

OTE 86-6955

5 MAR 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
Executive Director  
Deputy Director for Administration

25X1

FROM:   
Director of Training and Education

SUBJECT: Soviet Realities Institute--Status Report

REFERENCE: Memo for DCI, fm D/OTE, dtd 16 Sept 85  
(OTE 85-6717), Subj: Soviet Affairs Training  
Program

1. Action Requested. That you approve the attached draft Agency-wide notice--over your signature--announcing the establishment of the Soviet Realities Institute and encouraging its support by individuals and managers to upgrade our understanding of the Soviet collection and analysis target.

2. Background. We are about to launch the Soviet Realities Institute, the organizational element that will activate the Soviet training program previously approved by you. (Reference). We have recruited some of America's outstanding scholars on the Soviet Union to help out. We have found considerable interest and enthusiasm for what we are doing.

In particular, we are asking scholars to conduct short (a week or less) seminars on the Soviet Union. The seminars are designed to provide an integrated overview of the nature, functioning and objectives of the Soviet system. To date, we have commitments from:

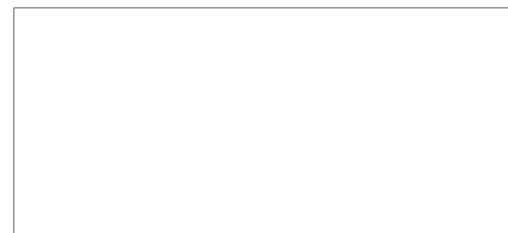
Seweryn Bialer  
(Columbia University)

27 February - 1 March 1986

Richard Pipes  
(Harvard University)

16 - 20 June 1986

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SUBJECT: Soviet Realities Institute--Status Report

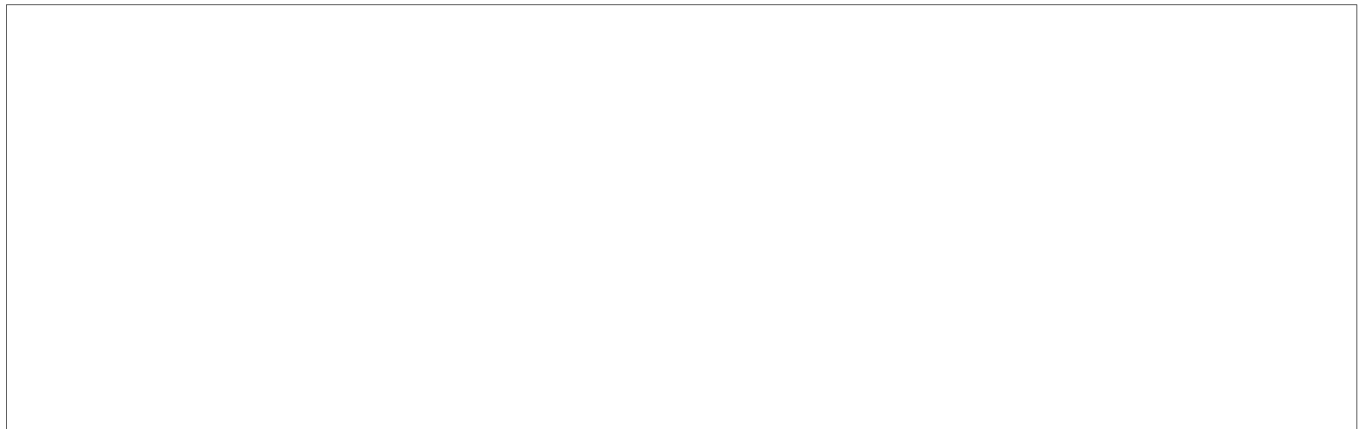
Robert V. Daniels (University of Vermont)	September 1986
Adam Ulam (Harvard University)	October 1986
Gail Lapidus (University of California, Berkeley)	November 1986
George Breslauer (University of California, Berkeley)	January 1987

We are currently negotiating with Wolfgang Leonhard (Yale University), and a team of Rand Corporation experts (Arnold Horelick, Harry Gelman and Abe Becker). Additional scholars are being contacted in our effort to offer eight to ten seminars each year.

