

Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence

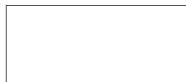
Acting Assistant Director for Operations

Scientific Information and Translation Services of Foreign
Documents Branch

1. The attached study discusses in detail those operations, procedures, and publications of Foreign Documents Branch which are believed to be of particular interest to your office. It is forwarded for your information and that of your staff, but should not be circulated outside of CIA. Sample copies of the publications described in the study are contained in the accompanying envelope (Encl. 1-9).

2. Data in this study should be considered in connection with any CIA action on the investigation of facilities for translating Russian technical material made by the Special Committee on Technical Information of the Research and Development Board, N.M.D., and the inter-agency meeting on the subject proposed by the Executive Director of the Committee in a memorandum dated 13 January 1949.

3. Any proposed CIA activity in the fields of surveying the sources, availability, or procedures for procurement of U.S.S.R. publications should similarly be coordinated with Foreign Documents Branch. The problems of inter-agency coordination of translation programs and a proposal for centralization of certain intelligence translation and exploitation functions for the IAC agencies are currently under discussion by FDB and ICAPS.



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for LYMAN B. KIRKPATRICK

Encl: 1

Study - "Sc. Inf. Service of FDB"
(with 9 sample copies of publications)

LD
OO:LAB/bac 4 Feb. 1949

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SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION SERVICE OF FOREIGN DOCUMENTS BRANCH

1. During the past two years, FDB/OO has been developing a comprehensive exploitation program designed to serve scientific intelligence agencies in general and the scientific branches of CIA in particular. Various operations have been initiated, the results of which are available in previous and current FDB publications. The information in these publications is obtained from overt scientific and technical source materials in foreign languages such as: journals and periodicals, doctoral theses, annals of academies, societies, or institutes, and books of all kinds.

Requirements received from the scientific branches of CIA and the IAC agencies have determined the types of publications produced by FDB and the subject-area, coverage and emphasis of these publications. A direct channel between the Chief, FDB and the scientific branches was established to facilitate the receipt and discussion of requirements, and this procedure will be continued with OSI. Since the highest priority is given by FDB to requirements for translation and information from offices within CIA, the scientific and technical foreign language resources of FDB are used primarily to satisfy the needs of OSI.

2. Operations

There are several kinds of OSI requirements assigned to FDB at present, each resulting in a different type of informational report either by the instructions in the requirement or format already approved by CIA.

There are "Exploitation Requirements" which indicate the need for information covering a broad range of subjects concerning a particular country or countries. "FDB Scientific and Technical Periodical Abstracts" (Encl. 1) is a good example of information produced in answer to these. All articles of value to scientific intelligence appearing in Russian scientific journals are abstracted, arranged systematically, and published in batches of one hundred in each issue of this FDB publication. The objective of this effort is full coverage of Soviet scientific literature. How well this is accomplished may be judged by the following figures: almost all issues of approximately 150 different current Russian periodicals have been continuously received over the period from January 1947 to the present, providing material for over ninety issues of "FDB Periodical Abstracts" making a total of almost ten thousand abstracts from Russian sources. Selection of articles to be abstracted has been controlled by a file of hundreds of scientific requirements assigned to FDB.

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In addition to the Abstracts, FDB also produces a Bibliography (Encl. 2) of all Russian periodicals received. The Bibliography contains the title and author of every article of every issue received. From time to time, OSI has been informed that periodicals of other areas could be similarly exploited, however, the consensus of opinion in OSI indicated that these are of secondary interest; that scientific intelligence interest centers on the USSR.

Next is the "Guide-Type Requirement" designed to govern the selection of articles in one or more allied fields for immediate reporting as they are uncovered. Items in answer to this type of requirement are usually published in Information Report form (Encl. 3) and may consist of an extract, a summary, or, when material is found in very large volume, a collection of abstracts of available data on the subject. By means of these various devices FDB is keeping OSI informed of the availability of all material of possible value to Scientific Intelligence.

"Informational requirements" may be considered next. These requirements indicate specific information desired. In answer to these FDB extracts the required data from source material. These are usually published in the Information Report form though large studies have been published as FDB Translations (Encl. 4). A scientific and technical cross-indexed subject file of current Soviet literature available, drawn from all sources including "Periodical Abstracts", is maintained at FDB to produce rapidly information when needed.

There are "National Scientific Intelligence Requirements" usually on a particular subject and country and are satisfied in much the same manner as "Guide-Type".

