

ER 8-2923

22 May 1956

**Dr. Charles S. Sheldon**  
**Joint Committee on Economic Report**  
**Room 23B**  
**Senate Office Building**  
**Washington, D. C.**

**Dear Doctor Sheldon:**

**Attached hereto is the material we discussed  
over the phone.**

**Sincerely yours,**

**Norman S. Paul**  
**Legislative Counsel**

**Attachment**

IG:NSP:fm

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2 - Leg. Counsel ✓

Executive Registry  
8-2875

21 MAY 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT:           Unclassified Information on the Soviet Watch  
                          Industry

1. In accordance with your oral request of 17 May, I am enclosing unclassified information which we have taken from our files on Soviet production of watches and clocks. Additional sources of information are also given which can be exploited by staff members of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report.

2. We have not performed any classified research concerned with the measurement of the strategic importance of this industry to the Soviets and are unaware of any research performed by other agencies.



OTTO E. GUTHE  
Assistant Director  
Research and Reports

Enclosure:  
Subject Information

STAT

8-28-5

21 MAY 1956

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**OTTO E. GUTHE**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Research and Reports**

**Enclosure:**  
**Subject Information**

STAT

Soviet Watch and Clock Production1. ProductionProduction of Watches and Clocks in the USSR

<u>Year</u>	<u>Production (million units)</u>
1938	1.1
1940	2.6
1948	3.1
1949	6.0
1950	7.6
1951	9.6
1952	10.0
1953	13
1954	16
1955	20
1960 (Plan)	33.6

Source: Available from Pravda, Izvestia, or  
Current Digest of the Soviet Press.

2. Product Mixa. 1941 Plan

All watches		<u>30%</u>
Pocket watches	20%	
Wrist watches	10%	
All clocks		<u>70%</u>
Pendulum-type wall clocks	47%	
Alarm clocks	18%	
Table clocks	5%	
		<u>100%</u>

## b. 1954 and 1955 Plans

	<u>1954 Plan</u>	<u>1955 Plan</u>
Total watch and clock production	16 million (100%)	22 million (100%)
Wrist watch production	5.6 million (35%)	7.1 million (32%)
Other	10.4 million (65%)	14.9 million (68%)

3. Technology

Technical examination of Soviet watches by Western watchmakers indicates a generally lower level of manufacturing technology in the USSR than is customary in the watch industries of the Western countries. There has been, however, a considerable and continuing improvement since World War II. Inequalities consist generally of refinements of design and workmanship more effecting durability and probable life of the commodity than its time keeping qualities.

4. Additional sources

For additional information on 1954-55 Plans see Soviet decree on consumer goods published in Pravda and Izvestia, 28 October 1953. A translation of this information is available in the Current Digest of the Soviet Press, Vol. V, No. 42, 2 December 1953, Pg. 9.

Information on types and prices of watches and clocks sold in the USSR is available in State Department despatches on consumer goods, 1954 to date.

The New York Times (7 April 1956, 24:5) recently carried a report on the Russian watch industry based upon an article in the Swiss Trade Journal, Die Schweizer Uhr. The Times item stated that Swiss watch technicians were highly impressed with the quality of the Russian "Victory" wrist watch.