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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

QUARTERLY ESTIMATE OF THE PRODUCTION OF AIRCRAFT
IN THE SINO-SOVIET BLOC
JULY-SEPTEMBER 1955

CIA/RR IM-417

25 November 1955

~~WARNING~~

~~THIS MATERIAL CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE
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FOREWORD

This publication is the second in a series to be issued on a quarterly basis summarizing production of aircraft in the Sino-Soviet Bloc. The estimates presented are intended to supersede those contained in previous CIA reports and are published to satisfy consumer requests for the most recent estimates of aircraft production in the Bloc. Both the methodology and the technical terms employed in previous reports have been utilized in the present report. Changes in the estimates have resulted from later information and analysis rather than from any methodological change. No interagency coordination has been attempted,

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QUARTERLY ESTIMATE OF THE PRODUCTION OF AIRCRAFT
IN THE SINO-SOVIET BLOC
JULY-SEPTEMBER 1955*

1. Trends in Production.

From the second to the third quarter of 1955 the number of aircraft produced in the Sino-Soviet Bloc declined 3.4 percent,** or somewhat less than the 4.2-percent decline in the number of aircraft produced in the preceding quarter. The decline was principally in the production of fighter aircraft in the USSR, where the production of the Fresco (MIG-17) is being replaced by the production of later models. Fifty percent of the aircraft produced were combat types.

In contrast to the reduction in numbers of aircraft produced from the second to the third quarter of 1955, the production of aircraft in terms of airframe weight increased 1.8 percent, compared with an increase in airframe weight of 1.4 percent in the preceding quarter. This increase results from the trend toward greater weight in modern aircraft.

2. Soviet Production.

The USSR produces most of the aircraft manufactured in the Sino-Soviet Bloc. Of the 2,278 aircraft produced in the third quarter of 1955, 1,967 aircraft, or over 86 percent, were produced in the USSR.*** On the basis of airframe weight, 94 percent of the total production of aircraft in the Bloc took place in the USSR. The difference between the Soviet share of production on a weight basis as opposed to a unit basis is explained by the production of relatively lighter aircraft by the European Satellites.

* The estimates and conclusions contained in this memorandum represent the best judgment of ORR as of 15 October 1955.

** Estimated production of aircraft in the Sino-Soviet Bloc from 1953 through the third quarter of 1955, by number, is given in Table 1, p. 3, below, and by airframe weight, in Table 2, p. 4, below.

*** Production of aircraft in the USSR from 1953 through the third quarter of 1955, by number, is given in Table 3, p. 5, below, and by airframe weight, in Table 4, p. 6, below.

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The estimate for the production of medium bombers (Badgers) in the USSR has been lowered

Despite the lowered estimate, in the third quarter of 1955 the total production of bombers still constituted over 51 percent of the Soviet production of aircraft, by weight.

3. Satellite Production.

In the third quarter of 1955 the European Satellites produced 311 aircraft, or 14 percent of the total production of aircraft in the Sino-Soviet Bloc.* There is still no indication that Communist China or the Asiatic Satellites are producing aircraft. Czechoslovakia is still the largest producer among the Satellites, accounting for 71 percent of the total Satellite production of aircraft, in numbers. The decrease in Czechoslovak production in the third quarter of 1955 is explained by the termination of production of the Beast (IL-10). It is not yet known what model will be produced in place of the Beast.

The estimate for the production of jet fighters (Fagots) in Poland was increased substantially.

In the revised^a estimate, production of Fagots in Poland is greater than that in Czechoslovakia.

* Production of aircraft in the European Satellites from 1953 through the third quarter of 1955, by number, is given in Table 5, p. 7, below, and by airframe weight, in Table 6, p. 8, below.

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Table 1

Estimated Production of Aircraft in the Sino-Soviet Bloc, by Number
1953 through Third Quarter 1955

Type of Aircraft	Units				
	1953	1954	1955		
			1st Quarter	2d Quarter	3d Quarter
Jet bomber					
Heavy	0	16	13	17	22
Medium	12	157	71	78	81
Light	1,384	1,288	324	324	324
Piston bomber					
Medium	134	0	0	0	0
Jet fighter	4,067	4,496	1,001	885	812
Ground attack	457	207	30	30	0
Transport	1,687	1,681	240	251	261
Trainer					
Jet	522	1,157	336	336	336
Piston	877	1,077	284	291	291
Others <u>a/</u>	703	794	164	147	151
Total	<u>9,843</u>	<u>10,873</u>	<u>2,463</u>	<u>2,359</u>	<u>2,278</u>

a. Helicopters, gliders, seaplanes, and utility aircraft.

