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File: Records, 1981-1985
Folder Title: Soviet Bloc Economic and Financial
Situation Update: (05/13/1982)
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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE

Withdrawer

KDB 8/27/2015

File Folder SOVIET BLOC ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION
UPDATE (5/13/82)

FOIA

F03-002/5

Box Number 19

SKINNER

114

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
168897	ROUTING SLIP	NSC (W/ADDED NOTES)	1	ND	B1
168898	MEMO	R. ROBINSON THROUGH N. BAILEY TO W. CLARK: SOVIET BLOC ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION UPDATE #22 PAR 10/8/2010 CREST NLR-748-19-37-1-6	4	5/13/1982	B1
168899	CABLE	121916Z MAY 82	1	5/12/1982	B1
168900	CABLE	RE SOVIET UNION	1	5/7/1982	B1
168901	CABLE		3	5/7/1982	B1
168902	CABLE	122108Z MAY 82	1	5/12/1982	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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168903 CABLE	RE SOVIETS	4	5/6/1982	B1
168904 CABLE	121829Z MAY 82	1	5/12/1982	B1
168905 CABLE	111812Z MAY 82	1	5/11/1982	B1
168906 CABLE	RE ECONOMIC REFORM	3	5/10/1982	B1
168907 CABLE	RE ECONOMIC DATA	2	5/7/1982	B1
168908 CABLE	RE SOVIET ECONOMY	7	5/6/1982	B1
168909 CABLE	RE USSR	2	5/6/1982	B1

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168910 CABLE	RE USSR	2	5/7/1982	B1
168911 CABLE		3	5/7/1982	B1
168912 CABLE		3	5/7/1982	B1
168913 CABLE		3	5/10/1982	B1
168914 CABLE	RE SOVIETS	3	5/7/1982	B1
168915 CABLE		2	5/6/1982	B1
168916 CABLE	111911Z MAY 82	1	5/11/1982	B1

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168918 CABLE	070055Z MAY 82	1	5/7/1982	B1
	D 9/16/2013 CREST NLR-748-19-37-24-1			

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WHSR, ~~File~~ 4/1

~~Put a copy of
Cover memo in
President's folder
for Tues. morning.
Also VP, M, B, D. Ret
residue to Brian.~~

~~John~~

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168898 MEMO

4 5/13/1982 B1

R. ROBINSON THROUGH N. BAILEY TO W.
CLARK: SOVIET BLOC ECONOMIC AND
FINANCIAL SITUATION UPDATE #22

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~~TOP SECRET~~

3380

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 13, 1982

TOP SECRET [redacted]

25X1

INFORMATIONPRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY REVIEW
OF NSC EQUITY IS REQUIRED

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

THROUGH: NORMAN A. BAILEY *MB*FROM: ROGER W. ROBINSON *RWR*SUBJECT: Soviet Bloc Economic and Financial Situation
Update #22

-- [redacted] contracted to supply turbines for the West Siberian pipeline confirmed that the rotors substituted by [redacted] would be priced substantially higher than the G.E. rotors and make the contract unprofitable to pursue. The firm also confirmed a delay in pipeline construction of two years and probably longer if G.E. is unable to export the rotor kits needed for V-frame turbine construction (Tab A). (C)

25X1

25X1

-- There are confirmed delays of up to 1 month in the unloading of grain shipments to the USSR due to unavailability of railway cars and port storage (Tab B). (S)

-- Poland has interest payments due in 1982 estimated at \$3.2 billion of which about two-thirds is due to commercial banks. Polish officials estimate a \$1 billion current account surplus in 1982 with a financing gap of approximately \$10 billion (Tab C). (C)

-- At a meeting of the U.S. National Coordinating Committee (NCC) on the Polish debt, the Polish trade figures and debt figures were reviewed and a projected financing gap of about \$10 billion was confirmed. U.S. banks will probably be rolling unpaid Polish maturities every three months rather than the previous six months (Tab D). (C)

-- Moscow Narodny Bank (MNB), London, has encountered "insuperable resistance" to raising a \$500 million syndicated credit to finance sugar imports. Initial efforts only yielded \$280 million, with substantial Western bank resistance on terms and conditions (Tab E). (S)

