

CONFIDENTIAL

Nº

87

14960

Economic Intelligence Memorandum

CURTAILMENT
OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
FOR SOVIET WOMEN



CIA/RR EM 62-2

March 1962

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Research and Reports

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL 1998

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Economic Intelligence Memorandum

CURTAILMENT
OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
FOR SOVIET WOMEN

CIA/RR EM 62-2

~~WARNING~~

~~This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, USC, Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Research and Reports

//

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Summary and Conclusions	1
1. Trends in the Proportion of Women Enrolled in Professional Schools	3
2. Role of Women in Professional and Managerial Occupations	4

Appendixes

Appendix A. Statistical Tables	7
Appendix B. Source References	13

Tables

1. Women as a Percent of the Enrollment in VUZ's and Tekhnikums in the USSR, Selected Years, 1935-60	9
2. Proportion of Women in Selected Managerial Positions and Major Professional Occupations in the USSR, 15 January 1959	10
3. Graduates of VUZ's and Tekhnikums, by Age and Sex, in the USSR, 15 January 1959	11

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

CURTAILMENT OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
FOR SOVIET WOMEN*

Summary and Conclusions

The professional educational opportunities for Soviet women have been steadily curtailed during the past several years, largely as a consequence of changes in admission requirements that place academic achievement second to military service and civilian work experience in the selection of applicants for professional schools. Although the changes were introduced ostensibly to "bring education closer to production," an additional consideration may have been a growing concern over the preponderance of women among graduates of professional schools since 1940. As these graduates reach "management age," the USSR will be increasingly dependent on women to fill high-level positions, even though current policies governing admissions to professional schools -- heavily weighted in favor of men already in the labor force -- may moderate this dependence.

The ratio of women to men in the college-age group (18 to 24 years) has remained unchanged, but the proportion of women among students at Graduate Schools, Higher Educational Institutions (VUZ's), and Secondary Specialized Schools (Tekhnikums) has dropped sharply since 1955. Should this decline continue, the numerical predominance of women over men in such fields as medicine and education, as well as their relative importance in engineering and other professional fields, will gradually be eroded.

* The estimates and conclusions in this memorandum represent the best judgment of this Office as of 15 March 1962.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

P. 1

1. Trends in the Proportion of Women Enrolled in Professional Schools

From the late 1930's until 1955, when admissions were based almost exclusively on the academic record of the applicant, Soviet women enjoyed a definite advantage over Soviet men in gaining admission to Higher Educational Institutions (VUZ's) and Secondary Specialized Schools (Tekhnikums). As a result, women represented a majority of the student body during that period, as shown in Table 1.* The extensive mobilization before and during World War II and the maintenance of a relatively large military establishment in the postwar period drew heavily on the male population of college age during an extended period. This situation, as well as an apparent tendency for more women than men to finish high school,** resulted in a much larger number of qualified VUZ applicants among females than among males. At the Tekhnikums, which, before 1955, accepted for the most part graduates of the 7-year schools who were too young for military service, another factor was operating to the advantage of female applicants. This factor was the "draft" of recruits -- mainly young males just out of the 7-year school -- for training in Labor Reserve Schools. Even during World War II, females constituted only 25 percent of the admissions to Labor Reserve Schools, and this proportion has ranged between 10 and 15 percent in the postwar period. 2/ Thus the sex ratio of graduates of 7-year schools applying for admission to Tekhnikums must have been heavily in favor of the females.

Beginning in 1955, major changes were made in the rules governing admission to VUZ's and Tekhnikums. The selection procedure, instead of being based almost exclusively on the academic record of the applicant, placed emphasis on work experience and status as a veteran. By 1959, even honors graduates from the high schools were no longer granted any special privileges on applying to VUZ's, and first priority was given to veterans. Tekhnikums gradually modified their entrance requirement after 1955 from 7 years to 10 years of general schooling and established priorities similar to those for VUZ's. In the school year of 1960-61, first priority for admission to VUZ's and Tekhnikums was given to persons recommended by industrial and construction enterprises and state and collective farms, second priority to applicants recommended by the Communist Party or trade unions, and third priority to veterans. In that year it was reported that 80 percent of the admissions to VUZ's,

* Appendix A, p. 9, below.

