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REVISION OF "BLACK BOOK"

Paris United States Delegation to COCOM, in its telegram No. 6170, April 8, 1952, SECRET, requested that more up-to-date well rounded intelligence commodity studies of List II items be prepared prior to the October-November discussions for fixing 1953 quotas. It was pointed out that the outcome of the future negotiations will depend heavily upon the facts which they can make available in these discussions. They expressed the hope that the intelligence data would be substantially revised in order to reflect the actual Soviet Bloc situation and plans in as current terms as possible.

Chief of the U.S. Delegation reiterated this need for a thorough revision of the "black book" when he was recently in Washington on consultation. With the expectation that intelligence agencies will be able to meet this request the U.S. Delegation states that it will urge that requests for changes in List II controls arising during the next six months be deferred unless their consideration is absolutely essential.

In subsequent cables - Paris T419 of July 18, and Paris T386 of July 17 (paragraph C) - the U.S. Delegation specifies the items of priority concern as shown in the attached list.

The Title II Task Groups under Department of Commerce direction will also need similar data on Soviet Bloc requirements, trade, etc., with regard to many of these commodities. It is expected that the commodity studies required can be prepared with both purposes in view. Attached is a guide "check list" outline which has proved useful in the preparation of the study on lead which is currently being completed.

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PRIORITY LIST

Sulphur and sulphuric Acid  
Aluminum  
Ferro-chrome  
Tires and tubes  
Corrosive resistant materials  
Seamless steel pipe  
Chemical equipment  
Metal-working machinery  
Transport equipment - rails  
Transport equipment - locomotives  
Diesels  
Marine propulsion equipment

In addition, studies are being prepared on the following subject which may meet the needs in question:

Lead	- State/DFI with CIA
Pyrites	- CIA and State/DFI
Electrical equipment	- CIA (Task Group)
Ships	- EIC Transportation Sub-committee
Bearings	- EDAC Bearings Sub-committee
Excavators	- ? C 2 a 7

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OUTLINE GUIDE FOR REVISION OF BLACK BOOK  
STATEMENTS ON STRATEGIC ITEMS IN SOVIET BLOC  
- FREE WORLD TRADE

I. DEFINITION AND USAGES

Definition

Principal Soviet Bloc usages, especially any differences from Western consumption patterns.

Substitutes available within the Bloc, from the Free World and estimate of degree on which imports of other commodities tend to relieve dependence, or extent to which reduction of such imports would decrease dependence.

II. INTRA-SOVIET BLOC SITUATION

A. Production

1. Data on individual Soviet Bloc countries and the Soviet Bloc as a whole for the period 1948 to the present, (estimated actual and planned production), with statistics or information on planned production requirements and expected trends to 1954 or 1955, as readily available.
2. Discussion of production problems of individual countries and the Soviet Bloc as a whole, (facilities, technical capacity for development of processing facilities, availability of labor, grades of ore, etc.).

B. Intra-Orbit Trade

Data on trade or patterns of trade among the Soviet Bloc countries, intra-orbit transportation problems, etc. In the event that the Soviet Bloc is currently both exporter and importer vis-a-vis the West, what adjustments within the Bloc would be required or feasible were it decided to eliminate exports and reduce imports.

C. Consumption

Estimates of consumption of individual Soviet Bloc countries, and for the Bloc as a whole (production plus imports minus exports, plus or minus stock changes).

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D. Requirements

Estimated requirements should so far as possible be described in terms of specified levels of activity and in terms of needs for specific end-items; e.g., stockpile, military production, etc. Specific evidences of shortage should be indicated.

NOTE: Indicate, for the foregoing, the principal methods used for deriving the estimates of production, etc., e.g. extrapolation of data referring to early postwar period, plant facilities intelligence, plan data, trade data analysis, etc. Documentation of all data should be as complete as possible with specific citation of the main sources.

III. FOREIGN TRADE WITH FREE WORLD

A. Statistics on Imports from Free World

1. By individual Soviet Bloc countries and the Bloc as a whole.
2. By individual Free World countries and the total Free World.
3. Period 1948 to present - with comparative prewar figures if readily available.
4. In every case feasible (and particularly in the case of data on specific Western Europe countries and Free World as whole) show:
  - (a) Soviet Bloc imports separately as indicated in official statistics of exporting country (published or COCOM), and
  - (b) Estimate of total imports, including estimated magnitude of covert and indirect exchanges as well as trade which would be reported officially.

B. Any data on Soviet Bloc Exports, with resultant Estimates of Net Imports

C. Trade Agreement Commitments

1. Listing of Free World commitments for delivery to Soviet Bloc countries (or any Bloc export commitments) showing:
  - (a) Countries involved,
  - (b) date and duration of agreement,
  - (c) quantity and value (if available), and
  - (d) similar data on previous trade agreements, and agreements back to 1949, if possible.
2. Trade agreement bargaining experience indicative of Soviet Bloc requirements.

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D. Prices

Any information indicating Soviet Bloc prices, their alterations, relationship to Free World market price, particular circumstances in which premium prices are offered by the Bloc.

E. Principal means and routes by which commodity enters the Bloc from the Free World.

IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Assessment of current and future urgency of Soviet Bloc dependence upon Free World imports with relation to (1) total production and general situation of stringency or adequacy, (2) progress of plans for future self-sufficiency, and (3) relationship to other commodities.