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Mr. John P. O'Leary
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

This is in answer to your letter of 24 January 1964 requesting information on Soviet plans for future oil exports to non-Bloc destinations. To our knowledge the Soviet Union has no long-term quantitative plan for petroleum exports. Annual Soviet exports of crude oil and products are dictated by supply, internal requirements and market opportunities.

Based on our knowledge of the internal supply and demand characteristics of the Soviet Bloc oil industry we have estimated the amount of surplus oil which may be available for export to non-Bloc countries for 1965 and 1970. While these figures represent our current estimate of the probable maximum petroleum export capability of the Bloc in 1965 and 1970 they are of course subject to change, particularly the estimate for 1970, as more information becomes available.

A great deal of useful information on this subject is available in the 1962 National Petroleum Council report, Impact of Oil Exports from the Soviet Bloc. That report, which includes forecasts to 1965, is now being revised.

For your information the attached informal study, which we prepared for the Department of State early in January, represents a brief current survey of the Soviet petroleum industry including preliminary figures for 1970.

We have several reports in process which are scheduled for publication in the near future. In particular you will probably find the following reports useful:

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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- (1) The Soviet Oil Offensive in 1963.
- (2) Future Prospects for Soviet Bloc Trade in Petroleum
- (3) Trends and Plans in the Soviet Refinery Industry.

Copies of our published reports on petroleum are supplied regularly to the Office of Oil and Gas. We shall be glad to see that your office also receives copies. These reports are normally classified but, generally, we can supply pertinent information for unclassified use if so requested.

The attached report and those to be published shortly will answer, we think, a good many of your current questions. We will be glad to confer with you on your further requirements at any time and to answer any specific requirements that you may have.

Sincerely,

Assistant Director

Attachment

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