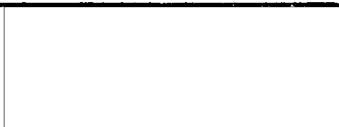


CLASSIFICATION **S E C R E T**

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT



COUNTRY

USSR

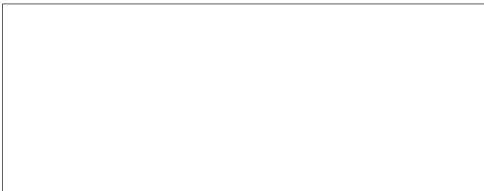
DATE DISTR / *Sept 1954*

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SUBJECT

USSR Requirements for a Learned Degree

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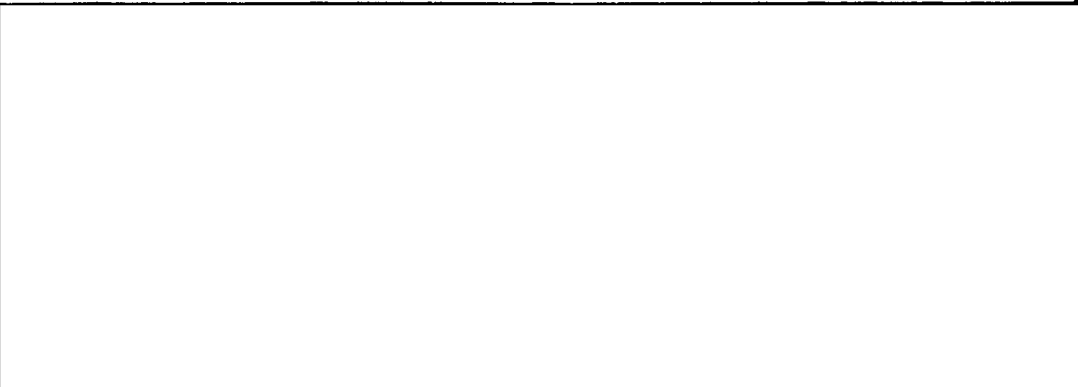
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. This report will discuss the opportunities for acquiring the degrees of Kandidat or Doktor of sciences and the requirements for these degrees.
2. The degree of Kandidat of Sciences can be acquired as follows:
 - (A) By preparing through the aspirantura [aspirants] network (in person or by correspondence) in higher educational institutions, scientific-research institutes, and the Academy of Sciences and its establishments.
 - (B) By independent work of persons who desire to receive the degree of Kandidat. Such independent work is usually done in scientific engineer-technical societies.
3. The degree of Doctor of Sciences can be received by scientists who perform serious scientific work and publish their findings. Such scientific works are examined by special scientific councils with a view to establishing their scientific worth and to determine their authors' eligibility for a doctor's degree. Doctors of Science are trained mainly by the Academies of Science of the USSR and the union republics, branches of the Academy, and scientific institutes and other scientific establishments of the Academy of Sciences through the regular network for doctoral candidates.
4. In addition to establishments of the Academy of Sciences, dissertations for the doctor's degree can be written and defended in governmental scientific establishments and in scientific engineering-technical societies.

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5. Scientific workers in the aspirant system are selected and trained as follows: Every year selections are made for the aspirant system for all higher educational institutions, scientific-research institutes, and the Academy of Sciences with physical attendance (excused from work) at classes, or as correspondence students (without being excused from work).
6. The following conditions have been set for acceptance into the aspirant system:
 - (A) Persons not older than 40, with a completed higher education in a selected field of science, who have a capacity for scientific-research work and who have at least three years' experience in scientific, educational or production work are accepted.
 - (B) All persons entering the aspirant system must take entrance examinations in the following subjects as taught in higher educational institutions:
 - (1) Fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism,
 - (2) One foreign language,
 - (3) The specialized subject.
7. Request for admittance is submitted to the director of the educational or scientific establishment and the following documents are attached:
 - (A) Personal History affidavit, confirmed by place of employment - two copies
 - (B) Autobiography - two copies
 - (C) Character reference from the last place of employment or study - two copies
 - (D) Copy of diploma from a higher educational institution with attachment to diploma - two copies
 - (E) Document on military status - two copies
 - (F) Health certificate - two copies
 - (G) Photograph (without headdress) - three copies
8. Entrance examinations into the aspirant system are usually held between 15 and 30 September and classes commence on 1 October. Persons who are admitted to entrance examinations for the aspirant system are given a month's leave with pay from their place of employment to prepare for and take the examination, while those who are accepted into the aspirant system are released from their employment by the start of the school year.
9. Those who pass entrance examinations are enrolled in the appropriate faculty and granted a government stipend. (In the merchant and river fleet this stipend is 780 rubles monthly). Out-of-towners are given a place in a dormitory.
10. The time necessary for going through the aspirant system, including defence of dissertation, depends on the scientific background of the aspirant, but does not exceed three years. While going through the aspirant system, the student works under the direction of a professor in the selected specialty.
11. The aspirant himself selects the topic for his dissertation. Ordinarily this is done on the recommendation of the professor under whom the work is done. In the merchant and river fleet system, the possible choices for dissertation topics are reviewed by the scientific council of the establishment to see if the topics are timely, and sometimes the topics are proposed to the aspirant already confirmed.
12. When the dissertation has been written and examined by the advisor and the scientific council, a day for defence of the dissertation is designated. Official opponents are appointed by the scientific council. Since dissertations are defended publicly, persons present in addition to the official opponents can ask questions.

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13. From the results of the dissertation defence, a decision is reached as to whether or not to grant the degree of Kandidat of Sciences.
14. Scientists studying in the correspondence school aspirant system are selected and trained in the same way as above. The only difference is that in the process of their training, they must fulfill a number of control assignments and also write their dissertation independently.
15. Scientific workers in the scientific engineer-technical societies (NITO) are trained in the following manner: In every division of NITO, groups are organized to prepare dissertations for a degree of Kandidat of Sciences without attending classes. Such people, even if they are not in the aspirant correspondence school system, can get a degree if their research topic is timely and has economic and technical importance.
16. There is one other means of selection for the aspirant system with attendance in classes. In every higher educational institution, after the defence of graduation research topics or the successful passing of state examinations, several of the graduating students who have had excellent grades and have shown a capacity for research work are selected and if they desire to enter the aspirant system, they do so upon the recommendation of the learned council of the institute.
17. As stated above, the main body of doctors of science are trained through the doctorate system of the USSR and union republic academies of science, their branches, institutes and other establishments of the Academy of Sciences. Persons who are working on timely and important research topics in industrial organizations, higher educational institutions, specialized scientific research institutes and other organizations are temporarily attached to the Academy of Sciences for the writing and defence of a doctor's dissertation.
18. In addition, members of scientific engineer-technical societies (NITO) organize groups for the writing and defence of dissertations for a doctor's degree.
19. No person can work for a doctor's degree unless he already has the degree of Kandidat of sciences or the title of professor.
20. In 1953, 260 persons were attached to the Academy of Sciences to work on their doctor's dissertations.

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