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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

**INFORMATION REPORT**50X1-HUM *b*

COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Production, Purchase, and Consumption of Rubber by the USSR

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1. *b* the current annual production of rubber within the Soviet Union as follows:

Synthetic rubber	225,000 tons
Reclaimed rubber	40,000 tons
Natural rubber	4,000 tons

Total 269,000 tons

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*b* Comment: The figures for reclaimed and natural rubber are intermediate to the best available figures for 1947 production and the 1950 plan for 1950. The figure for synthetic rubber, however, exceeds even the 1950 plan considerably.) 50X1-HUM

2. Soviet imports of rubber are estimated as follows:

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a. *b* 127,000 tons from January to 31 October 1948. No definite information is yet available for the remainder of the year.

b. *b* 3,000 tons purchased for the remainder of 1948, with forward purchases at the rate of 1,000 tons per month during 1949, up to a total of 12,000 tons in all. 50X1-HUM

c. *b*: The Soviets are *b* willing to buy the whole crop for 1949 and what may remain of the 1948 crop.

*b* Comment: This figure appears to be a little low in comparison with the figure for 1946), of which less than 50,000 tons is of the best quality. The Soviets are *b* 50X1-HUM

*b* interested in buying only the best quality and it is considered unlikely that they will be able to obtain more than 2,000 tons in 1948, for delivery in December. They may be able to make forward purchases of 2,000 tons per month up to mid-1949. 50X1-HUM

d. *b*: Negotiations are now proceeding *b* for 18,000 tons. 50X1-HUM

e. There is some talk of black market purchases in China, *b*

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3. The estimated consumption of the Soviet tire industry alone during 1948 is 160,000 tons of synthetic rubber and 40,000 tons of natural rubber. No estimate is possible for other rubber-consuming industries. It is believed that all synthetic rubber is being processed and that other industries possibly use the balance of 65,000 tons (left after tire consumption), together with an unknown quantity of natural and reclaimed rubber admixed.
4. Purchases of natural rubber for 1948 appear to be between 130,000 and 140,000 tons. Estimated requirements of natural rubber are 70,000 tons for manufactured products and for mixing with synthetic rubber and 20,000 tons to make up stocks "in pipe line" [redacted] Comment: Current reserves for use in the near future or in transit to factories?).
5. If these estimates are correct, 1948 imports will exceed requirements by 40,000 to 50,000 tons. This assumes, however, a proportion of natural to synthetic rubber which is low in comparison with the practice in other countries and is likely to produce short-life truck and aircraft tires. The Soviets' raw rubber position appears to be such that if they wish they can now build stockpiles, and it seems fair to assume that they may have started doing this.
6. In the event that supplies [redacted] are not available, the Soviets might be able to obtain considerable quantities of natural rubber [redacted]

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