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Table 2

Estimated Production of Aircraft in the Sino-Soviet Bloc, by Weight
1953 through Third Quarter 1955

Thousand Pounds of Airframe Weight ^{a/}

Type of Aircraft	1953	1954	1955		
			1st Quarter	2d Quarter	3d Quarter
Jet bomber					
Heavy	0	1,800	1,460	1,910	2,480
Medium	613	8,010	3,620	3,985	4,135
Light	25,410	23,580	5,896	5,896	5,896
Piston bomber					
Medium	7,010	0	0	0	0
Jet fighter	29,349	32,361	7,252	6,700	6,450
Ground attack	3,700	1,676	243	243	0
Transport	9,281	9,860	1,908	2,109	2,272
Trainer					
Jet	3,348	8,796	2,513	2,513	2,513
Piston	936	1,394	435	455	454
Others ^{b/}	6,971	8,669	1,790	1,654	1,725
Total	<u>86,618</u>	<u>96,146</u>	<u>25,117</u>	<u>25,465</u>	<u>25,925</u>

a. These figures include production of spare parts.
b. Helicopters, gliders, seaplanes, and utility aircraft.

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Table 3

Estimated Production of Aircraft in the USSR, by Number
1953 through Third Quarter 1955

Type of Aircraft	Units				
	1953	1954	1955		
			1st Quarter	2d Quarter	3d Quarter
Jet bomber					
Heavy	0	16	13	17	22
Medium	12	157	71	78	81
Light	1,384	1,288	324	324	324
Piston bomber					
Medium	134	0	0	0	0
Jet fighter	3,769	3,956	858	737	664
Transport	1,662	1,681	239	249	257
Trainer					
Jet	522	1,068	267	267	267
Piston	684	828	207	207	207
Others a/	683	770	158	141	145
Total	<u>8,850</u>	<u>9,764</u>	<u>2,137</u>	<u>2,020</u>	<u>1,967</u>

a. Helicopters, gliders, and seaplanes.

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Table 4

Estimated Production of Aircraft in the USSR, by Weight
1953 through Third Quarter 1955

Thousand Pounds of Airframe Weight ^{a/}

Type of Aircraft	1953	1954	1955		
			1st Quarter	2d Quarter	3d Quarter
Jet bomber					
Heavy	0	1,800	1,460	1,910	2,480
Medium	613	8,010	3,620	3,985	4,135
Light	25,410	23,580	5,896	5,896	5,896
Piston bomber					
Medium	7,010	0	0	0	0
Jet fighter	27,552	29,103	6,389	5,807	5,557
Transport	9,240	9,860	1,906	2,106	2,266
Trainer					
Jet	3,348	8,225	2,071	2,071	2,071
Piston	727	960	259	259	259
Others ^{b/}	6,957	8,652	1,786	1,650	1,721
Total	<u>80,857</u>	<u>90,190</u>	<u>23,387</u>	<u>23,684</u>	<u>24,385</u>

a. These figures include the production of spare parts.

b. Helicopters, gliders, and seaplanes.

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Table 5

Estimated Production of Aircraft in the European Satellites, by Number
1953 through Third Quarter 1955

Country	Type of Aircraft	1953	1954	1955		
				1st Quarter	2d Quarter	3d Quarter
Czechoslovakia	Jet fighter	294	394	69	69	69
	Ground attack	457	207	30	30	0
	Jet trainer	0	89	69	69	69
	Piston trainer	66	165	71	78	78
	Small transport	25	0	1	2	4
Total		<u>842</u>	<u>855</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>248</u>	<u>220</u>
Poland	Jet fighter	4	146	74	79	79
	Piston trainer	0	60	0	0	0
Total		<u>4</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>79</u>
Bulgaria	Piston trainer	103	0	0	0	0
Rumania	Piston trainer	24	24	6	6	6
Hungary	Utility	20	24	6	6	6
Grand total		<u>993</u>	<u>1,109</u>	<u>326</u>	<u>339</u>	<u>311</u>

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Table 6

Estimated Production of Aircraft in the European Satellites, by Weight
1953 through Third Quarter 1955

Country	Type of Aircraft	1953	1954	1955		
				1st Quarter	2d Quarter	3d Quarter
Czechoslovakia	Jet fighter	1,775	2,380	417	417	417
	Ground attack	3,700	1,676	243	243	0
	Jet trainer	0	571	442	442	442
	Piston trainer	72	349	171	190	190
	Small transport	41	0	2	3	6
Total		<u>5,588</u>	<u>4,976</u>	<u>1,275</u>	<u>1,295</u>	<u>1,055</u>
Poland	Jet fighter	22	878	446	476	476
	Piston trainer	0	64	0	0	0
Total		<u>22</u>	<u>942</u>	<u>446</u>	<u>476</u>	<u>476</u>
Bulgaria	Piston trainer	116	0	0	0	0
Rumania	Piston trainer	21	21	5	6	5
Hungary	Utility	14	17	4	4	4
Grand total		<u>5,761</u>	<u>5,956</u>	<u>1,730</u>	<u>1,781</u>	<u>1,540</u>

a. These figures include production of spare parts.

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