All of these seminars will be videotaped for self-study use.

3. Blocks

Six instructional blocks, each providing in-depth study of a particular discipline or issue, are being developed for presentation as full- or part-time programs during 1986. The scheduling will be staggered to allow for maximum participation by Agency officers. Each block is directed by recognized specialists who are present or former Agency employees. The blocks and their directors are:

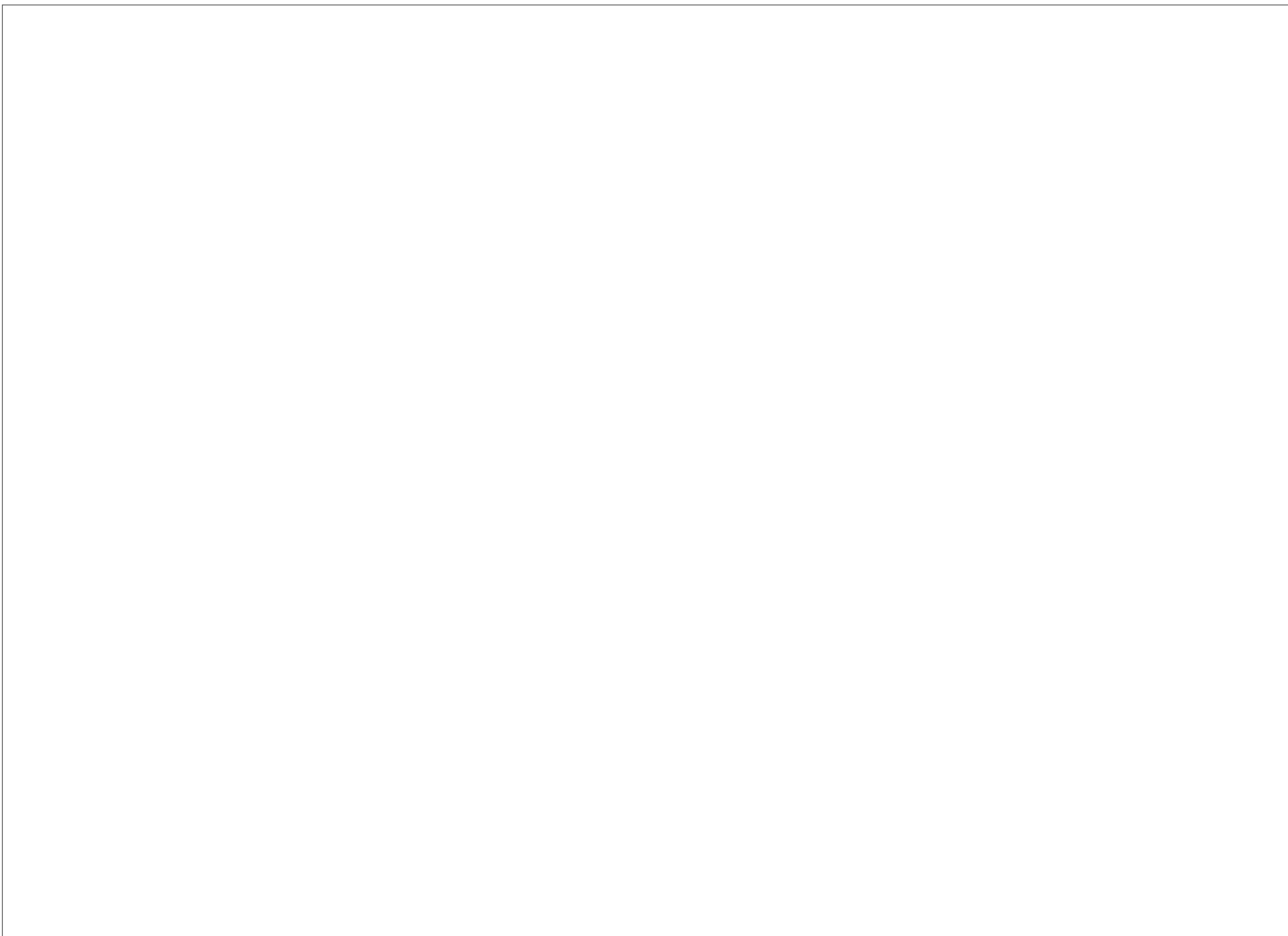


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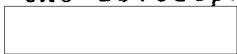


