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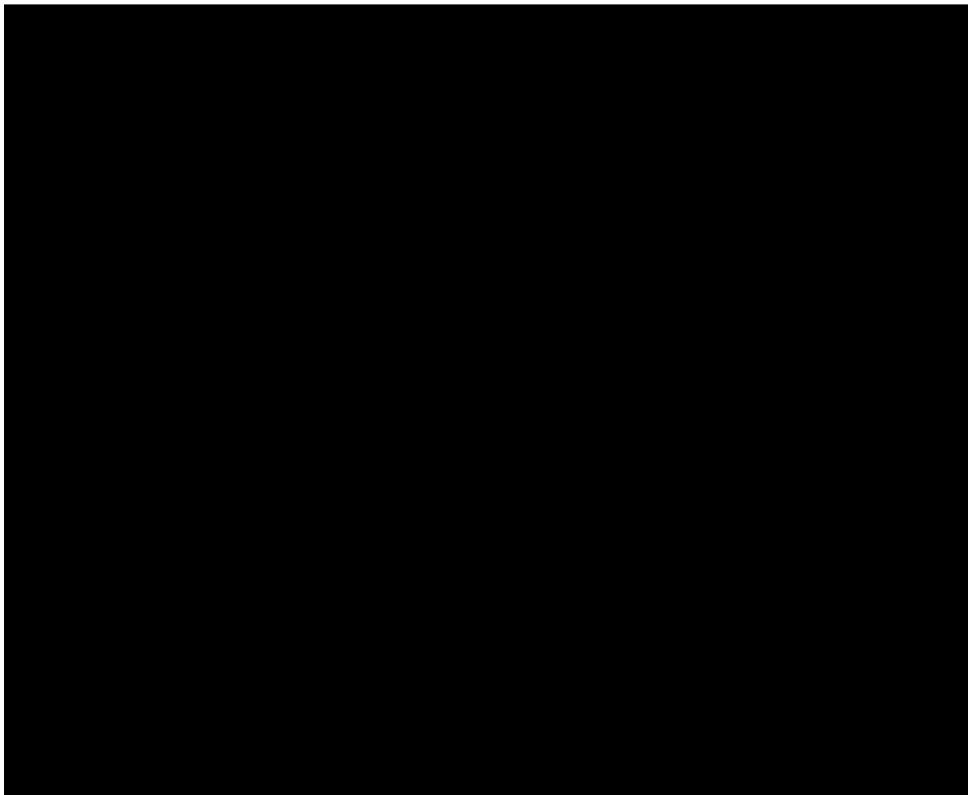
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Introduction

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1. During my stay in Moscow [REDACTED] I had ample opportunity to associate with Soviet families, and while in the USSR, I learned to read Russian and speak the language fairly fluently. Severo-Donetsk is a large workers' settlement which has been built up around a fertilizer and chemical factory. (I do not know what the population of Severo-Donetsk was, but believe it to have been approximately 100,000.) All dwellings, shops, and stores in this community are part of the factory complex and were under the control of the factory administration. The families of the six German technicians who were stationed at

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Severo-Donetsk were under surveillance of a decreasing degree while living there. Regulations required us to obtain permission from our "supervisors" (whom we thought to be either an MGB or MVD agent) whenever we wished to leave the housing development or visit Soviet families. I later disregarded these instructions and generally associated freely with Soviet housewives. However, these social relations were never extended to the family level. Soviet men, unlike their wives, were reluctant to establish any social contact with the German families. 25X1A

Economic Conditions in Severo-Donetsk

25X1A 2. [redacted] lived on the Soviet economy while she was residing in the USSR and therefore was able to offer considerable information concerning general living conditions. The description which follows is limited primarily to the Severo-Donetsk area. A written record which she maintained of her family's expenditures is partially tabulated below because of its considerable completeness and accuracy. Most of the prices quoted are for goods purchased in state stores. Prices for goods on the free market are marked with one asterisk. Most of the prices listed 25X1A [redacted] were current shortly before her departure for the Soviet Zone of Germany [redacted]. Those prices listed under the 1948-49 column refer to the fall months of 1948 and winter months of 1949. It should be noted that some of the prices listed, especially those for 1948-49, are approximations in that they are influenced by seasonal fluctuations and, in 25X1A some cases, the informant's memory. It should also be considered [redacted]

and which permitted the purchase of better quality food and clothing than bought by the average Soviet worker. My record of expenditures during my stay in Severo-Donetsk includes the following:

Prices in Severo-Donetsk

Products	Prices in Rubles	
	1948-49	[redacted] 25X1A
A. Food**		
Cabbage	3.00	.60-.70
Potatoes	4.00	1.00-1.20
Black bread	6.00-8.00	1.60-1.80
Gray bread	-	2.20-2.40
Wheat bread	-	8.00-13.00
Sour tomatoes	4.00	.60
Dried beans	-	5.60
Dried peas	-	4.30
Onions	18.00	3.60
Rice	-	12.20
Groats	-	5.80-6.30
Millet	-	3.00-4.00
Wheat flour	10.00	5.00-8.00
Corn grits	-	2.50
Wheat grits	-	8.00-8.40
Lump sugar	20.00	11.00
Rough granulated sugar	-	8.50
Fresh milk	6.00 Lit.	1.80 Lit.
Fresh milk	-	2.50-3.00 Lit.*
Eggs	1.20 each	.90-1.50 each
Eggs	2.50 each*	1.50 each *

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Prices in Severo-Donetsk, continued

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Products	Prices in Rubles	
	1948-49	25X1A
Butter	60.00*	32.00-43.00
Margarine	32.00	17.00-23.00
Salt	-	1.50- 2.50
Sunseed oil	40.00 Lit.	22.00 Lit.*
Cheese	80.00	28.00-42.00
Honey	30.00	25.00-28.00
Tea	240.00	160.00
Cocoa	-	190.00
Coffee	75.00-85.00	67.00
Apples	12.00	4.00
Lemons	5.00-6.00 ea	3.00-4.00 ea
Soup bones (hooves)	-	4.00
Soup bones (steer's head)	-	2.00*
Soup bones (steer's leg)	-	5.00-8.00*
Stew beef	30.00*	10.00-18.00*
Pork	40.00*	22.00-28.00*
Lamb	25.00*	12.00-16.00*
Herring	7.00 each	4.00-5.00 each
Ham (poor quality)	40.00	26.00
B. Clothing		
Leather shoes (Czech)	-	230 pair
Leather shoes, crepe soles (Czech)	-	490 pair
Leather shoes (Russian)	-	250-350 pair
Summer linen shoes (Russian)	65-70 pair	40-50 pair
Felt boots	-	100-250 pair
Man's wool trousers	300	120
Quilt jacket	-	130-150
Man's dungarees	-	80-100
Man's shirt	-	70
Man's summer suit	-	120-140
Man's wool socks	-	7-9 pair
Man's wool socks, Kapron reinforced-	-	15-18
Man's suit (half wool)	-	400
Silk blouse	-	250
Linen blouse	-	120
Cotton dress	-	60-80
Woman's cotton stockings	15 pair	5-7 pair
Woman's Kapron (Nylon) hose	-	40-60 pair
Cheap cotton print material	-	10-15 meter
Twill material for work trousers	-	17.50 meter
Silk material for man's shirt	-	120 meter
Coarse wool material for trousers	-	120-160 meter
Wool material for overcoat	-	230 meter
Wool material for suit	-	330 meter
C. Other Articles		
Anthracite coal	-	77 ton
Fire wood	-	50-60 cubic meter
Electric iron	-	45
Electric hotplate	-	25
Six-tube radio	1,600	630

* Goods purchased in the free market. All other goods were purchased in state stores.

** All food prices expressed in terms of Rubles/kilogram unless otherwise indicated.

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[REDACTED] my acquaintances told me that prices would be much cheaper there than in Moscow, but I noticed no great price difference. Local products, such as grapes, were much cheaper when in season; on the other hand, the variety of consumer goods available in Severo-Donetsk was extremely limited in comparison to Moscow.

