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Requests

OLC #78-1637

CIA VS. WORLD FOOD ESTIMATES

Question: USDA and CIA, as well, have often been wrong on their estimates of crop productions, etc. Provide for the record an analysis showing the CIA estimates and projections that correspond to projections made by either the World Food Board or its USDA predecessors during the past three years. Highlight the differences in the estimates, and show what the actuals were so that the Committee can determine who has made the best estimates during this time period.

[The information follows:]

Agency Soviet Grain Crop Estimates

Months	1974		1975		1976		1977	
	USDA	CIA	USDA	CIA	USDA	CIA	USDA	CIA
	Million Metric Tons							
April								
May								
June	205		200		190		215	
July	205		195		195		225	
August	210		180		195		220	
September ..	205		175		205		220	
October	200		160		215		215	
Official Soviet Crop Figure	195.7		140.1		223.8		195.5	

In assessing the above estimates, it should be noted that--through the USDA Task Force on the USSR that has now been in existence about five years, there is a much improved interchange of information and cooperation regarding the Soviet crop.

Due to the classified nature of the information, the CIA estimates should be obtained directly from the CIA.

Ed:

Plz. provide figures requested. Why would they be classified? Can an unclassified version be obtained?

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