" HARVEST IN 1974, BECAUSE (1) AN ABNORMALLY LARGE AREA HAS SOON TO WINTER GRAINS THIS YEAR, AND (2) THE SOVIETS TRADITIONALLY RECOVER WINTERKILL AREAS IN THE SPRING TO RECOVER THEIR LOSSES INsofar AS POSSIBLE. ASSUMING FAVORABLE SPRING AND SUMMER WEATHER, A "NORMAL" HARVEST THIS YEAR WOULD BE ROUGHLY 205 MILLION TONS.

ALL OFFICIAL SOVIET GRAIN PRODUCTION FIGURES INCLUDE MOISTURE AND WASTE. THE 222-MILLION TON FIGURE FOR 1973, AND THE PLANNED 205.60-MILLION TON FIGURE FOR 1974, ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FIGURES CANNOT REPRESENT MOISTURE AND WASTE AS ALLEGED IN THE BOW-JONES COMMENTARY ON THE TASS REPORT. [REDACTED]

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