3. Conditions in respect to consumer goods considerably improved after the currency reform. Prices generally sought a level between the 1947 prices for rationed goods and free market prices. After 1947, periodic price cuts were announced with great fanfare in the Ukraine. However, prices rose slowly after each price cut with the excuse that better quality goods were being offered. There were no great differences in food prices in state stores and in the free market in Severo-Donetsk. Despite the fact that prices were generally slightly higher in the free market, most people preferred to purchase food there because of the better quality and greater availability of goods. After the currency reform, goods became increasingly available, although, as previously stated, supplies were of a much more limited variety in Severo-Donetsk than in Moscow. However, there continued to be constant shortages of some goods and periodic shortages of all goods during the last few years. Shops were well stocked only in the periods preceding the May 1 and October Revolution celebrations. Wheat flour was, as usual, sold only in conjunction with major holidays. Rice, fat, sugar and coffee were seldom, if ever, available. Periodic shortages of almost all other food goods and clothing occurred because of inefficient distribution or deliberate withholding by the government. A normal situation, was that a store would be out of shirts for three weeks and then have nothing but shirts. State stores would sell out a new shipment of cooking oil within a few hours after it had been unavailable for weeks. The average person was unable to stockpile such goods when they were available as he could not afford such large expenditures. A common complaint, for example, was that overshoes were available in June and summer shoes placed on sale in December.
4. I would like to emphasize that most of the food products which I purchased, were far beyond the reach of the average family. I estimate that an average working-class family of five would have to pay at least Rubles 10 per day for a standard diet consisting of water and black bread for breakfast; cabbage soup, potatoes and grits for dinner; and porridge and milk for supper. However, almost all families in the Severo-Donetsk workers' settlement, supplemented their food supplies with produce grown in private gardens. These small vegetable gardens were sometimes located as far away as 20 kilometers from the settlement, but free bus transportation provided by the factory on Sunday helped solve this problem.
5. I noticed no improvement in the housing situation during my last years of residence in the USSR. The local population made no comments concerning housing conditions other than in comparison with the immediate post-war period. Nevertheless, housing accommodations in Severo-Donetsk were considered luxurious by many workers who had recently come from farms, because running water and center heating were provided. Almost all of the apartment buildings and houses in Severo-Donetsk had been constructed after World War II. Our family was assigned a four-room apartment occupying one-half of a duplex. Others, living in similar houses, were assigned one room per family, with two or three families sharing one kitchen.

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6. Rent was paid directly to the factory management at rates based on the amount of space allotted. A Soviet family paid a monthly rent of Rubles 1.25 per square meter for the first five square meters allotted per person, and Rubles 2.5 per square meter for any additional space. (For example, a family of four, allotted 30 square meters, paid a rent of Rubles 50 per month.) In addition, each tenant had to pay fees for water, sewage and electricity. Electricity was very expensive. Inasmuch as the Soviets preferred using electricity to buying fuel, they became extremely adept in cheating the administration on the electricity bill. I admit that I learned a few tricks from the Soviets in this respect. After the administration learned that the tenants were tampering with the electric meters, it blocked off all but a few of the electric outlets in a room. The tenants got around this, however, by tapping exposed light cords by means of special homemade plugs made from needles.

Soviet Attitudes and Nationality Questions

7. The Soviet peace campaign was enthusiastically accepted and supported by the Soviet citizens. No Soviet citizen believed that he, his people and government could be capable of initiating war. Furthermore, the average citizen was firmly convinced of the truthfulness of the anti-American campaign; no one doubted that the US began the Korean War. I noticed a strong sense of personal identification on the part of the Soviet citizens with the Communists fighting in China. All were confident that the Communists would finally win and they had no fear that the war would spread. I heard no open complaints which were directed towards the Soviet government itself. The most frequent complaints were about the high prices of consumer goods. People spoke longingly of the good old days before World War II when prices were lower and goods more plentiful. The entire orientation of Soviet citizens, their ambitions and complaints were expressed in terms of food and its availability.
8. I had many Soviet acquaintances who were Jewish, and I found that the average Russian or Ukrainian has a strong prejudice toward the Jews. For example, Ukrainian friends were amazed that I associated with Jews and continually chided me for doing so. The Ukrainian evidently considered this an admission of social inferiority. The Jews on the other hand maintained a rather arrogant attitude toward the Russians, referring to them as "only Russians". I believe that the basis of this tension is the greater capability and industry of the Jewish people. Furthermore, I believe that the Jews were better Soviet citizens because they worked hard and were very conscious of their duties. I heard nothing, however, during my stay in the USSR, concerning the expulsion of Jews from the Ukraine.
9. I noticed some tension between Russian and Ukrainian inhabitants in Severo-Donetsk but considered it to be a minor rivalry brought about by national pride on the part of the Ukrainians. In this connection, the resistance movement, supposedly active in the Western Ukraine, was often rumored but I do not think these rumors were supported by fact. Russians, when they heard these stories laughed and did not take them seriously. Ukrainians, however, believed the rumors and always reported them with some pride, as if to say, "see what clever people we are". While in the Severo-Donetsk area, I noticed that it was populated mainly by Ukrainians; the working class consisted almost entirely of Ukrainians, including a large percentage of recently urbanized peasants. However, most of the officials were Russians. All cultural activities

