25 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: IRA/State Study of Soviet Bloc Language and Area Training Program
for Asia, Africa, and Latin America

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1. [redacted] I conferred on 21 April with Mr. Crichton (IRA)
on the above study. [redacted] indicated the interest of CIA and other
potential users in the study and observed that it would fill part of a
critical intelligence gap.

2. Mr. Crichton estimated that the study would be more or less
complete sometime in June. There followed a discussion of available
sources. All of those present were fairly certain that no CIA materials
bearing on the problem were available other than those to which IRA/State
would ordinarily have access. It was agreed that any such materials which
came to our attention would promptly be made available to Mr. Crichton.

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3. [redacted] and I were given copies of a proposed outline for the
study. Examination of the detailed outline suggests that the study may
be confined to institutions of higher learning. Presumably, this will
cover engineering graduates working on Bloc projects in the underdeveloped
countries. Such coverage seems to leave for later study the more pressing
questions relating to the language and area training (if any) given the
legion of technicians and semi-skilled workers who do not graduate from
institutions of higher learning. From this group are selected the vast
majority of Bloc personnel working on economic development projects in
the underdeveloped countries. Nonetheless, even with such a limitation,
the present study would cast welcome light on a dark area of our knowledge
in this critical field.

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4. Both [redacted] and I expect to discuss this point with Mr.
Crichton at an early opportunity. Further than this, we expect to review
the completed study along with other interested members of the EIC Working
Group concerned. At that time we expect to determine in what order of
priority additional inquiries in this field ought to be conducted by those
intelligence organizations with the capabilities for such a research effort.

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