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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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| COUNTRY | USSR (Stalingrad Oblast) | REPORT | |
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Although ration cards are no longer required in Stalingrad, consumers' goods, especially meat, oil, and fats, are often in short supply. There are almost no vegetables available, except cabbage, and no fruits except tangerines and oranges, which appear on the market only occasionally and are very expensive. 25X1
2. Just before holidays, there is often a shortage of bread. Two or three days before the holiday, bread appears again in adequate quantity, and even white flour, which is usually difficult to obtain, is on sale.
3. Prices of some consumers' goods sold in Stalingrad in 1954 are as follows:¹

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Unit</u> | <u>Price in rubles</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Cheap dress | 1 | 1,800 (sic) |
| Canvas shoes with rubber soles | 1 pair | 70 |
| Stockings | 1 pair | 40 |
| Meat of poor quality | 1 kg | 24 |
| Margarine | 1 kg | 17 to 18 |
| Butter | 1 kg | 22 |
| Sugar | 1 kg | 15 |
| White bread | 1.5 kg | 7 to 10 |
| Black bread | 1.5 kg | 3 |
| Tangerines | 1 | 3 |

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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4. Near the State Bank in Stalingrad, there is a bazaar where kolkhozniki sell potatoes, onions, watermelons, and other produce. Some black market activity goes on there. Speculation is common in Stalingrad, although workers may lose their jobs if apprehended in such illegal activity. In 1954, workers, especially women, who came in contact with German PWs, always tried to buy from them things sent from Germany. There was an especially great demand for shirts, women articles, underwear, and stockings. One shirt would be bought for 60 to 80 rubles. Frequently, these articles were resold privately or at the bazaar at higher prices.

5. Typical incomes in Stalingrad in 1954 are as follows:

| <u>Type of work</u> | <u>Monthly income in rubles</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Construction foreman | 800 |
| Chauffeur for a construction enterprise | 600 to 800 |
| Subsidiary worker | 300 to 400 |

Comment: The prices listed are similar to those reported previously for consumers' goods in the USSR, excepting the price of sugar, which is much higher than has been listed formerly, and the price of a cheap dress, which is fantastically high. According to previous reports, a cotton dress cost 40 to 50 rubles.

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