** Although the population of high-school age was about equally distributed between the sexes, females constituted 55 percent of high school enrollment in 1950 and 1955 and 54 percent in 1960. 1/ (For serially numbered source references, see Appendix B.)

including admissions to correspondence and evening programs as well as fulltime day programs, had had 2 or more years of military or civilian work experience. Among those admitted to fulltime day programs, 57 percent had had the required experience. ^{3/} For the current school year (1961-62) the rules governing admissions described above continued in force. ^{4/} Thus, although completion of the 10-year school continues to be a prerequisite for admission to the professional schools, the conditions that gave female applicants an advantage before 1955 have been largely eliminated. Instead, the entrance requirements either directly favor men, as in the case of "veteran's preference," or place the decisions in the hands of the Communist Party and other organs of social control that may tend to discriminate against women.

In addition to these developments in undergraduate enrollment, the proportion of women among graduate students (aspirantura) in the USSR also declined between 1955 and 1960. Women constituted only 23 percent of the graduate students in 1960 compared with 31 percent in 1955. This decline probably was related to a commensurate change in the relative importance of graduate study in such fields as education, the social sciences, and the humanities -- fields in which women predominate at the undergraduate level. The proportion of all graduate students enrolled in those fields fell from 29 percent to 23 percent between 1955 and 1960, while graduate study in the physical and biological sciences -- fields in which women represent a minority -- increased accordingly. ^{5/}

2. Role of Women in Professional and Managerial Occupations

The relatively high proportion of women among graduates of professional schools in the USSR during the past 2 decades led inevitably to an expansion of their role in the major professional occupations. By 1959, about 80 percent of Soviet physicians and dentists and almost 75 percent of teachers, economists, and planners were women. Their role was smaller, but nevertheless impressive, in such fields as engineering, agronomy, and law, as shown in Table 2.*

In managerial positions, however, the role of women was, in general, much smaller than in the professional occupations from which these managers normally are drawn. Thus, although women constituted 32 percent of all engineers, they held only 12 percent of the high-level positions in industrial and other enterprises where almost all such positions are held by engineers. Similarly, women held far fewer managerial posts in schools and hospitals than their relative numbers among teachers and doctors would dictate.

* Appendix A, p. 10, below.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

At least part of the explanation for this phenomenon is that, in 1959, men outnumbered women by almost 2 to 1 among VUZ graduates who were more than 40 years of age and constituted a majority of Tekhnikum graduates in these ages, as shown in Table 3.* These are the graduates who attended Soviet professional schools in the 1920's and 1930's, when the proportion of women in those schools was still relatively low. On the other hand, women outnumbered men among graduates who were less than 40 years of age in 1959, constituting 56 percent of VUZ graduates and 60 percent of Tekhnikum graduates. Thus the relative supply of qualified managers among men and women older than 40 rather than the relative supply of professional graduates of all ages probably has been a key factor in the continuing predominance of men in management posts and other positions of leadership during the postwar period.

During the next 20 years the graduates who currently are less than 40 years of age -- among whom women are a large majority -- will reach "management age," but the full impact of this impending shift may be moderated by a continuation of current admission policies. Not only will the proportion of men increase among the graduating classes, but also the graduates will tend to be older because of the priority given to veterans and to persons with work experience.

* Appendix A, p. 11, below.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

(P.6 blank)
 (P.7 blank)
 (P.8 blanks)

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

Table 1

Women as a Percent of the Enrollment
 in VUZ's and Tekhnikums in the USSR a/
 Selected Years, 1935-60

	<u>1935</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1960</u>
VUZ's						
Engineering	23	40	60	30	35	30
Agriculture	32	46	79	39	39	27
Economics and law	39	64	77	57	67	49
Medicine	71	74	90	65	69	56
Education b/	48	66	84	71	71	63
Total	38	58	77	53	52	43
Tekhnikums						
Engineering	30	32	N.A.	35	42	33
Agriculture	32	37	N.A.	41	43	38
Medicine	80	83	N.A.	85	89	84
Education b/	55	60	N.A.	77	80	76
Total c/	44	55	N.A.	54	55	47

a. 6/
 b. Including the social sciences, the humanities, and the arts.
 c. Including economics and law, not shown separately.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

