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CATOMIC Positive Intelligence Production

1 April 1972 - 30 April 1973

1. Summary. Though positive intelligence production is a by-product of the CATOMIC project, 10 reports from CATOMIC agents were disseminated to Headquarters customers during the period of review. These reports provided background information on various aspects of Soviet-West German relations. A substantial improvement in the level of positive intelligence reporting by CATOMIC is not indicated by available information. None of the agents now have continuing and direct access to important, reportable intelligence. Nevertheless, two of these agents--CATOMIC-15, an economist, and CATOMIC-38, an astrophysicist--are distinguished in their specialities and appear to have some potential as intelligence reporters if cooperation increases between West Germans and Soviets.

2. Statistics. During the period 1 April 1972 - 30 April 1973, 14 reports were submitted from CATOMIC agents; 10 were disseminated. Value ratings: V - 3; I - 5; O - 1; -V - 1. SB Division took action on 4 reports; this division does not assign ratings. Breakdown by agent:

CATOMIC-6: 1 dissemination (SB action)
CATOMIC-14: 2 disseminations; 2 rejected reports
(I - 1; others, SB action)
CATOMIC-15: 2 disseminations (both grade I);
1 rejected (grade O)
CATOMIC-35: 1 dissemination (grade V)
CATOMIC-38: 1 dissemination (grade I)
CATOMIC-41: 1 rejected report (grade -V)
CATOMIC-47: 1 dissemination (grade V)
CATOMIC-55: 2 disseminations (V - 1; I - 1)

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3. CATOMIC-14, an employee of a producer of commercial television features, provided a Soviet view of the West German political scene and of the European Community based on CATOMIC-14's conversation with Moscow New Times correspondent in Bonn, Lev Bezymenskiy. Bezymenskiy has a record of being outspoken and appears to be well connected at responsible Soviet levels. When his conversation partner is directly associated with influential West German political figures, his observations are noteworthy. His remarks to CATOMIC-14, however, carry less weight and must reflect little but the propaganda line. CATOMIC-14 also reported a summary of Wolff von Amerongen's speech to a group of visiting Soviet economists in late March 1973. This report was worth recording for background on attitudes of an identifiable group of West German industrialists toward trade with the Soviet Union.

4. A report from CATOMIC-55, an official interpreter in the FRG Foreign Office, based on a first-hand conversation with Willy Brandt suggested that Soviet Party Chief Brezhnev might go to Munich to meet unofficially with Brandt during the Olympics. Although this did not happen, it was a good indication of a significant possibility.

5. CATOMIC-6, a West German free-lance journalist, reported a Soviet correspondent's unwillingness to appear on a Western television panel discussion program on Vietnam prior to President Nixon's visit to Moscow. This was of topical interest as it indicated the Soviets did not want to agitate points of contention before the meeting.

6. A report which combined information from CATOMIC-47 (a West German real estate broker with business among diplomats) and from CAFISSION indicated Soviet plans for the establishment of a Soveksportfilm office in Bonn; this report suggested the intensity of Soviet interest in opening the office to support their operations around Bonn.

7. CATOMIC-35, a university student, noted the assignment of a new Soviet Embassy official to assume responsibility for Soviet Friendship Society matters, which bestowed additional status on the Society.

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8. CATOMIC-38, an astrophysicist associated with Max Planck Institute, reported the possible German-Soviet cooperation in a joint observation program involving Soviet radio-telescopes and the Max Planck Institute. This report had minor importance but suggested future value of CATOMIC-38 as a reporter if a more significant level Soviet-West German scientific cooperation is achieved.

9. CATOMIC-15, a political scientist employed in a research institute in Bonn, submitted a summary of the lecture of L. G. Chodov, a Soviet economist, on Soviet investment policies which was a straightforward, though unsurprising, presentation of the Soviet situation. He also reported background intelligence on a meeting between members of the Italian Communist Party and West German officials and academicians. As a bonus, CATOMIC-15 gave us an advance copy of his excellent and useful publication on the legal basis and the political and economic significance of East-West German trade. This overt study indicates CATOMIC-15's high professional qualifications and suggests that as he continues to develop he may assume a position to report authoritatively on FRG economic policy.

10. As a by-product of the operation, reporting from CATOMIC agents provided background information on West German-Soviet relations in the past year. The agents are available to service spot, low-level requirements and to continue reporting occasional helpful items. Possibilities for future collection of significant intelligence on a regular basis is limited, however, by the low-level and narrow target-access of the CATOMIC agents. CATOMIC-38 and CATOMIC-15 appear to be exceptional among these agents and may have potential as intelligence reporters if there is a material increase in West German-Soviet cooperative ventures within their specialties. Otherwise, no change in the quality and quantity of CATOMIC reporting is anticipated.

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