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(Sector Summary)

POTENTIAL ECONOMIC GAINS OF THE U.S.S.R. RESULTING FROM THE  
ACQUISITION OF CONTINENTAL WESTERN EUROPE

ORDNANCE

1. Conclusions

The Soviet Union through the acquisition of Continental Western Europe could, under optimum conditions acquire:

a. Armored Vehicles (Table 9-A)

An estimated production capacity by mid-1952 of some 8,700 armored vehicles per annum. In addition the Soviet Union would acquire some of the 15,500 armored vehicles now inventoried as in-being in Western Europe.

b. Artillery, 75 mm and above (Table 9-B)

In addition, the Soviet Union would acquire an estimated production capacity by mid-1952 of better than 9,000 artillery pieces per annum. Also the Soviet Union would acquire some of the 20,500 artillery pieces now inventoried as in-being in Western Europe.

c. Explosives (Table 9-C)

The Soviet Union would also acquire an estimated production capacity by mid-1952 of 334,400 metric tons of explosives per annum. While it is impossible to estimate the metric tonnage of explosives in-being in Western Europe which might be acquired by the Soviets, it would unquestionably be a substantial amount.

d. Chemical Warfare Agents (Table 13-B)

As no CW agent stockpiles are in-being in Western Europe, and as production installations for their manufacture are negligible, there would be no potential economic gain for the Soviet Union through the acquisition of Western Europe in the field of CW agents.

2. Discussion

a. Armored Vehicles

It is estimated that the Soviet Union is currently producing 6,000 armored vehicles annually within the U.S.S.R. (a margin of error is recognized in this estimate; maximum probable production may be 7,500) and is

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capable of increasing this production within two years, from already available facilities, to 30,000 per annum. In addition, the Soviet Satellites of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany produce component parts for Soviet-model armored vehicles, i.e., transmissions, differentials, tracks, turrets and armor plate most of which is shipped to the U.S.S.R. for assembly. While it is estimated that Continental Western Europe will attain a production capacity of approximately 8,700 armored vehicles per annum by mid-1952, it is doubtful that the Soviet Union would utilize this production capacity, at least initially, for other than repair and maintenance purposes as it is currently estimated that the U.S.S.R. now has some 60,000 armored vehicles in-being.

b. Artillery

As in the case of armored vehicles, the U.S.S.R. is also estimated to have an impressive inventory of artillery pieces, namely, 110,000 pieces of 76 mm and above. Also, by mid-1952 it is estimated that the U.S.S.R. will have a production capacity of 100,000 pieces of artillery per annum. It is estimated that Continental Western Europe will attain a production capacity of 10,000 pieces of artillery per annum by mid-1952. It seems doubtful, in view of the Soviets apparent policy to limit the production of ordnance, even among their Satellites, that they would implement a vast production program in newly acquired territory. However, in view of their anticipation of a sea-borne invasion, it seems probable that they might direct at least a portion of this capacity to the production of coastal and anti-aircraft guns.

c. Explosives

The estimated production of explosives for Continental Western Europe for 1951 is just short of 200,000 metric tons for all types. It is estimated that by mid-1952 this annual rate of production could be increased to some 205,000 metric tons, while the total production capacity is estimated at 334,400 metric tons. By comparison, it is estimated that the U.S.S.R. alone produced some 200,000 metric tons of explosives during 1951 and will produce at an annual rate of 300,000 metric tons by mid-1952. It is further

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estimated that by mid-1952 the U.S.S.R. will have a production capacity of 750,000 metric tons of explosives. On the basis of the foregoing estimates, the Soviet Union could increase her potential production capacity for explosives by nearly 50 percent through the acquisition of the production capacity of Continental Western Europe.

d. Chemical Warfare Agents

The Soviet Union is estimated as of the end of 1951 to have an inventory of 560,000 metric tons of CW agents. By mid-1952 it is estimated they will have a production capacity of 150,000 metric tons per annum of CW agents. There are no CW plants in Continental Western Europe known to be in production of CW agents except for experimental purposes and the output of these, if placed in full operation, would be almost negligible.

3. Statistical Annex

The following tables are attached hereto:

Table 9-A, Armored Vehicles

Table 9-B, Artillery

Table 9-C, Explosives

Table 13-B, CW Agents

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