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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Assessment of Soviet Textbook "Microclimate and Local Climate" by S A Sapozhnikova

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1. "The book 'Microclimate and Local Climate' by S A Sapozhnikova is written almost purely from the climatological-agricultural point of view. From this viewpoint the book is well written, well organized and demonstrates a high order of scientific competence in this field. We were especially struck by the great mass of observational data contained in the book. There is evidently far greater Soviet interest and activity in this field than there is in America or in the western world.
2. "There is little doubt in our minds that the work reported in the text is directed almost exclusively to agricultural application. We do note, however, reference to national defense as a stimulus for some microclimate work on p 19 of the translation. We would also like to point out that the author, in general, cites with precision, the locality where observations were made. In some portions of the text, however, the location and source of observations are given in very general terms such as 'the steppe zone of the USSR' (p 121) and in the following 34 pages. The observational sites of the wind profiles data cited in Chapter 6 (pp 135-156) seem

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especially vague. We do not know whether this covers up lack of data, or whether the data was accumulated during field expeditions to remote localities, or whether the vagueness is deliberate and due to security.

3. "From the instrumental point of view, the book indicates that the Soviet practicing microclimatologist encounters severe difficulties in electrical temperature measurements, and, in fact, does not use them. The author does point out that electrical temperature measurements are used in the more basic research phases of study. The author cites a study by A A Skvortsov (p 133) which indicates dominant periods of 0.64 - 0.86 seconds in microtemperature oscillations. If this remark is based upon accurate observational data, it indicates that the basic research scientist can, when necessary, make, record and analyze high frequency microtemperature fluctuations in a manner comparable to ours. (Such high frequency oscillations can be made by electrical means only).
4. "The book is written from the practical empirical point of view and therefore little can be said about theoretical development in this field. Again we are impressed with the vast mass of data and evident experience in taking such data. The energy with which the data is used in such problems as optimum forest or tree line strips is commendable."

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