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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

DDI 055411

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4 OCT 1984

The Honorable Lionel H. Olmer
Under Secretary for International Trade
Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Lionel:

I received your note of 22 September requesting us to arrange a meeting of interested agencies to discuss proposed terms of reference for the study of Soviet energy policy goals and the role of Western equipment and technology.

We think it would be inappropriate for this Agency to arrange such a meeting, especially since State and presumably Defense will also be interested in participating. We would prefer that you address your request to the NSC. We have no objection to Commerce involvement in this project at an early stage.

Meanwhile, we are continuing to work on the information you requested for the US-USSR Working Group of Experts Meeting. This material should be available to you by the end of the month.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box with a black border, used to redact the signature of Robert M. Gates.

Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

25X1

All portions are Confidential.

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CL BY Signer
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SUBJECT: Letter to Lionel Olmer
Assessment of Soviet energy policy goals and
the role of Western equipment and technology

DDI/SOVA/SED/[] (2 Oct 84)

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under Secretary for International Trade

SECRET

September 22, 1984

DDI- 5541/84

To: Bob Gates

From: Lionel H. Olmer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lionel H. Olmer", is written over the "From:" line.

Attached FYI is a copy of a note from Secretary Baldrige to Robert McFarlane, stating our interest in participating in the proposed study. I understand that Secretaries Hodel and Shultz, as well as Ambassador Brock, may be interested in having their agencies participate on the same basis.

Please let me know when a meeting can be arranged for your staff, NSC staff, my staff, and other interested agencies to discuss the proposed terms of reference for the study.

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Unclassified when separated from attachment.

SECRET

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

SEP 17 1984

Honorable Robert C. McFarlane
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Bud,

(S) I have just received a copy of your memorandum for William Casey requesting an assessment of Soviet energy policy goals and the role of Western equipment and technology.

(S) The Soviets will be interested in discussing at a meeting of the Working Group of Experts under the Long Term Agreement to Facilitate Economic, Industrial, and Technical Cooperation their plans for energy development and possibilities for purchasing American energy equipment and technology. Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Sushkov made this clear during our meeting in May. I said that at the Experts Meeting both sides should be prepared to discuss topics of interest to the other, but told him that naturally I could make no promises as to the results of those discussions.

(S) Lionel Olmer will lead the U.S. delegation to the Experts Meeting, which will probably take place in December. Believing that in preparing for these discussions with the Soviets we need an accurate understanding of their objectives, needs and capabilities, he just sent a letter to Robert Gates at CIA with a request for information, including some themes along the lines of your memorandum.

(S) Given the common interest we share with you on this subject, as well as the Department's responsibility for administering the export control program and chairing the Joint U.S.-U.S.S.R. Commercial Commission, it is important that Commerce participate fully in drafting the terms of reference for the CIA study and that we be fully involved as the study proceeds. The analyses Commerce and NSC have requested of CIA on Soviet energy issues should be melded to obtain the best up-to-date assessment of Soviet energy capabilities and goals prior to our meetings with Soviet trade officials. Deputy Assistant Secretary Frank Vargo will be our representative.

Sincerely,

Secretary of Commerce

cc: Secretary of State
Director of CIA

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