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## CURRENT SUPPORT MEMORANDUM

SOVIET FAILURE TO DEVELOP  
ADEQUATE COTTON PICKER

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

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This report represents the immediate views of the  
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Production figures for cotton pickers found in the USSR National Economy dramatically reflect the announced Soviet inability to perfect a satisfactory cotton picker, one which will warrant annual production at a continued high level. The figures also provide a probable explanation for recent Soviet efforts to obtain cotton pickers from the US.

Soviet cotton picker production is reported as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Units</u>
1950	4,741
1954	3,386
1955	555

Production actually has not decreased as smoothly as appears from these figures. In 1951, a reported 10,000 cotton pickers were produced and in 1953, an estimated 2,470. In any case, the general downward trend is undeniable.

The cotton picker is the most complicated of all agricultural machines. In the US more time and money have gone into the development of a satisfactory cotton picker than have been spent on any other agricultural machine. The USSR built its first prototype nearly 30 years ago and has been working on the problem ever since.

The USSR has never received a cotton picker from the US, but in 1955 and early 1956 export license applications for one each of the US types were under discussion. US producers generally were against exporting cotton pickers because of the obvious implications of the Soviet order for only one each of the various types. In the light of its poor record in this field, it is not surprising that the USSR should attempt to secure proven US machines. With the denial of the export applications in May 1956, it appears that the USSR shall have to continue to depend upon its own engineers in this matter, at least in the immediate future. In this case the denial of US "know-how" to the USSR has provided that country with a definite engineering headache, since the Soviets appear loathe to direct the necessary engineering talent to the development of the cotton picker.

Analyst

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