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MAY 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH:

Deputy Director/Intelligence (W

SUBJECT:

Reply to Letter from the President of Standard Oil Company (New Jersey) on Potential Market for Soviet Oil

REFERENCES:

- (a) Letter from the DCI to Mr. M. J. Rathbone, President, Standard Oil Company (N. J.), dated 8 April 1961
- (b) Letter from Mr. Rathbone to the DCI, dated 23 May 1961
- 1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for action as set forth in paragraph 4.
- 2. Your letter to Mr. Rathbone, reference (a), indicated that we would welcome additional information on the capacity of Free World markets to absorb Soviet oil in 1965 and, also asked whether the quality of Soviet oil would present particular difficulties to Western refiners.
- 3. Mr. Rathbone's letter, reference (b), provides a useful, detailed estimate of the Free World market for Soviet oil in 1965.

 Mr. Rathbone's letter also gives some quality characteristics of "typical" Urals-Volga crude oils which Standard Oil indicates probably are moved "in large volume" to the Free World. The quality characteristics given are similar to those indicated in some Soviet sources

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for the specific fields Mr. Rathbone mentions. Other Soviet sources indicate, however, much lower quality characteristics for oil from these and the many other Urals-Volga fields, and we think it is unlikely that the average quality of the Soviet crudes being exported to the Free World is as high as that of the crudes mentioned in Mr. Rathbone's letter.

4. It is recommended that the attached letter be signed.

OTTO E. GOTHE
Assistant Director
Research and Reports

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Enclosure:

Letter to Mr. Rathbone.