TOP SECRET [redacted]

Review May 11, 2002

Derivative Classification by CIA

Reason: 3D3

MORI C05184753

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~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

NLRR Crest

BY *CW* NARA DATE 1/13/12LW
3

168898

~~TOP SECRET~~ []

2

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-- The National Bank of Hungary is approaching senior levels of U.S. commercial banks to raise a \$300-400 million balance-of-payment syndicate. Prospects for success are viewed as reasonably good (Tab F). (C)

-- Soviet industrial output statistics confirm that 1982 will be a difficult year for the Soviet economy. The only significant successes are natural gas, herbicides and pesticides, and agribusiness-related equipment (Tab G). (C)

-- The Soviet Wozchod bank, Zurich, has approached a U.S. banker proposing the possible direct sale of Soviet gold to the U.S. Distressed by the tendency of Swiss bank "leaks" on gold sales that depress prices, the Soviets wish to sell directly to industrial users, particularly the jewelry industry (Tab H). (C)

-- The Hungarian model of economic reform is being actively considered in Prague as a future possibility. A high ranking Czech official claimed only 80% of economic targets were met in the first quarter of 1982 and that borrowing from Western banks had ceased (Tab I). (S)

-- Poland has requested an extension of an April 30 deadline to May 17 to provide the economic information package required under the terms of the 1981 rescheduling agreement. Agreement on extension was reached among the banks (Tab J). (C)

-- Speaking at Finland at a Fenno-Soviet Trade Seminar, a senior Soviet planner frankly painted a bleak picture of the Soviet economy. He highlighted the major "external factors" over which the planners had no control as being economic support for Poland, high defense spending, depletion of accessible natural resources and poor weather. Natural gas was described as the only "bright spot." One-half of the average family's income is spent on food and one-third of this amount on alcohol and tobacco (Tab K). (S)

-- The Chairman of Moscow Narodny Bank (MNB), London, in early April implemented a new policy of closely monitoring U.S. commercial bank deposits (placements) with MNB with the intention of restricting MNB deposits with U.S. banks to 75% of their placements and with longer maturities. My comment: This move is presumably to protect against offset. (Tab L). (S)

-- Moscow is reportedly less enthusiastic about gold "swap" arrangements because as the gold price rises, the terms would be less favorable and shipping Soviet gold overseas is an unpopular decision (Tab M). (S)

~~TOP SECRET~~ []

25X1

~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

3

25X1 5

-- The Soviets have approached the President of the Swiss National Bank for assistance in arranging a BIS loan and agreed to provide at least some of the sensitive financial data which is a precondition to receiving such a credit. The Soviets were informed that BIS can do nothing for them, not even a loan collateralized with Soviet gold (Tab N). (S)

-- West European central banks have imposed some conditions on the "standby facility" being arranged for Hungary by the BIS. The amount of the credit will range between \$200-400 million and carries conditions that Hungary achieve a current account balance in 1982 and continue the economic reforms (Tab O). (C)

-- Some 20-30 Polish firms have applied for status as autonomous enterprises. The limited number of applications is due to lack of marketing and negotiating skills connected with foreign trade. Another devaluation of the zloty is expected with the new exchange rate to be about 110 to 120 zlotys to the dollar (Tab P). (S)

-- Romanian agricultural and industrial production figures in 1981 were considerably below those officially published (Tab Q). (S)

-- Production stoppages and other economic difficulties may occur by the fourth quarter of 1982 in Yugoslavia in an effort to keep the current account deficit for 1982 at \$500 million (Tab R). (C)

-- A senior Soviet banking official [REDACTED] Zurich has lost its preeminent position as the Soviet center for market intelligence and gold trading (Tab S). (S) 25X1

-- A contract for compressor equipment valued at \$150 million will be awarded in July or August for the branch of West Siberian pipeline scheduled to deliver gas to Italy (Tab T). (C)

-- A U.S. subsidiary of the West German firm Ruhrkohle has been seeking export credits from U.S. banks for coal sales to Romania and Yugoslavia. No credits were made available for Romania. The shipments are replacing the Polish shipments (Tab U). (C)

-- Romania is increasingly not paying Japanese suppliers and jeopardizing continued shipments of sheet nickel and other important commodities (Tab V). (S)

-- The International Economic and Energy Weekly reports: "A tightening of the world beef market is likely to hinder Soviet efforts to cover its import needs. . . . The USSR's attempts to seek other sources of supply will be difficult due to the Falkland Islands' crisis. Since the EC placed trade restrictions against Buenos Aires, non-Argentine beef has commanded a premium."