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such as drama, motion pictures and revues were of Russian origin and conducted in the Russian language. Even store signs and food labels were written in Russian. I never saw or heard of any Ukrainian cultural activities, such as folk dance revues, which I had been led to expect. Although I did hear Ukrainian spoken in nearby rural areas, Russian was the prevailing language in Severo-Donetsk. Nevertheless, I never heard any complaints from Ukrainians concerning this apparent Russianization of the area.

Police Activities

10. Crime, especially petty thievery, was very common in the Severo-Donetsk area. Most people had to resort to theft in order to exist. All "good Russians" had spent some time in jail or labor camps for criminal offenses and openly spoke of criminal sentences they had received without any apparent sense of shame. On the other hand, not a word was ever said about political internment and secret police activities. It was obvious that the Soviets were extremely fearful of discussing this subject in public.
11. I witnessed only one instance of forced labor while in the USSR. All laborers working on the construction of the housing development in which I lived were prisoners, but it was not apparent whether they were criminal or political prisoners. The prisoners were housed in special barracks near the housing development and had no contact with the rest of the population. Residents of the development avoided contact with the prisoners and never spoke of them, but relatives were allowed to deliver parcels of food and clothing to them. German prisoners of war were employed in the area until the spring of 1950. At that time, they were all assembled and shipped to a central receiving point. (The receiving point may have been located at Kadiyevka, Voroshilovgrad Oblast /Kadiyevka has been renamed, and is now Sergo (48° 33' N - 38° 38' E).)

Family Life

12. I feel that my knowledge of Soviet family life is quite extensive, since my main contacts in the USSR were with Soviet women. It is my impression that Soviet women were firmly convinced that their life had improved under the Soviet regime. The basis for their attitude was the social equality which they felt had been granted them. The Soviet woman did not consider this to be merely equality to work in the mines or on road construction. Rather, she felt she was sharing the responsibility to work and thereby was contributing to her family and state. It was primarily for this reason that Soviet women sought work and not merely because of economic pressure, although the latter was undoubtedly of importance. Soviet women consistently earned less than men but I do not know by what proportion. The women apparently did not consider this inconsistent with the "social equality" granted them. The Soviet woman seemed to be satisfied with her family life, particularly with the system of state nurseries. In such nurseries, a child was cared for at a cost of Rubles 30 per month (the state contributed Rubles 60), and the mother was able to earn about Rubles 300 during the same period. Soviet women felt assured that their children were well cared for in the nurseries. Regulations provided that one mother had to be present each day at each nursery; this enabled the mothers to protest to the authorities about unsatisfactory conditions. Although this privilege to complain was largely nominal, it seemed to give the mothers a feeling of control over their children's welfare.

