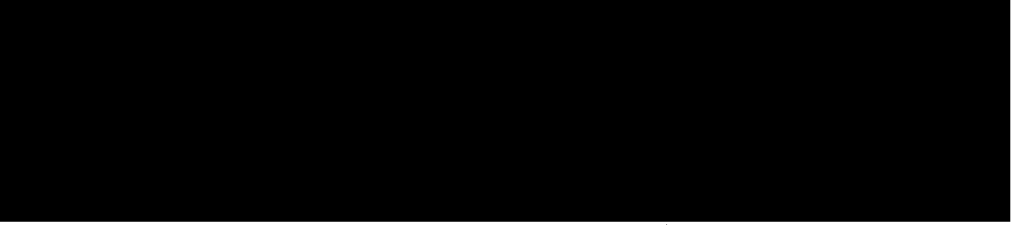



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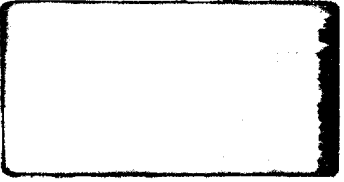
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USSR: Offshore Oil Platforms



Comment: Being able to build their own platforms for offshore oil development projects, such as for the one under way off Sakhalin, would make the Soviets less vulnerable to possible Western economic sanctions. Because of the length of time needed to construct such a production plant, however, and because of the Soviets' difficulty in handling such advanced technologies, the USSR would not become self-sufficient in this field for many years. The exploratory drilling phase of the Sakhalin project reportedly is complete—the fields are expected to begin producing oil late in the decade—and the Soviets presumably will continue for some time to rely on Western-built platforms and other equipment. 



Sakhalin Island's Petroleum and Natural-Gas-Bearing Areas

