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Grim Prediction—The Central Intelligence Agency has compiled some grim, secret projections on future oil use in the United States.

The CIA estimates that Americans will be burning "as much as 38 million barrels per day" by the mid-1980s. This is more than double the daily consumption of 18.4 million barrels in 1977.

Of this voracious oil intake, a disturbing 8.7 million barrels are drawn from overseas oilfields. This heavy dependence on overseas oil has made the United States dangerously vulnerable. For oil is the nation's lifeblood.

Secret White House papers cite these troublesome figures as evidence of "the necessity to reduce our dependence on oil." President Carter was skeptical about the CIA estimates. He had seen some evidence, he commented, "to contradict the CIA figures." But he agreed that Americans must learn to break the oil habit.