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13. From my observations, I found that women, ⁱⁿ the USSR did not take marriage too seriously. The average Soviet woman was mainly concerned with having children when entering marriage. The ideas of acquiring a husband, or the marriage institution itself, were strictly of secondary importance. As a result, separations were very common; a wife with children might leave her husband and enter into a marital relationship with another man without going through the formalities of a divorce. The high cost of obtaining a divorce was undoubtedly a factor which contributed to this practice. The fact that divorces were considered undesirable because of their expense, rather than because of moral conviction, led to another common Soviet institution, namely "trial marriages". Trial marriages tended to last for longer periods of time and constituted another disruptive factor in Soviet family life. If the trial marriage proved unsuccessful, the woman could leave the man without any great misgivings and, with her children, go in search of another "husband". Another indication of the minor importance attached to marital ties was the fact that a wife generally sought another man if her husband had been sentenced to forced labor. In such a situation, she was under no moral pressure to wait for her husband. The Soviets impressed me as being very fond of their children and indulgent toward them. However, financial conditions were a serious limiting factor to the size of families. (I know of no one who was influenced by government efforts to increase the size of families.) Consequently, abortions were extremely common and women would turn to friendly or venal doctors for help. Although forbidden by the state--a Ruble 300-500 fine was imposed for acts of abortion which were discovered--there were no moral contingencies to this practice.
14. Party members were generally an exception to the rule in regard to the type of conduct described. They were expected to lead exemplary lives and they usually lived up to this expectation.

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The Ukrainian School

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15. [REDACTED] During the first year, special classes were held for the German students in order to acquaint them with the Russian language. After this introduction, they were accepted into the regular classes. The school, which was called the "Ukrainian School", was the only ten-year school in this predominantly Ukrainian settlement. All classes, however, with the exception of the Ukrainian language class, were conducted in the Russian language. Most of the teachers were Russian. I noticed no essential difference between this "Ukrainian School" and the normal Russian school. Furthermore, I heard no complaints from Soviet mothers that classes were not conducted in Ukrainian. Classes were normally held five hours a day, six days a week. Of these 30 hours of weekly lessons, approximately six were devoted to the Ukrainian language, 12 to Russian language and literature, four to arithmetic, two to drawing, two to English, and two to physical education. I noticed that political indoctrination was injected into all classes to an extreme degree. Great stress was placed on the study of current events. English had replaced German as the second language in the school, and was taught from the third grade on. The study of Ukrainian commenced in the first grade.

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[REDACTED] the 14-year old son of a Russian acquaintance once told me of the para-military exercises which were conducted weekly during his physical training period. These included extended order-drill, throwing of dummy hand grenades, and military obstacle courses. After completion of the obstacle course, the students were required to sight in on imaginary enemies with dummy rifles. I believe that para-military training began at the age of 12.

Reception of VOA and other Broadcasts

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[REDACTED] a six-tube "Vef" radio, a Soviet model for which he paid Rubles 1,600. With this radio and a high antenna, our family was able to receive many foreign broadcasts in our [REDACTED] apartment. Few, if any, Russian families erected outdoor radio antennae for fear of drawing police suspicion. I am unable to estimate what percentage of the radio-owning Soviet families listened to Western broadcasts because this subject was seldom discussed. I gathered, however, that the percentage was very high. I very frequently heard people in the market discussing news which obviously had not been propagated by Soviet sources and several Soviet housewives confided in me that their families frequently listened to broadcasts from the West. We could listen to the VOA East Zone German-language broadcast, the BBC German (East Zone) and Russian-language broadcasts, Radio Moscow, RIAS-Berlin, and Radio Leipzig on our radio. The Australian German-language broadcast, oddly enough, came through very well on occasions. I never listened to the VOA Russian-language broadcast and therefore am unable to offer any information on their programs or reception. Reception of German-language VOA broadcasts was generally better than BBC German broadcasts and could be heard on all but a few days in the course of a month; German BBC broadcasts were received with great difficulty. Jamming on both VOA and BBC was done on a periodic basis. For a period of ten days VOA and BBC would be heavily jammed and then not at all. Reception for all broadcasts in the Ukraine was better in the winter than in other seasons of the year.

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The Source's comments on the attitudes of Soviet women toward their role in society appear to be somewhat rosy in comparison with other reports on the same topic, and caution in interpreting them is recommended. It is more than likely that Soviet women, in talking with the wife of a German scientist, would be careful to avoid any criticism of the regime and thus would leave the impression of being more satisfied with their lot than is truly the case. On the other hand, it is possible that the Source gave a somewhat exaggerated account of the moral laxities in Soviet society because of her proper and comfortable middle class background in Germany. She would be quick to notice divergencies from her norm and might tend to exaggerate their importance. It is believed that the statements by the informant concerning the Russianization of the area with which she was familiar in the Eastern Ukraine are of particular interest and are probably less subject to distortion than her remarks on some other subjects covered:

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