Special requirements have been likewise assigned. "Biographic Intelligence Register" requirement is a good example. This is designed to build up, among other things, "A Scientific Order of Battle". This is not published, but rather the required information concerning a foreign scientist is filled in one card form and is forwarded in that fashion to the Biographical Intelligence Register. However, frequently a roster of an entire scientific society or group of scientific institutes is available and is then regularly published (Encl. 5). Proper romanization of foreign personal names is important when it is realized that they are punched by IBM or otherwise arranged in files at considerable expense. FDB has been using standard transliteration systems for years producing data in a form yielding maximum efficiency in the files mentioned above. It may readily be seen that the efficiency of a Biographical Register drops considerably when the same scientist is filed under several romanization systems.

When an OSI Analyst has a deadline to meet, special measures are taken by FDB and the deadline is met by "Advance-Copy" procedure. Information produced in this way may or may not be published at a later date. Recently, an entire book was translated and forwarded by

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advance copy in five days. The book "Technical Standards for Petroleum Products", USSR, 1947 will be published shortly, some months after the advance copy was delivered.

Considerable effort has been made by FDB to cover current Russian scientific books. The recent arrival of books from the USSR at the Library of Congress has been screened and abstracts of books of intelligence value have been prepared. A memorandum seeking permission to publish the abstracts of these and all future book receipts is now pending approval. At present FDB is ordering scientific books from Moscow, has prepared abstracts of 1944-46 Russian scientific books received in FDB and is preparing to render complete service covering current Russian scientific books similar to the Periodical Abstracts. At present Tables of Contents and some description of the more important books available are published in the Information Report form (Encl. 6).

Soviet Press Extracts is another regular FDB publication. It covers the current Soviet provincial press. Though designed primarily for economic and sociological information, all scientific information appearing is extracted.

Further, FDB is able to use the experience of past operations to produce new routine publications based upon foreign language material being received designed exclusively to serve scientific intelligence analysts. A description of these projected publications will be submitted to OSI for evaluation of the effort, comment, and concurrence. "In the Academy of Sciences of the USSR" is a good illustration of a projected publication.

This FDB publication would be designed to report current news about the Academy. Feature section of the publication would be:

a. "In the Departments". This information can be gathered from two or three periodicals now being received and are not adequately treated by "Periodical Abstracts". Information is available concerning all activities in the various Departments (Encl. 7): Physical and Mathematical Science, Chemical Science, Geological and Geographical Science, Biological Science, Technical Science.

b. New Books (Encl. 8). This can be gathered from some six periodicals now being received and is simply a bibliography of new books released by the Academy during a specific period.

c. Institutes (Encl. 9).

3. Source Survey, Procurement and Coordination

The problem of insuring that maximum acquisition of foreign language publications is maintained by Foreign Documents Branch has resulted in continuous surveys of worldwide sources, and of governmental and non-governmental organizations, to determine the existence

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and availability of those documents which are of actual or potential value to Intelligence agencies. During the past two years, particular emphasis was placed on sources involving the procurement of publications from the USSR.

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On the domestic front, Foreign Documents Branch and the respective IAC agencies are cooperating on document problems encompassing survey, procurement, and exploitation activities. The vast store of foreign language publications funneling into the State Department is currently being screened and processed by this Branch. In the field of exploitation, an ad hoc committee composed of IAC members met recently at the invitation of CIA to work out esoteric problems of centralized translation. These are examples of projects and arrangements that FDB has initiated in its role as coordinator in the field of foreign language documents.

Foreign Documents Branch maintains liaison and contact with all major document repositories. Where necessary, Branch screening teams have been sent out to repositories requiring this function. Such was the purpose of FDB "document team" to the Hoover Library, Stanford University, in 1947, and to the European Command in 1948.

In the field of translation coordination, Foreign Documents Branch is presently attempting to avoid duplication of effort with the resultant waste of vital linguistic personnel. The majority of the major translation activities are forwarding to Foreign Documents Branch periodic reports of their activities and with impending CIA approval of FDB recommendation, a publication will appear listing translation activities of contributing agencies. In this sphere of activity, a central locator file of completed translations is being built up in the Branch and will become available for use in the near future.

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4. In summary, FDB is in a position to perform any type of foreign language exploitation function for OSI. Although currently understaffed, FDB has a nucleus of well trained foreign language intelligence specialists, who are experienced in dealing with scientific and technical materials. The Branch is capable of correctly interpreting OSI's stated requirements, of following instructions to produce informational reports and translations to satisfy such requirements, and even of anticipating the needs of scientific intelligence analysts to a reasonable degree. FDB should be increasingly able to take on the full burden of detail involved in exploitation of foreign language documents with a minimum of direction from OSI analysts, thereby achieving maximum conservation of their time and effort.