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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Paul A. Heise  
Department of Labor  
International Labor Affairs Bureau

SUBJECT : Soviet Equity Holdings in the West

In response to your request of 17 May 1974, I am sending you a brief description and alphabetical listing of known Soviet equity holdings in the West. You may freely use the information contained therein, but may not give Agency attribution. Unfortunately, we are not aware of any labor problems that the USSR may have had with foreign nationals that might have been of use to you in studying the problems of multinational corporations and social policies. If we can be of any further assistance to you, please let us know.

Office of Economic Research

Attachment:  
As stated

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Soviet Equity Holdings in the West

The USSR has equity interest in at least 44 enterprises in the West (see the alphabetical listing). Largely concentrated in Western Europe, these establishments operate in accordance with the laws in the countries in which they are situated. The companies fall into three major categories: finance and insurance institutions, shipping agencies, and firms established to promote exports of Soviet-produced products.

The most visible of the Soviet-owned firms in the West are the banks and insurance companies. The largest of these are the Moscow Narodny Bank of London and Banque Commerciale pour l'Europe du Nord of Paris. Each of these banks has assets in excess of a billion dollars and more than 100 employees. The London bank also has branches in Beirut and Singapore. Other banks in Western Europe include Wozchod Handelsbank (Zurich), Ost-West Handelsbank (Frankfurt), and Donaubank (Vienna). The USSR also owns a bank in Tehran -- the Russo-Iranian Bank. The USSR's Western-based insurance operations include Garant Versicherungen in Vienna, Black Sea and Baltic General Insurance Company in London, and Schwartzmeer und Ostsee Transportversicherungs-Aktiengesellschaft in Hamburg. All of the above institutions are entirely Soviet owned.

The USSR also has varying degrees of equity interest in a large number of companies to facilitate Soviet shipping and to promote Soviet exports. With few notable exceptions (e.g. Scaldia-Volga in Belgium, among other things, operates an auto assembly plant), the equity investment and the size of the staff are small, often not much more than a two or three man office.

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Alphabetical Listing of Soviet Equity Holdings in the West

Firm	Country
Actif-Avto	France
American Trade Joint Stock Company (AMTORG)	United States
Anglo-Soviet Shipping Co., Ltd.	United Kingdom
Banque Commercial pour l'Europe du Nord (BCEN)	France
Belarus Equipment	Canada
Belgium-Soviet Trade Company (BELSO Ltd.)	Belgium
Black Sea and Baltic General Insurance Company, Ltd.	United Kingdom
Donaubank	Austria
East-West Agencies	Belgium
East-West Agencies	Netherlands
East-West Trading	United Kingdom
Elorg	Netherlands
Ethiopian-Soviet Trade Co. (ETHSO)	Ethiopia
Ferchimex	Belgium
Garant Versicherungs A.G.	Austria
Koneisto AB	Finland
Koneisto Norge A/S	Norway
Konela	Finland
Konela Norge Bil	Norway
Matreco Bil AB	Sweden
Moscow Narodny Bank, Ltd. (MNB)	United Kingdom
MNB-Beirut Branch	Lebanon
MNB-Singapore Branch	Singapore
Nafta-B	Belgium
Nafta (BG), Ltd	United Kingdom
Ost-West Handelsbank	West Germany
Pacific International Freight- liners, Ltd	Canada
Russalmaz, N.V.	Belgium
Russebois	France
Russo-Iranian Bank	Iran
Scaldia-Volga	Belgium
Schwartzmeer und Ostsee Transport- versicherungs-Aktiengesellschaft (SOVAG)	West Germany
Singapore-Soviet Shipping Co. (SOSIAC)	Singapore
Slava	France
Sogo and Company, S.A.	France
Sovispan S.A.	Spain
Stanitaliana S.P.A.	Italy
Stankofrance	France
Teboyl	Finland
Technical and Optical Equipment, Ltd.	United Kingdom
Transworld Marine Agency (Antwerp)	Belgium
Transworld Marine Agency (Rotterdam)	Netherlands
UMO Plant, Ltd.	United Kingdom
United Orient Shipping and Agency Company, Ltd	Japan
West African Automobile and Technical Engineering Company (WAATECO)	Nigeria
Wozchod Handelsbank. A.G.	Switzerland