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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

EXTENSION

NO.

FBIS-1020/84

25X1

DATE

14 August 1984

25X1

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1. Executive Registry
7E12 - Headquarters

25X1

2. Executive Assistant to the DDCI

This responds to your 6 August request for FBIS comments

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D/FBIS

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14 August 1984

SOVIET-FINNISH RELATIONS: MEDIA TREATMENT

An FBIS review of Soviet media materials confirms that recent press criticisms of Finland are more pointed than usual. A search of major Soviet commentaries in 1983 produced no instances of direct or indirect criticism comparable to those cited in [redacted]. Although FBIS does not monitor Finnish media as closely as it does Soviet media, all available evidence confirms the impression that there has been no change in Finland's policy of refraining from publishing articles or transmitting programs that clearly are hostile to the Soviet Union.

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Moscow has in the past expressed great satisfaction with the state of Soviet-Finnish relations, has avoided indications of difficulties, and only rarely and indirectly criticizes Finnish authorities. Moscow's traditionally upbeat portrayal of Soviet-Finnish relations was illustrated after the two sides agreed in June 1983 to extend the 1948 Soviet-Finnish treaty for 20 years. Soviet commentary then asserted that bilateral relations are "not subject" to fluctuations in international politics and that even in "complicated conditions" they remain "a factor of stability and reliability."

Moscow's recent vocal expressions of concern over "anti-Soviet" manifestations in Finland appear to reflect a general Soviet sensitivity to any conceivable signs of ideological challenge and a specific sensitivity to the possible effect of Finnish television broadcasts on Estonia. Moscow has become increasingly preoccupied with the ideological struggle as East-West tensions have increased. Moscow's heightened attention to the ideological struggle became especially obvious at the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenum, which was devoted to this subject. At that plenum, General Secretary Andropov asserted that the Soviet Union was engaged in an ideological struggle (with the United States primarily) for the "hearts and minds of billions of people."

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

FROM: Executive Assistant to the DDCI

The DDCI, [redacted]

[redacted] wonders if you can corroborate the Soviets' concerns in the attached. Would appreciate any comments you might have by 15 August.

Thanks,

[redacted signature box]

[redacted box]

Date 6 August 1984

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