25X1

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

4

25X1 6

-- The entire Polish chemical industry is threatened by a shortage of hydrochloric acid (Tab W). [redacted]

25X1

25X1

cc: Tom Reed
Don Gregg
Richard Pipes
Paula Dobriansky
Henry Nau

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

25X1

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168899 CABLE

1 5/12/1982 B1

121916Z MAY 82

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SUBJECT: APRIL 1982 SOVIET ECONOMIC OUTPUT

1. (U) SUMMARY: APRIL 1982 SOVIET INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT STATISTICS CONFIRM THE TREND BEGUN IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND INDICATE THAT 1982 WILL BE A DIFFICULT YEAR FOR THE SOVIET ECONOMY. OVER HALF -- 27 OF 48 -- CATEGORIES LISTED SHOW STAGNANT PRODUCTION OR DECLINES FROM LEVELS ACHIEVED IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1981. ACCORDING TO THE MAY 12 EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA (NO. 20) OUTPUT FOR JANUARY - APRIL 1982 INCREASED 2.1 PERCENT AND LABOR PRODUCTIVITY ROSE 1.5 PERCENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. THESE TOTALS ARE THE LOWEST SINCE WORLD WAR II AND ARE WELL BELOW 1982 PLAN TARGETS OF 4.7 PERCENT AND 4.2 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY AND BELOW - 1981 GROWTH FOR THE SAME PERIOD WHICH WAS 3.1 PERCENT AND 2.3 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY. SERIOUS SHORTFALLS CONTINUE IN SUCH CRUCIAL SECTORS AS IRON AND STEEL, LOCOMOTIVES AND FREIGHT CARS, AUTOMOBILES AND TRUCKS, CEMENT, KNITWEAR, FOOTWEAR, MEAT, AND ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE FATS AND OILS. THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT SUCCESSES ARE NATURAL GAS, HERBICIDES AND PESTICIDES AND CHEMICAL, AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED EQUIPMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ENERGY: EVERY SECTOR IN SOVIET ENERGY PRODUCTION TURNED IN POSITIVE RESULTS IN APRIL. NATURAL GAS OUTPUT

ROSE 6.8 PERCENT IN APRIL OVER APRIL 1981 FOR A CUMULATIVE TOTAL IN 1982 OF 7.1 PERCENT ABOVE LAST YEAR; ELECTRICITY IN APRIL WAS 0.9 PERCENT ABOVE APRIL 1981. OIL PRODUCTION WAS 0.6 PERCENT OVER LEVELS ACHIEVED IN APRIL 1981, BUT THE TOTAL FOR JANUARY-APRIL 1982 IS IDENTICAL TO THAT ACHIEVED IN 1981. EVEN COAL OUTPUT WAS UP FOR THE MONTH AND THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS, INDICATING THAT THE CONSISTENT DECLINES IN COAL PRODUCTION RECORDED SINCE 1978 HAVE AT LAST BEEN HALTED.

