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•	DATE 2/10/61
	Dr. Wiesner
	DI: WICEIGI
	David E. Bell
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Returned with appreciation.

AELEASED September 99

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THE WHITE HOL

February 4, 1961

MR. BELL

For information and return to Dr. Wiesner.

931011 -/41

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Wiesner

Cettacked paper on Sou

Uranium position prepared

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to present to your discussion

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DATE)

931011-142

2 February 1961

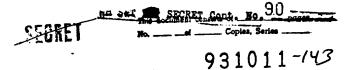
STATUS OF SOVIET URANIUM ORE PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT

Intelligence clearly indicates that the Soviet Union has established a large uranium ore production base within the Bloc. In addition to widespread production in the USSR, major quantities of ore are procured from nearly all of the European satellites. The Soviet Union is currently producing about 17,000 tons of recoverable uranium metal per year, with over one-half coming from the European satellites and almost one-third coming from East Germany alone.

Estimated Soviet ore production is summarized on the attached sheet. We accord a high degree of reliability to this estimate.

We believe that this quantity of ore is significantly greater than that required to support the Soviet fissionable material production program on a day-to-day basis, and estimate that they have accumulated a significant stockpile which is equivalent to their future needs for several years.

Communist China is developing a sizable native uranium ore production effort and probably will have no requirement for foreign procurement.



We do not foresee any strong technical or economic motivation for the Soviets to procure uranium ore outside the Soviet Bloc. However, for political reasons, they could in time offer to procure small quantities from less developed countries such as Argentina, Peru, Mexico or Afganistan. It should be noted that if the U. S. discontinues foreign uranium ore procurement, this will facilitate the accessability of this ore to potential "Nth" countries; but such U. S. procurement is not in itself an effective denial measure.

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SOVIET BLOC URANIUM ORE PRODUCTION

(METRIC TONS OF RECOVERABLE URANIUM METAL)

SECRET	1960	1965
USSR	7,800	9,800
EAST GERMANY	5,000	
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	1,700	
BULGARIA	1,000	
(POLAND)	(40) 8,900	11,500
RUMANIA	800	
HUNGARY	400	
(CHINA)	(500)	
ANNUAL	16,700	21,300
TOTAL SINCE 1946	130,000	230,000

^{*} PRODUCTION RETAINED BY CHINA OR POLAND (AFTER 1958). NOT INCLUDED IN TOTALS.

EGRET

931011 - 145