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J- 3919

10 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Edward A. Mainland
                 EUR/SOV
                 Room 4219
                 Department of State

SUBJECT   :   US Seaports Comparable to 40 Soviet
                   Ports Declared "Open for Calls by
                   Foreign Vessels"

1.   The 40 Soviet ports listed in State Incoming Tele-
gram 8097 from Moscow (29 October 1971, CONFIDENTIAL)
include most of the important Soviet foreign trade ports
not previously recognized as closed to visits by foreign
ships and a cross section of lesser ports, some of which
are insignificant roadstead operations on remote portions
of the Sakhalin coast.   The list obviously excludes a
number of lesser ports that are unlikely to have been
excluded for strategic reasons and that are certainly
more important than some of the most marginal ports that
were included.

2.   It is interesting to note that the 40 ports in-
clude all of the 26 ports that appeared in a 1969 Sovfracht
information brochure on port facilities and charges for
owners and masters of foreign ships contemplating voyages
to the USSR, the most recent available indicator of pre-
vious Soviet policy on open ports.   Among the 26 ports that
appear in both Moscow 8097 and the Sovfracht brochure are
all but five of 23 Soviet ports which the Soviet Ministry
of the Maritime Fleet considers to be the USSR's leading
foreign trade ports.   The five ports excluded are: Kalin-
ingrad (Baltic Sea), Nikolayev (Black Sea), Kerch (Black
Sea), Vladivostok (Far East), and Vanino (Far East).   With
the possible exception of Vanino, all of these are ports
long acknowledged as closed to foreign shipping.   The 14
ports listed in Moscow 8097 that do not appear in either
the Sovfracht brochure or the Ministry's list of 23 are all
of minor significance in terms of international seaborne

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trade. The most notable of these are three Black Sea
ports--Sochi, Sukhumi, and Yalta--that derive most of
their business from visits by passenger liners during
the summer tourist season and eight small Sakhalin
Island loading points for exports of coal or timber to
Japan and other trading partners.

3. Among the lesser ports excluded from Moscow
8097 are at least five in the closed category--Sevas-
topol' (Black Sea), Taganrog (Sea of Azov), Kronstadt
(Baltic Sea), Liepaya (Baltic Sea), and Polyarnoye
(Barents Sea). Ports omitted from the list in Moscow
8097 whose status is unknown include:

Arctic Ocean (including Barents and White Seas)

Kem
Keret
Kandalaksha
Umba

Baltic Sea
Lomonosov

Black Sea

Feodosiya
Ochakov

Pacific Ocean

Korsakov
Mago
Lazarev
Nagayevo
Vanino
Moskal'vo
Nikolayevsk (on Amur)
Tetyukhe

4. The 40 US counterpart ports on the attached list
were matched with Soviet ports thought to handle com-
parable volumes of cargo or known to handle significant
quantities of commodities important in the other port's
traffic. The absence of overall tonnage data for all
but 15 of the Soviet ports, the complete lack of sta-
tistics on the tonnages of foreign trade cargo handled at
Soviet ports, and the fact that the most recent overall
tonnages available were for 1967 made the ranking and
matching of these ports particularly difficult. Major
differences in the magnitude and composition of US and
Soviet seaborne trade further complicated the process.
The volume of US seaborne trade exceeds 450 million tons;
that of the USSR is less than 150 million tons. In US
trade the tonnage of imports is 1.5 times that of exports
while in Soviet trade, export volume is nine times that
for imports. The picture gets further complicated when
you compare trade in major bulk commodities such as
petroleum, coal, grain, and ore.

                                        Acting Chief
                            International Services Division

Attachment:
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SOVIET SEAPORTS OPEN TO FOREIGN SHIPS	COMPARABLE US PORTS

ARCTIC OCEAN

1.	Murmansk	Tampa, Florida
2.	Onega	Anacortes, Washington
3.	Arkhangel'sk	Longview, Washington
4.	Mezen	Vancouver, Washington
5.	Nar'Yan-Mar	Coos Bay, Oregon
6.	Igarka	Tacoma, Washington

BALTIC SEA

7.	Leningrad	Long Beach, California
8.	Vyborg	Gray's Harbor, Washington
9.	Pyarnu	Fall River, Massachusetts
10.	Riga	Seattle, Washington
11.	Ventspils	Los Angeles, California
12.	Klaypeda	Corpus Christi, Texas
13.	Tallin	Charleston, South Carolina
14.	Vysotsk	Astoria, Oregon

BLACK SEA

15.	Reni	Pascagula, Mississippi
16.	Izmail	Wilmington, Delaware
17.	Kiliya	Gulfport, Mississippi
18.	Belgorod-Dnestrovskiy	Bridgeport, Connecticut
19.	Il'Ichevsk	Boston, Massachusetts
20.	Odessa	Mobile, Alabama
21.	Kherson	Portland, Oregon
22.	Novorossiysk	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
23.	Tuapse	Houston, Texas
24.	Poti	Charleston, South Carolina
25.	Batumi	Port Arthur, Texas
26.	Sochi	Miami, Florida
27.	Sukhumi	Texas City, Texas
28.	Yalta	Morehead City, North Carolina

SEA OF AZOV

29.	Zhdanov	Newport News, Virginia
30.	Berdyansk	Wilmington, North Carolina

SOVIET SEAPORTS OPEN TO FOREIGN SHIPS	COMPARABLE US PORTS

PACIFIC OCEAN

31.	Nakhodka	Jacksonville, Florida
32.	Aleksandrovsk-Sakhalinskiy	Bellingham, Washington
33.	Makarevskiy Roadstead	Kalama, Washington
34.	Oktyabr'skiy	Searsport, Maine
35.	Shakhtersk	Salem, Massachusetss
36.	Uglegorsk	Brunswick, Georgia
37.	Kholmsk	Everett, Washington
38.	Nevel'sk	Port Angeles, Washington
39.	Makarov Roadstead	Hammersley Inlet, Washington
40.	Poronaysk	Sitka, Alaska

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