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PRL (Guide No. 164)

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PERIODIC REQUIREMENTS LIST (PRL)

USSR

(1 MAY-31 AUGUST 1959)

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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OCI/CIA
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FOREWORD

1. CIA Periodic Requirements Lists (PRL's), which are prepared by the Office of Current Intelligence in CIA, are designed to point up the information required for current intelligence coverage of significant developments during the 4-month period covered by each PRL.

2. Coordination with the Department of State was initiated in 1958 and now includes the PRL's for all the world areas: (a) the USSR, (b) European Satellites and Yugoslavia, (c) Western Europe, (d) Near East/Africa, (e) Far East and (f) Latin America. This coordination on all the world areas has strengthened the value of the PRL's since they now include current intelligence requirements from the Intelligence and Regional Bureaus of the State Department, as well as those from the CIA Offices of Current Intelligence, Research and Reports and Scientific Intelligence. In addition, the PRL's include major intelligence deficiencies noted in the Post-Mortems of appropriate National Intelligence Estimates (NIE's) approved by the US Intelligence Board (USIB)--the principal governing body for US intelligence agencies under the chairmanship of the Director of Central Intelligence Agency.

3. The PRL's are disseminated to the collection components of all USIB agencies. It is recognized that the Lists may, in total, present requirements beyond the mission and capabilities of any single collection facility. However, to the extent that the collector has a capability, it is hoped that these PRL's will provide effective guidance for current intelligence reporting. For those collectors who may not have access to background information, explanatory paragraphs have been submitted with many of the requirements.

4. To facilitate and possibly expand the use of the PRL, all items contained herein have been classified separately and bear one of the following classifications: SECRET (S), SECRET/NOFORN (S/NOFORN), CONFIDENTIAL (C), CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN (C/NOFORN), OFFICIAL USE ONLY (OUO), and UNCLASSIFIED (U).

5. Comments on the PRL's are encouraged and should be directed to:

a. Chief, Requirements Branch, OCI/CIA, Room 2019 Que Building, Code 163, Extension 2181;

or b. Chief, Division of Intelligence Collection and Distribution (ICD), Department of State.

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Chief, Requirements Branch, OCI/CIA

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USSR (Continued)

III. ECONOMIC

A. Policy, Planning, and Theory

1. Soviet General Economic Policy

The best available indicator of Soviet general economic policy is contained in the Seven Year Plan for Economic development (1959-1965), adopted in February 1959. The plan, reportedly filling 28 volumes, has been made available to the West only in the summary version published in 8 pages of Pravda. Furthermore, as late as mid-March 1959, an annual plan for 1959 has not yet been published. (U)

a. Any additional information about economic goals for 1965, about the annual phasing of the Seven Year Plan objectives, or about the progress of plan fulfillment in the early stages of the plan, will be helpful in filling out present knowledge of Soviet economic policy. (U)

2. National Economic Planning

a. Any information on the actual working, in terms of the Seven Year Plan, of the new procedures for the planning of investment whereby detailed investment plans are to be made up locally to comply with control figures for production passed down from the center. (U)

b. Information relative to problems arising in connection with the census of fixed capital now scheduled for as of 1 January 1960. (U)

c. Current changes in categorizations of investment, in connection with the 1959 budgets, either USSR or republic. (U)

d. New changes in economic administrative regional boundaries, their consolidation, or creation of echelons between the sovnarkhozy and RSFSR Council of Ministers should be reported. (U)

e. Any information about the supply sales--snab-sbyt--system, and especially any changes introduced as a result of the reorganization of industrial management. (U)

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III. ECONOMIC (Continued)

A. Policy, Planning, and Theory (Continued)

3. Economic Theory

The proposed formation of an Academy of Economics suggests that the role of economists in economic planning and decision making may be enhanced. (U)

a. Information regarding current discussions on problems such as criteria of investment choice, price policy, programs and incentives for technologic innovation, and the adequacy of existing value measures of performance should be reported because they highlight current problems and may indicate the probable direction of future policy. (U)

b. Under present circumstances information on the background of individual economists is of increasing importance, hence biographical and career dates should be reported. (U)

