

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4686
1999

~~TOP SECRET~~

D
R
A
F
T

19 August 1957

Analysts

~~Small Grain Harvest Prospects, USSR, 1957~~

Preliminary indications are that the 1957 USSR grain harvest will be considerably less than in 1956, despite an increase in grain area of 3.7 million acres. Weather data, plus trip reports

Moscow, indicate that the grain crop area in the Soviet Union has been affected by varying degrees of drought. (See Map). During the period 1-15 August officers observed drought

conditions in eastern Ukraine and parts of the North Caucasus and reported near crop failure in parts of the lower and middle Volga regions. Drought conditions had been previously reported in southern Ukraine and portions of the New Lands area.

It is significant that the press has made few claims of high yields during the current harvesting campaign. The emphasis has been on the early harvest, the speed of its completion, and the extent to

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TBD SECRET~~

which the two-stage method of harvesting has been used.

the grain situation has

now apparently become sufficiently alarming to warrant top-level

concern.

Current and very tentative estimates of the 1957 grain crop, the

harvest of which is not yet completed, indicates a production of

around 100 million tons. This compares with a 1956 production of

115 million tons and a production of 103 million tons in 1955.

of this size
A grain crop of 100 million tons would make the unrealistic

Khrushchev program of catching up with the U. S. in per capita milk

and meat production even less attainable. However, stocks are believed

to be of sufficient size so that a reduction in output of 15 million

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TBD SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~TOP SECRET~~

tons this year need not affect current consumption patterns.

It is too early at this time to say precisely what effect the drought will have on late season food crops such as potatoes and sugar beets, although it should be noted that the grain areas most affected by the drought are not the primary potato and sugar beet areas.

The cotton crop, concentrated in the Central Asian republics, was reported to have been adversely affected by a cold and wet spring which necessitated much replanting, but since practically all of the cotton area is irrigated drought would have little effect. There is no indication of a shortage of irrigation water in the cotton areas.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~