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There has been a greater restriction of publications which provide information on the iron and steel, railroad, chemical, petroleum, and production equipment industries. There has also been a marked diminution of financial and foreign trade statistics since July 1949. Fewer figures on crop acreages and yields are now being published. In general, there is a definite trend away from material covering the national, as opposed to purely local, aspects of the Soviet economy. For instance, in contrast to previous practice, no reports were published by the Central Statistical Administration at the end of the fourth quarter of 1949 on the failures of Soviet industry to fulfill production plans of specific items. The publications which are still available to the West usually contain less factual technical material than heretofore. They devote more space to general matters and less to industrial statistics and data. Satellite publications are adopting the established Soviet practice of describing alleged production increases in percentage figures.

The progressive restriction of publications to the US is in consonance with the following developments in the Soviet orbit: (a) the adoption of broad security decrees; (b) the prosecution of nationals and foreigners for alleged espionage and sabotage; (c) a restriction on movement and activities of accredited US diplomatic personnel;\* and (d) a more militant tone of anti-US and anti-Western propaganda.

CIA regards this tendency toward restrictive action as part of the general Soviet drive toward greater security by restricting the US to publications whose propaganda value to the Soviet Union outweighs their intelligence value to the US. CIA believes that the rapid increase in the tempo of this trend points to a coordinated Moscow-directed drive to deny virtually all overt information of substantial intelligence value to the US.

\* The restriction on travel has been most stringent in the USSR and the Balkans and least stringent in Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary, although the trend toward increased restrictions is evident in the latter countries.

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