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Chief, St/I/R (Attn: [REDACTED])

17 October 56

THRU : Chief, D/S

Acting Chief, S/CST

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Specific requirement of S/CST from Source of [REDACTED]
(OHR 10189)

1. It is reported that during the First Five Year Plan, building materials were of poor quality and in short supply, and that costs of building materials rose substantially during that period. Specific information is desired on the following:

- a. Types, grades and quality of cement produced and annual production
- b. Actual unit costs (i.e. cost per cubic meter, per ton, etc.) and trends in unit costs of cement (by grade if possible), bricks, lumber of various types, reinforcing steel, steel structurals, and other building materials
- c. Trends in costs of construction of specific types of structures, e.g. houses or apartments of a given size

2. The sudden growth of the construction industry during the First Five Year Plan resulted in a shortage of construction labor, particularly skilled labor. A serious defect has been the rapid turnover of construction labor caused by discontent with working and living conditions, a lack of uniformity in wages for similar types of work, and the seasonal nature of construction. Information is desired on the following questions:

- a. Size of the construction labor force, percentage of skilled workers, and the distribution of labor between the state and private sectors of the construction industry
- b. Trends in average wages for the various types of skilled workers (bricklayers, masons, carpenters, plumbers, machine operators, etc.) and of unskilled workers
- c. Comparison of wages in construction with those in other sectors of industry for jobs requiring a similar degree of skill

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SUBJECT: Specific requirement of S/CST from Sources of [REDACTED]
(ORR 10189)

3. Hungary, like the other satellites, has placed great emphasis on the development of technology in construction. Production of pre-fabricated reinforced concrete building structures increased 35 fold from 1949 to 1952. Because of the small base existing in 1949, however, production in absolute terms is still small. Information is desired on the following:

- a. Current production and planned future production of pre-fabricated building elements, particularly reinforced concrete sections
- b. Unit costs of prefabricated building sections
- c. Extent of current use of prefabricated elements in housing, agricultural, and industrial construction
- d. To what extent are construction costs, completion time, and amount of labor required for specific types of structures reduced by substituting the use of prefabricated elements for standard methods of construction

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[REDACTED]

Distribution:

Orig. & 2 -St/I
1 -D/S
2 -S/CST

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ORR/S/CST [REDACTED] 4597 (17 Oct 56)

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