B. Agriculture

1. Information is desired on total sown acreage in the USSR and the acreage devoted to the various crops in 1959. (U)

2. What are the crop prospects in the Soviet Union in 1959, especially in those areas in which prospects are either substantially above or below average? (U)

3. Are there indications that the administration of Soviet agriculture may be decentralized in the near future and the Ministry of Agriculture abolished? (U)

4. How much gain in efficiency is being realized in Soviet agriculture by collective farm ownership and operation of their own machinery as opposed to MTS ownership and operation of the machinery? (U)

5. What prices are to be paid by the state in purchasing the various agriculture products from collective farms in 1959? (U)

6. To what extent is the two-stage method of harvesting small grains decreasing harvesting losses? (U)

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USSR (Continued)

III. ECONOMIC (Continued)

B. Agriculture (Continued)

7. The seven-year plan (1959-65) makes reference to a proposal "to make better use of highly fertile land in the zone of stable rainfall" in the European USSR (U).

a. Does this imply the initiation of a specific program to accomplish this end (e.g. a program similar in scope to the new lands program? (U)

b. Or is the proposal purposely only in vague, general terms with no particular large scale program being planned? (U)

8. The seven-year plan makes reference to the necessity of achieving increased labor productivity in agriculture. (U)

a. Do the Soviets expect to reduce the Soviet agricultural labor force substantially in the near future? (U)

C. Agricultural Machinery Production

1. The Soviet Seven Year Plan stipulates the ever-increasing employment of mechanical means in the harvesting of agricultural crops. Yet, the production of corn harvesting combines has steadily and inexplicably declined in the face of a quantitatively inadequate park of these machines. The USSR produced 19,000 and 12,400 corn harvesting combines, respectively, in the two six-month periods of 1957. In 1958, only 6,100 units were produced, at least 6,000 of which were produced in the first six months. The acreage devoted to corn, meanwhile, continues to increase. The possibility exists that the reduction in combine output reflects unsuspected shifts in priority between machines for agriculture and machines for other purposes rather than a temporary cessation of production pending the development of a more satisfactory model.

a. Information which might provide an explanation for use in the agricultural machine building contribution to the forthcoming Soviet NIE is desired. (U)

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USSR (Continued)

III. ECONOMIC (Continued)

C. Agricultural Machinery Production (Continued)

2. The Soviet Seven Year Plan did not provide quantitative output data for any major type of agricultural machine except grain combines (400,000 units). Khrushchev stated in December 1958 that plans for agricultural machinery production awaited estimates of agriculture's requirements. He did not indicate just when the estimates would be completed. (U)

a. Do unit production plans now exist for other major types of agricultural machines such as combines for corn, sugar beets, and ensilage crops, cotton pickers, and tractor-drawn and tractor-mounted plows, drills, cultivators, and movers? (U)

b. Seven Year Plan data on these and other agricultural machines is desired as quickly as possible after it becomes available. (U)

D. Chemicals and Chemical Equipment Production

1. A part of the credit for the successful launching of the Soviet earth satellites and moon rocket has been given to the development of synthetic fuels. (U)

a. What fuels and oxidizers are used in Soviet missiles--particularly in the Soviet ICBM and satellite types? (U)

2. Khrushchev has stated several times in recent months that the USSR has ample supplies of atomic bombs and would stop production of fissionable material for weapons purposes. (S)

a. Because chemical inputs offer one of the best indicators of output of fissionable material, information is desired on production and consumption of the following key materials: fluorspar, hydrofluoric acid, fluorine, lithium ores and compounds, metallic calcium and calcium chloride. (S)

3. The USSR has started to export fluorspar to Japan. (C)

a. What grades and amounts are being shipped? (C)

b. Is there any evidence of additional Soviet trade in fluorspar or other raw materials that may be used in the Soviet atomic energy program, such as, lithium ore or high purity calcium chloride? (C)