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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Plant Insect Control

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1. In the Ukrainian SSR there are three basic methods of plant insect control. These are as follows: (a) Handpicking. As crude as it may be, this method is widely used and is carried on continuously. Whenever a heavy plague of insects threatens, pickers are mobilized and sent to the area. [redacted] carload after carload of insects carried away that had been picked by this method. In addition to handpicking, chickens are also utilized, being turned loose whenever a heavy plague of insects arrives at an area. (b) Chemical spraying. Much of this is carried out in the Ukraine. The various agricultural experimental stations will recommend the type of spray deemed advisable and forward their recommendation to the Minister of Agriculture for approval. The Minister will decide when and what to use. (c) Biological. This method has been used successfully for approximately 20 years. It consists of breeding certain types of insects that will feed on the particular plant insect which is destroying the crop. As an example, there is a small butterfly prevalent in the Ukraine called Ozgamaga Souka (Latin name - Euxogasegetam Feltis). This butterfly attacks and destroys practically every type of crop. Entomologists finally discovered and bred numerous types of bugs to combat this butterfly. This bug is known as Trikogroma-Evaneccens. In addition to this insect destroying insect, entomologists in the USSR have developed other insects for combatting various types of plagues. 50X1

2. The sugar beet industry has almost been wiped out on several occasions by a long nosed bug known as the Sugar Beet Long Nose. The Soviet name is Dolgonosik and the Latin name, Bothynoderes-Punctiventris. The breeding time of this pest is approximately four months. Each female lays approximately 120 eggs. Some of the eggs do not hatch during the four month period and will lie dormant in the soil for as much as a year.

3. Entomologists in the USSR are continually attempting to combat outbreaks of locusts, grasshoppers, etc. Their hardest problem with migratory pests of this type is trying to determine and predict outbreaks.

4. Whenever a plague of insects invades an area, there is an organization known as VIZR, the All-Union Institute for Defense of Plants that goes into action. This Organization is located in Moscow. When the plague is reported, workers and equipment needed to combat the insects are rushed to the area. This is a central coordinating organization for all other agricultural institutes. It was formerly headed by one Vavilov, who is a brother of the very well known Soviet Mathematician. Vavilov, head of the VIZR was arrested at one time by the NKVD but has since been reinstated as head of the institute."

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