3. (U) HEAVY INDUSTRY: SERIOUS SHORTFALLS CONTINUE TO EXIST IN SOVIET OUTPUT OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCER GOODS AND INCLUDE SUCH CRUCIAL ITEMS AS STEEL (DOWN 3.1 PERCENT), ROLLED STEEL (DOWN 2.5 PERCENT) STEEL PIPE (DOWN 1.7 PERCENT), ELECTRIC MOTORS (DOWN 2.8 PERCENT), DIESEL AND ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES (DOWN 4.8 PERCENT AND 3.3 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY), RAILROAD CARS (DOWN 6.4 PERCENT) AND CEMENT (DOWN 7.1 PERCENT); IRON ORE PRODUCTION, WHICH HAS USUALLY BEEN LISTED IN THE MONTHLY OUTPUT REPORTS, WAS OMITTED FROM THE STATISTICS THIS MONTH, AS WERE SULFURIC ACID, CAUSTIC SODA, TIRES AND OIL EQUIPMENT. THE SOVIETS CAN, HOWEVER, POINT WITH PRIDE TO INCREASES OF 5-7.5 PERCENT IN PRODUCTION OF HERBICIDES AND PESTICIDES, CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT, EQUIPMENT FOR LIGHT AND FOOD INDUSTRIES, MACHINERY FOR LIVESTOCK AND THE FEED INDUSTRY, GRAIN COMBINES AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT.

4. (U) CONSUMER GOODS: WITH THE EXCEPTION OF EDIBLE FISH AND A FEW LUXURY GOODS SUCH AS CHINA, MOTORCYCLES, COLOR TELEVISIONS AND FURNITURE, OUTPUT OF CONSUMER GOODS EITHER REMAINED STAGNANT OR FELL DURING THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1982. APRIL OUTPUT OF KNITWEAR AND LEATHER FOOTWEAR FELL 2.0 PERCENT AND 1.6 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY FROM THE LEVEL OF LAST YEAR, AND PRODUCTION OF ANIMAL OILS AND FATS AND VEGETABLE OILS WAS DOWN 5.0 PERCENT AND 9.4 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY. MEAT AND MILK PRODUCTION REMAINED STAGNANT IN APRIL RELATIVE TO LAST YEAR, BUT

JANUARY-APRIL MEAT OUTPUT WAS 3.7 PERCENT BELOW LAST YEAR'S LEVEL.

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5. (UNC) SOVIET COMMENTARY: EKON GAZ COMMENTARY IS TYPICALLY UPBEAT ON THESE DISMAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS. HOWEVER, IN TWO NEGATIVE NOTES, IT ADMITS THAT WHILE ALL MINISTRIES AND REPUBLICS OVERFULFILLED THE PLAN FOR JANUARY-APRIL 1982 (101.5 PERCENT), SEVERAL MINISTRIES DID NOT MEET PLAN TARGETS FOR DELIVERIES OF VARIOUS ITEMS, INCLUDING ROLLED STEEL, MINERAL FERTILIZERS, SYNTHETIC FIBERS, ELECTRIC MOTORS, FREIGHT CARS, TIMBER, CEMENT AND REFRIGERATORS. EKON GAZ ALSO STATES THAT 60-70 PERCENT OF ALL ENTERPRISES FAILED TO MEET PLAN TARGETS FOR DELIVERIES OF GOODS IN THE MINISTRIES OF FERROUS METALS; MINERAL FERTILIZER; THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY; THE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY; THE TIMBER, PULP AND PAPER AND WOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY; AND MACHINE BUILDING FOR LIGHT AND FOOD INDUSTRY AND HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES.

6. (LOW) STATISTICAL ANOMALIES: WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE ALREADY NOTICED ANOMALIES WITH RESPECT TO THE STATISTICS REPORTED FOR PREVIOUS MONTHS AND EMBASSY DRAWS ADDRESSEES ATTENTION TO SEVERAL HIGHLIGHTS IN THESE STATISTICS. FIGURES FOR INSTRUMENT AND COMPUTER PRODUCTION SHOW 20 PERCENT AND 50 PERCENT DECLINES FOR THE MONTH AND 15.8 PERCENT AND 43.8 PERCENT DECLINES, RESPECTIVELY FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY - APRIL 1982 OVER LAST YEAR. THESE DRASTIC CHANGES PRESUMABLY RESULT FROM THE WHOLESALE PRICE CHANGES INTRODUCED IN JANUARY. EKON GAS STATES THAT INSTRUMENTS PRODUCTION WAS 105 PERCENT OF JANUARY-APRIL 1981 OUTPUT AND COMPUTER PRODUCTION IS

