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TO : Acting Chief, USSR Division
FROM : Acting Chief, USSR Branch *R. Morgan*
SUBJECT: New Estimate on Probable Soviet Courses of Action

DATE: 19 February 1954

The "one-paper approach" described in this proposal appears to be a profitable one, particularly if the Soviet Bloc rather than the Soviet approach is adopted. Since the advent of the Malenkov regime, developments within the satellites and in Sino-Soviet relations, such as the status of North Korea, have appeared to be of increasing importance and could best be reflected in an estimate covering the entire Bloc.

It is suggested that a category be added to the main outline of the paper as "II. E. Estimate of Vulnerabilities in the Communist World." Such a discussion could go beyond the material developed under "I. Main Factors Affecting Soviet Courses of Action" if it adopted the same approach as the section on the Soviet estimate toward the non-Communist world described in II but turned that view inward. Examples might be "What is the Soviet estimate of future uprisings in the satellites and their effect on the USSR's international position", or "What is the Soviet estimate of the development of China's economic plan and the effect on Sino-Soviet relations." Treatment of Bloc material in this manner might also develop considerations pertinent to treating "III. B. Probable Soviet Course of Action."

A few additions have been noted on the draft terms of reference.

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