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OCA FILE SSCI Bly 3 April 1987 <sup>Record</sup>  
RECPT # \_\_\_\_\_

OCA 87-1243  
3 April 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: SSCI Briefing on Soviet Domestic Issues

1. Senator Bradley's SSCI task force on the Soviet Union held its first briefing at 0915 on 3 April 1987 in SHOB-219. The briefing was chaired by Senator Bradley. Senators DeConcini, Murkowski, Cohen, Specter, and Nunn made appearances of varying lengths. Staffers in attendance included Sven Holmes, Dave Holliday, Jim Dysktra, John Despres, Jeanne McNaughton, Blythe Thomas, Regina Genton, George Tenet, John Nelson, Mike Mattingly, Natile Bocock, Ed Levine, Marvin Ott, and Charlie Battaglia. CIA briefers were Doug MacEachin, Director of the Office of Soviet Analysis (SOVA), [redacted] SOVA, [redacted] SOVA, and Bob Blackwell, National Intelligence Officer for the USSR. [redacted] represented OCA. A transcript was taken [redacted]

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2. Senator Bradley introduced the briefing by stating that over the next six months or so (his task force) would be taking an in-depth look at the Soviet Union from an Intelligence Community and larger community perspective. The goals were to

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[redacted]

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3. Bob Blackwell began with an overview of the Soviet domestic scene focusing on Gorbachev's reforms, opposition to the reforms, and the decisionmaking process with emphasis of the relationships among Soviet leaders. Senator Bradley was interested in attitudes of the military, the KGB, the Party, and the bureaucracy. [redacted] followed with comments on the economy with particular emphasis on economic strategy and current and future performance. Doug MacEachin spoke to a range of military subjects. (Mr. MacEachin later returned to the subject of military strategy in Europe during an exchange with Senator Nunn who arrived early for another hearing.) The opening statements were followed by a thorough discussion of issues on Senator Bradley's mind. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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25X1 4. Senator Bradley was highly complimentary of the opening  
statements and of the quality of the discussion. John Despres  
called later to reiterate Senator Bradley's favorable  
impression. The next session will be on the Soviet economy and  
probably will be held in late April. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted]

Chief, Senate Branch  
Office of Congressional Affairs

25X1 OCA/Senate [redacted] (3 Apr 87)

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OCA#87-1217  
31 March 1987

NOTE FOR: Doug MacEachin

STAT

FROM :

SUBJECT : SSCI Oversight of Soviet Analysis

John Despres outlined for me his desired order of march for Friday's Committee briefing.

--Start with a short summary of the Gorbachev agenda paper by the authors.

--Blackwell to address question of what we know, and need to know but don't know about how the politburo works (i.e., decisionmaking).

--discussion of particular areas of "substantive policy" of greatest interest to Committee. This includes the following, but other areas may come up.

--Economy: impact of economic developments on military and security policy.

--Asia: risks and benefits of operations in Asia.

--Alternative geopolitical strategies.

We are not bound by who John wants to brief on each subject. He said he just wanted to give each of our briefers a chance to brief. I think he asked that  do the economy and that you, Doug, speak to geopolitical strategies. John said this first session was to establish a base line on what the CIA knows and believes in this area. He said that this will probably be the only time we appear alone. (I repeated our position on briefing along with policy agencies.) There will also be other sessions with briefers from think tanks,

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OCA#87-1218  
31 March 1987

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NOTE FOR: Doug MacEachin  
FROM:   
SUBJECT: SSCI Oversight of Soviet Analysis (II)

John Despres called again to say that Friday's session is now going to be held at 0915 vice 1400. Senator Bradley has had a chance to review John's desired order of march and requests that the following issues also be addressed.

--We will start with a review of last Fall's hearing. What has been done? What do we plan to do?

--What are Gorbachev's chances of seeking and finding additional sources of legitimacy for his actions/agenda?

--What are his chances of success? Who are his allies and opponents domestically, especially within the military, the KGB, and the Party?

--What is his strategy for getting Western economic help and for splitting Europe by dangling prospects of a unified Germany?

--What is the likelihood that labor shortages and productivity decline will affect conventional force size? If the Soviets wanted to save resources in defense spending, where would they cut?

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OCA/Senat  (31 Mar 87)

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