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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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Chief, Liaison Division, OCR

Assistant Director for Research and Reports

Department of Commerce Request of 26 April 1957 for Information
on Soviet Use of Tallow

1. The following information is provided by OCR for your
use in preparation of a response to the subject inquiry:

a. The requester's comments on the use of inedible
tallow in the Soviet Bloc for the production of nitroglycerine,
as reported in Schedule B No. 085700 are very interesting.

b. There is a shortage in the USSR of nonedible fats,
such as tallow, which necessitates the use of edible fats
in the manufacture of soap. The basic purpose underlying
the Soviet import of tallow appears to be the release of
these edible fats for consumption as food rather than the
augmentation of the glycerine supply. This thesis is sup-
ported by analyses of Soviet soap samples which show a
relatively high glycerine content, indicating that more
glycerine could be recovered if the demand for this product
so dictated.

c. In our opinion, therefore, the import of tallow by
the USSR probably will not result in an increase of glycerine
production, and it is unlikely that this import is related to
the production of nitroglycerine.

Assistant Director

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