Table 2

Proportion of Women in Selected Managerial Positions
and Major Professional Occupations in the USSR a/
15 January 1959

	<u>Percent</u>
Managerial Positions	
Heads of government departments and their subdivisions	28
Heads of Party, Komsomol, trade union, cooperative, and other social organizations and their subdivisions	21
Heads of enterprises (industrial, construction, agricultural, forestry, transportation, and communications) and their subdivisions	12
Chief physicians and other heads of medical establishments	52
School principals (except 4-year elementary schools)	23
Heads of publishing houses and their subdivisions	24
Heads of trade organizations and stores	49
Heads of public dining enterprises	53
Heads of material and technical supply organizations	26
Professional occupations	
Engineers	32
Agronomists	41
Physicians	79
Dentists	83
VUZ faculty	38
Teachers (except VUZ)	73
Lawyers	37
Economists and planners	74

a. 1/

Table 3
Graduates of VUZ's and Tekhnikums, by Age and Sex, in the USSR a/
15 January 1959

Age	Thousands		Percent	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
VUZ's				
Less than 30 years	436	618	41.4	58.6
30 to 39 years	593	708	45.6	54.4
40 to 49 years	437	281	60.9	39.1
50 to 59 years	326	157	67.5	32.5
60 years or more	142	80	64.0	36.0
Total	<u>1,934</u>	<u>1,844</u>	51.2	48.8
Tekhnikums				
Less than 30 years	1,300	2,030	39.0	61.0
30 to 39 years	1,036	1,485	41.1	58.9
40 to 49 years	659	609	52.0	48.0
50 to 59 years	281	219	56.2	43.8
60 years or more	138	113	55.0	45.0
Total	<u>3,414</u>	<u>4,456</u>	43.4	56.6

a. 8/

APPENDIX B

SOURCE REFERENCES

Evaluations, following the classification entry and designated "Eval.," have the following significance:

<u>Source of Information</u>	<u>Information</u>
Doc. - Documentary	1 - Confirmed by other sources
A - Completely reliable	2 - Probably true
B - Usually reliable	3 - Possibly true
C - Fairly reliable	4 - Doubtful
D - Not usually reliable	5 - Probably false
E - Not reliable	6 - Cannot be judged
F - Cannot be judged	

"Documentary" refers to original documents of foreign governments and organizations; copies or translations of such documents by a staff officer; or information extracted from such documents by a staff officer, all of which may carry the field evaluation "Documentary."

Evaluations not otherwise designated are those appearing on the cited document; those designated "RR" are by the author of this memorandum. No "RR" evaluation is given when the author agrees with the evaluation on the cited document.

All sources are evaluated "Documentary" unless otherwise indicated.

1. Vestnik statistiki, no 6, 1956, p. 96. U. USSR. Zhenshchiny i deti v SSSR: statisticheskiy sbornik (Women and Children in the USSR: A Statistical Handbook), Moscow, 1961, p. 165. U. (hereafter referred to as USSR. Zhenshchiny)

[p. 12 blank}

2. USSR. Narodnoye khozyaystvo SSSR v 1959 godu (National Economy of the USSR in 1959), Moscow, 1960, p. 623. U.
3. DeWitt, Nicholas. Education and Professional Employment in the USSR, Washington, 1961, p. 168-169, 243ff. U. Eval. RR 1.
4. Pravda, 12 Apr 61. U.
5. USSR. Vyssheye obrazovaniye v SSSR (Higher Education in the USSR), Moscow, 1961, p. 222, 224. U. (hereafter referred to as USSR. Vyssheye)
USSR. Kul'turnoye stroitel'stvo SSSR (Cultural Construction in the USSR), Moscow, 1956, p. 251, 256. U.
6. USSR. Narodnoye khozyaystvo SSSR v 1960 godu (National Economy of the USSR in 1960), Moscow, 1961, p. 779. U.
USSR. Vyssheye (5, above), p. 86. U.
USSR. Zhenshchiny (1, above), p. 74. U.
USSR, State Planning Commission. Socialist Construction in the USSR, Moscow, 1936, p. 457. U.
7. USSR. Zhenshchiny (1, above), p. 107-111. U.
8. USSR. Vyssheye (5, above), p. 32-35. U.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~