

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Comment by Intelligence Advisory Group on Exchanges (IGE),
dated September 18, 1974

Subject: Water Resources Cooperative Area: Proposed
Topics for Inclusion in Projects 1 and 4

Project 1 - Planning, Utilization and Management

1. Groundwater Resources

a. We think that an exchange of ground water technology with the Soviets could be a net gain for the US and in any case would not result in a loss of any strategic technology. We are under the impression that the Soviets are ahead of the United States in groundwater research, probably because their needs in this field are greater.

b. The Soviet Union has of necessity engaged in intensive research on the use of arid and semi-arid lands. An important part of this research and development program is the utilization of underground waters.

c. Many articles have appeared on Soviet groundwater research in such Soviet journals as Problemy Osvoyeniya Pustyn' (Problems of Desert Development) published in Turkmenistan since 1967. The Soviets claim that large fresh water lenses underlie the vast deserts of Soviet Central Asia and feel that if cheap methods of tapping these reserves are found, agricultural production in these areas can be significantly increased. Soviet scientists have developed methods used in the Kara Kum Desert of Turkmenistan for pumping slightly saline underground water to the surface and mixing it with fresh surface water collected in huge water catchment basins. This water is fed to sheep and cattle.

(b) (1)
(b) (3)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUN 2004

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2. Fishery Structures

We foresee no significant technological loss in the proposed exchange on fishery structures. However, we question the accuracy of the statements made in the proposal that "knowledge as to USSR state of the art is very limited" in this field, and "therefore, benefits to the United States are unknown."

Information from a fisheries specialist who visited the Soviet Union as part of a water resources exchange delegation indicates that USSR technology in this field is at a low level and consists, aside from experiments and intentions, largely of improvised solutions. The report quite fully describes fishery structure technology on the Lower Volga and Don Rivers, two of the most important areas in the USSR for this type of technology. Therefore, US experts have probably seen the best the Soviets have developed.

Project 4 - Plastics in Construction

Waterproofing of joints - No comment.

Polymer concrete - No comment.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~