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17 Nov 1958

18 November 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Unclassified Use of Information Contained
in Memorandum to DCI of 16 November 1958,
Subject: Khrushchev's Theses on the Seven-
Year Soviet Economic Plan (1959-65)

1. Mr. Philip Areeda of the White House Staff telephoned this morning and asked whether the contents of the subject memorandum, of which the White House had received copies, could be declassified for public use. He explained that it was expected that the President would be queried concerning his reaction to the Soviet Seven-Year Plan theses and the subject memorandum, which appraises the "theses," contains information which would be useful in any statement the President might care to make. I told Mr. Areeda that I would seek authorization for such declassification and that I would phone him back today.

2. After consultation with ERA/RR divisions and branches who contributed to the subject memorandum, it was concluded that public use of the substance of the memorandum would be appropriate providing no attribution to the Agency were to be given. The data contained in the memorandum come entirely from open sources, and the calculations behind the estimates included in it could be made by any competent student of the Soviet economy who had access both to the theses and to other Soviet public releases. On the other hand, the statistical tables which were appended to the memorandum included, in the case of a few figures, some classified information. Moreover, the tables had been hastily compiled and concluded some non-official estimates of U.S. production, as well as a few arithmetical errors, and for these reasons it was considered that the tables should not be declassified.

3. I telephoned Mr. Areeda this afternoon and informed him of the foregoing conclusions, having been authorized to do so by the AD/RR.

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cc: AD/RR

OCh/E/RR: [redacted] /2763 (18 November 1958)

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