PEGGED AT 107 PERCENT OF LAST YEAR'S. A SIMILAR ANOMALY APPEARS FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, WHICH INCREASED 19.4 PERCENT IN APRIL OVER LAST YEAR AND 17.0 PERCENT FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR; EKON GAZ LISTS AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY OUTPUT FOR JANUARY-APRIL 1982 AT 105 PERCENT OF LAST YEAR'S PRODUCTION. FINALLY, EDIBLE FISH PRODUCTION IS UP 30.8 PERCENT FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS IN RUBLE VALUE, BUT EKON GAZ SHOWS PRODUCTION AT 105 PERCENT OF LAST YEAR'S LEVEL.

7. (LOW) A SECOND ANOMALY CONCERNS ROUNDING PROBLEMS. OUR CALCULATIONS SHOW OUTPUT INCREASES OF 25 PERCENT, 50 PERCENT AND 20 PERCENT FOR PAPER, COLOR TELEVISIONS AND FURNITURE, RESPECTIVELY, FOR APRIL 1982 OVER LAST YEAR. WHILE JANUARY-APRIL PRODUCTION TOTALS DO SHOW SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN OUTPUT OF COLOR TELEVISIONS AND FURNITURE (11.1 AND 4.8 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY), THE HUGE INCREASES FOR APRIL PRESUMABLY RESULT FROM THE STATISTICAL BUREAU'S ROUNDING OF NUMBERS.

(U) APRIL 1982 SOVIET INDUSTRIAL INPUT AND HISTORICAL COMPARISON:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
ELECTRICITY (BILLION KWH)	110	109	0.9	479	469	2.1
OIL & GAS CONDENSATES (MILLION METRIC TONS)	50.2	49.9	0.6	200	200	0
GAS (BILLION CUBIC METERS)	40.7	38.1	6.8	166	155	7.1
COAL (MILLION TONS)	60.7	60.6	0.2	247	246	0.4
STEEL (MT)	12.5	12.8	-2.3	49.3	50.9	-3.1
ROLLED STEEL (MMT)	8.6	8.7	-1.1	34.5	35.4	-2.5
STEEL PIPE (MMT)	1.5	1.5	0	5.9	6.0	-1.7
MINERAL FERTILIZER (MMT)	2.3	2.2	4.5	9.0	8.9	1.1
HERBICIDES/PESTICIDES						
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(THOUSAND TONS)	48.0	44.0	9.0	186	174	6.9
PLASTICS (MT)	0.3	0.3	0	1.4	1.4	0
SYNTHETIC FIBERS (TT)	108	107	0.9	425	416	2.2
ELECTRIC MOTORS						
(MILLION KW)	4.6	4.5	2.2	17.6	18.1	-2.8
MACHINE TOOLS						
(MILLION RUBLES)	170	169	0.6	688	678	1.5
PRESSES						
(MILLION RUBLES)	51.3	50.1	2.4	203	204	-0.5
ROBOTS	346	N/A	N/A	1510	N/A	N/A
INSTRUMENTS (BR)	0.4	0.5	-20.0	1.6	1.9	-15.8
COMPUTERS (BR)	0.2	0.4	-50.0	0.9	1.6	-43.8
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)

CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT (MR)	64.0	60.2	6.3	258	240	
7.5						
EQUIPMENT FOR LIGHT						
INDUSTRY AND FOOD						
PRODUCTION (MR)	124	117	5.9	690	463	5.8
DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES						
(THOUSAND HORSEPOWER)	272	300	-9.3	1237	1300	-4.8
ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES						
(THOUSAND HORSEPOWER)	289	300	-3.7	1257	1300	-3.3
FREIGHT CARS						
(THOUSAND)	5.2	5.2	0	20.4	21.8	-6.4
TRUCKS & CARS						
(THOUSAND)	184	189	-2.6	726	747	-2.8
TRACTORS (T)	47.7	48.4	-1.4	190	190	0
AGRICULTURAL						

