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12 September 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Economic Intelligence Committee

FROM: Chairman, Subcommittee on Electronics and Telecommunications

SUBJECT: Report of 1960 [redacted] 25X1X7  
Conference on the Electronics Capabilities of the Sino-Soviet Bloc

1. Scope of the Conference 25X1X7

The 1960 [redacted] Conference on the Electronics capabilities of the Sino-Soviet Bloc met from 6 to 17 June 1960, at the Naval Security Station, Washington, D.C. The purpose of the conference was to review recent developments in electronics in the Bloc. Papers presented covered developments in basic research, component and equipment design, equipment manufacture, and the deployment or use-patterns of Bloc electronic and communication systems. The US Intelligence Board was the official host, with planning details arranged jointly between the Subcommittees of the SIC and the EIC responsible for electronics and telecommunications. [redacted] 25X1A9a

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[redacted] Chairman of the SIC Electronics Subcommittee, acted as Conference Chairman. The Chairman and Executive Secretary of the EIC Subcommittee on Electronics and Telecommunications assisted in preparations and planning for the conference. 25X1X7

Scientific and Economic Intelligence components [redacted] participated in the Conference. All USIB/EIC members except the Department of State, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, participated in the conference. Of a total of 31 papers presented, 6 were prepared by EIC components, and 2 were prepared by the economic intelligence representative of the [redacted]. The remaining papers, although primarily directed

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\* Attachment A lists titles of EIC papers [redacted].

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toward the scientific components at the conference, were of interest and value to the economic intelligence components. The Conference Chairman in his concluding remarks to the conference, drew attention to the papers which he considered to be highlights of the proceedings. These included three EIC papers, one of which was worthy of exceptional comment because of the magnitude of effort which went into it and the discussion it elicited. This paper, EIC SR-4, was prepared jointly by CIA, NSA, and Army under the auspices of the EIC.

## 2. Economic Intelligence Highlights of the Conference

The complete minutes and reports of the Conference will be available to members of the EIC through their representatives on the Subcommittee on Electronics and Telecommunications. Following is a summary of the economic intelligence highlights.

### a) Substantive Intelligence Developments

In the review of intelligence information received since 1958, the conference examined several developing trends which are of particular importance to economic intelligence. The most general of these trends is the increasing, but still not widespread, use of more highly miniaturized electronic components in standard Soviet equipment. This is believed to be the result of heavy pressures to reduce the size, weight, and power consumption of electronic computers, airborne electronic systems, and tactical field communications equipment. Up to the present time Soviet rates of growth in the manufacture of semiconductor devices and sub-miniature passive electronic components has been steady but unspectacular. Between 1960 and 1965 this steady growth will continue, and an increasing number of different types of electronic equipment incorporating these devices will be produced.

A second development of importance is the new electronic equipment which has been noted in Soviet transport aircraft. This is a strong indication of a major re-equipment and retrofit program for the Soviet Air Force similar to that

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which occurred between 1956 and 1959 in electronic equipment for the Soviet Ground Forces.

A Bloc-wide communications integration program, consisting of standardized national cable and microwave networks was extensively discussed. This program is currently still lagging behind plans, due largely to apparent difficulties in the manufacture and installation of equipment on the scale envisaged by the present plans.

A fourth area of developing Soviet capability lies in the digital computer field. The USSR has failed thus far to match Western developments in either quality or quantity of manufacture, and while this is still an area of deficiency, in 1958 the USSR launched an ambitious plan for digital computer production which will steadily augment their data processing capabilities.

The most significant Bloc development in electronics outside of the USSR has been taking place in Communist China. This point was documented in a comprehensive Scientific Intelligence Paper. Information on the scale of economic activity in the Chinese electronics industry shows a parallel development which will soon place China in the role of a major world producer of electronic equipment.

#### b) Intelligence Methods

The conference did not address itself specifically to questions of intelligence methods, other than some of the more technical problems of processing of raw information. This would, however, seem to be a fruitful field for future conference consideration. Recent [REDACTED] Conferences 25X1X7 have each contributed to a fuller realization of the narrowing of the technological and economic gap between the USSR and the West in the field of electronics. Some areas do still exist where Soviet accomplishments are only mediocre, but there is lack of general agreement in the

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community as to the areas in which this is true, and the proper strategic evaluation to place on the fact. As the capabilities of the USSR become more closely comparable to those of the West the more careful and precise must intelligence analysis be.

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[redacted] commented formally on this, and deduced that there was a consequent need to move to a new level of intelligence analysis to describe adequately the current profile of Soviet electronics capabilities. [redacted] felt that we can not be altogether pleased with, or take much pride in, an estimate which is a simple statement of rough equality between the Bloc and the West in the level of attainment in a given field. These comments were addressed primarily to the Scientific Intelligence problem, but they are broadly applicable to economic as well as Scientific Intelligence in this field.

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c) Sources

The primary consideration of the 1960 conference was to evaluate the intelligence information received since the conference of January 1959. Standard sources of information, such as Bloc periodical literature, defectors, ground photography, attache reports, Soviet acquisitions, [redacted] clandestine reports, [redacted] and other specialized source materials continued to contribute in varying degrees to the subjects which were covered by this conference. In addition, two other types of source material have provided an important body of new information in the field of electronics. First, the information

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[redacted] The Soviet [redacted] programs have also been able to extend their coverage through the above two sources.

3. Outlook for Future Conferences 25X1A9a

The Chairman of the Conference, [redacted], and the heads and members of all of the scientific intelligence delegations afforded the economic intelligence components the fullest cooperation from the early planning stages through the final conference sessions. The scientific and economic interests were merged successfully in the formal papers and informal discussions, establishing a pattern which, it is hoped, will be followed during future conferences.

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US responses and counterproposals have in the past been formulated by an ad hoc conference arrangements group composed of representatives from both the SIC Electronics Subcommittee and the EIC Subcommittee on Electronics and Telecommunications. Full coordination of the views of all the USIB agencies is obtained, and this Subcommittee has no recommendations for altering the procedure for future conferences.

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Chairman

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ATTACHMENT A

List of Economic Intelligence Papers Presented  
at 1960 [REDACTED] Electronics Conference

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1. Production of Electronic Computers in the USSR (ORR/I/EE)

[REDACTED] 25X1X7

3. Soviet Electronics Production (ORR/I/EE)

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5. Soviet Telecommunication Trends (NSA)

6. Sino-Soviet Bloc Telecommunications Resources (ORR/S/COM, NSA, Army)

7. The Telecommunications Control System of the USSR (USAF/AFCIN)

8. Masonry Communications Towers in East Germany: Plans, Patterns,  
and Purposes -- 1957-60 (ORR/S/COM)

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