5. Field Instruction and Self-Study

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To reach officers [redacted] we have initiated a program of videotaping selected presentations. We have already taped five presentations in Russian and two in English (Murray Feshbach, Robert Conquest) and plan to record portions of the seminars and blocks whenever feasible. We have also ordered a series of taped lectures by outstanding scholars of Soviet affairs, including Helmut Sonnenfeldt, Vladimir Treml and Konstantin Simis, for distribution, self-study and/or discussion. We also anticipate the development of seminars for delivery [redacted]

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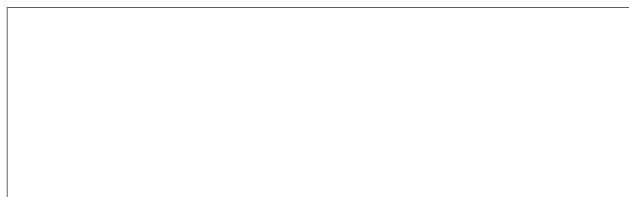
6. Conclusion

This is just a beginning. I am happy to report that there is considerable support in the Agency for the undertaking and a strong belief that it is long overdue. We are dedicated to the single proposition that we must get useful information on the USSR to the people who need it, which means flexibility, creativity and doggedness.

I know how interested you are in the problem the Soviet Union poses to our country today and in the coming years. Nothing is more critical to our work as an intelligence agency and to our future as a nation. I encourage you to play as active a role in this undertaking as your time permits, and we welcome your ideas on how we can better achieve our goals.

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Attachment



SUBJECT: Soviet Realities Institute--Status Report

CONCUR:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Director for Administration

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Central Intelligence

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

25X1 OTE/ITD  (28 Feb 86)

Distribution:

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Draft of Agency-Wide Notice

Nothing is more critical to America's future, and the work of the Agency, than the problem posed by the Soviet Union now, and for the foreseeable future. We must continue to upgrade our collection and analysis on the USSR--it is an imperative.

To strengthen our performance, I believe that we must both broaden and deepen our understanding of the USSR. Therefore, at my direction the Office of Training and Education has established the Soviet Realities Institute which will offer an extensive program of instruction on the Soviet Union. The principal objectives of the program are to:

--bring up to speed quickly officers who work on the USSR but whose academic or professional background on the Soviet Union is limited;

--strengthen the understanding of Soviet specialists in areas not of their specialty;

--strengthen the understanding of the totality of the Soviet Union as a political problem for the U.S. and as the first priority intelligence issue for CIA;

--challenge and enrich the perspectives of Soviet specialists;

--build a stronger sense of community among Soviet analysts and collectors.

The curriculum will include:

Seminars

In a series entitled "Perspectives on the Soviet Union," outstanding scholars have been invited to conduct short seminars on the nature, functioning and objectives of the Soviet system.

Part-time Courses

Blocks of instruction on key disciplines and issues will be directed by current or former Agency experts on the Soviet Union. These blocks will include Soviet intelligence activities, foreign policy, military policy and programs, internal politics, economics, science and technology, and society and culture.

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Self-study Programs

Videotapes will be made of presentations in the Soviet Realities Institute program for self-study or discussion at Headquarters, domestic and overseas posts.

Workshops

One-day discussions and workshops on issues of immediate concern will be designed, involving experts from academia as well as the intelligence and policy communities.

I strongly encourage all who are concerned with the Soviet Union including our overseas officers collecting against the Soviet target to take advantage of this program. In particular, those of you who are managers have a special responsibility to insure that your people receive the right kind of exposure and training on the Soviet problem. In this regard, I have directed the Director of Training and Education to report to me one year from now, with suitable recommendations, on how well we are doing in meeting the objectives set forth above.

William J. Casey