MACHINERY (MR)	283	237	19.4	1073	917	17.0
MACHINERY FOR						
LIVESTOCK AND						
FEED INDUSTRY (MR)	192	182	5.5	751	708	6.1
GRAIN COMBINES (T)	9.2	8.8	4.5	35.9	33.5	7.1
EXCAVATORS (T)	3.6	3.6	0	14.5	14.2	2.1
TIMBER (MILLION CUBIC						
METERS)	18.9	19.1	-1.0	110	110	0
PAPER (MT)	0.5	0.4	25.0	1.8	1.8	0
CEMENT (MT)	10.6	10.7	-0.9	39.1	42.1	-7.1
PREFABRICATED REIN-						
FORCED CONCRETE						
(M CUBIC METERS)	9.2	9.2	0	34.9	35.9	-2.8
-	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
TEXTILES (BILLION						
SQUARE METERS)	1.0	1.0	0	3.8	3.8	0
KNITWEAR						
(MILLION PIECES)	141	144	-2.0	551	562	-2.0
LEATHER FOOTWEAR						
(MILLION PAIR)	66.2	67.3	-1.6	255	261	-2.3
MEAT FROM STATE						
SOURCES (MT)	0.5	0.5	0	2.6	2.7	-3.7
EDIBLE FISH, INCLUDING						
CANNED (BR)	0.4	0.3	33.3	1.7	1.3	30.8
ANIMAL FATS/OILS FROM						
STATE SOURCES (TT)	84.4	88.9	-5.0	256	269	-4.8
MILK PRODUCTS FROM						
SOURCES (MT)						
BT						

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MARGARINE (TT)	132	127	3.9	507	493	2.8
VEGETABLE OILS (FROM						
STATE SOURCES) (TT)	192	212	-9.4	879	894	-1.7
WATCHES (MILLION)	6.0	6.0	0	23.2	22.9	1.3
CHINA (MR)	70.3	66.8	5.2	280	262	6.9
RADIOS (MILLION)	0.7	0.7	0	2.9	2.9	0
TELEVISIONS (MILLIONS)	0.7	0.7	0	2.7	2.7	0
COLOR TELEVISIONS (M)	0.3	0.2	50.0	1.0	0.9	11.1
REFRIGERATORS (M)	0.5	0.5	0	2.0	2.0	0
MOTORCYCLES (T)	97.0	93.8	3.4	380	351	8.3
FURNITURE (BR)	0.6	0.5	20.0	2.2	2.1	4.8

NOTES:

- (1) APRIL 1982 OUTPUT.
 - (2) APRIL 1981 OUTPUT.
 - (3) PERCENT CHANGE FROM APRIL 1981 TO APRIL 1982.
 - (4) JANUARY-APRIL 1982 OUTPUT.
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AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2156

EXDIS
PARIS FOR BUCKLEY
FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM LELAND
E.O. 12065: GDS 05/12/88, (LELAND, MARC E.)
TAGS: EFIN
SUBJECT: BIS LOAN TO HUNGARY; OTHER EAST EUROPEAN BORROWING
NEEDS; SOVIET INQUIRIES ABOUT A BIS LOAN

1. ENTIRE TEXT IS CONFIDENTIAL.

2. LEUTWILER (PRESIDENT, SWISS NATIONAL BANK) TOLD US TODAY THAT BANK OF INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS (BIS) HAS RELEASED \$120 MILLION TO HUNGARY; THIS IS SECOND TRANCHE IN ADDITION TO \$100 MILLION RELEASED EARLIER. LEUTWILER SAID 13 NATIONS PARTICIPATED (WITH JAPAN COMING IN FOR \$30 MILLION). HE SAID THAT THE BIS WILL NOT BE PROVIDING ANY MORE TO HUNGARY-- AND THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO RELY ON PRIVATE BANKS.

3. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE EXPECTS A PARADE OF OTHER EAST EUROPEANS TRYING TO USE BIS FOR CREDIT. NEXT IN LINE, HE SAID WILL BE YUGOSLAVIA, AND THE BIS WILL EXPECT THE U.S. TO PARTICIPATE. I POINTED OUT THAT DUE TO LEGAL RESTRICTIONS, THE U.S. COULD NOT DO SO, BUT HE SAID HE ASSUMED FED CAN FIND A WAY. I TOLD HIM FUNDS WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM THE PERSONAL RESOURCES OF THE U.S. UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS. 1?

4. LEUTWILER ALSO SAID THE SOVIETS HAVE APPROACHED HIM SEVERAL TIMES INQUIRING ABOUT ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF THEIR SEVERE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. THE SOVIETS INDICATED TO HIM, INTER ALIA, A WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE AT LEAST SOME OF THE RELEVANT FINANCIAL DATA (CASH/FLOW, ETC.) AS A CONDITION FOR OBTAINING CREDIT. LEUTWILER, WHO WILL BE MEETING WITH THE SOVIET CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR ALTIMOV ON THIS, HAS TOLD THE SOVIETS THAT THE BIS CAN DO NOTHING FOR THEM, NOT EVEN PROVIDE A LOAN SECURED BY SOVIET GOLD. X

5. COMMENT. THE SOVIET ADMISSION OF THEIR DISASTROUS FINANCIAL CONDITIONS IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING. OR IT COULD BE A PLOY TO MAKE THE EUROPEANS BELIEVE THAT SOVIET FINANCIAL SITUATION IS SO BAD THAT ANY MOVE TO RESTRICT WESTERN CREDITS COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. DATA INDICATE THAT SOVIET DEPOSITS IN WESTERN BANKS HAVE BEEN RISING SINCE THEIR NADIR A FEW MONTHS AGO, BUT THEY STILL HAVE LARGE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.
BT

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BY CDB NARA DATE 8/27/15

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 2533

EXDIS
USEC
PARIS ALSO FOR OCED
DEPT PASS TREASURY AND FEDERAL RESERVE
E.O. 12065: RDS-1 05/06/2002 (KUCHEL, ROLAND K.) OR-M
TAGS: EFIN, IMF, HU
SUBJECT: BIS/CENTRAL BANK STANDBY FACILITY FOR HUNGARY

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT
2. WEST EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANKS HAVE IMPOSED SOME CONDITIONS ON THE "STANDBY FACILITY" BEING ARRANGED FOR HUNGARY BY THE BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS, ACCORDING TO A NATIONAL BANK OFFICIAL DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS AT BASEL.
3. THIS BANK OFFICIAL TOLD THE ECON OFFICER ON MAY 4 THAT THE BIS STANDBY FACILITY FOR HUNGARY SHOULD EXCEED 200 MILLION DOLLARS. ACCEPTANCE OF THIS FACILITY CARRIES WITH IT TWO CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY THE BIS AT THE INSISTENCE OF WEST EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANKS:
 - THAT HUNGARY ACHIEVE CURRENT ACCOUNT EQUILIBRIUM IN 1982; AND
 - THAT ECONOMIC REFORMS LEADING TOWARD FURTHER DECENTRALIZATION CONTINUE.
4. THE NATIONAL BANK OFFICIAL INDICATED IN REPLY TO OUR QUESTION THAT NO SPECIFIC SET OF REFORM MEASURES WERE IMPOSED AS A CONDITION FOR HUNGARY'S DRAWING ON THE FACILITY. BUT HE STRESSED THAT WEST EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANKS FELT STRONGLY ABOUT THE NEED FOR OBTAINING HUNGARIAN ASSURANCES ON FUTURE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE. THE CENTRAL BANKS THEREFORE IMPOSED THE GOAL OF CURRENT ACCOUNT EQUILIBRIUM FOR THE SHORT TERM AND CONTINUATION OF THE REFORM PROCESS AS A "GUARANTEE"

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OF IMPROVED ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OVER THE MEDIUM-TERM.

5. BEGIN COMMENT: IN A CONVERSATION WITH ANOTHER NATIONAL BANK OFFICIAL, WE WERE TOLD THAT THE STANDBY FACILITY WOULD AMOUNT TO 400 MILLION DOLLARS, AVAILABLE IN FOUR TRANCHES OF 100 MILLION EACH QUARTER. THIS SENIOR HUNGARIAN BANKER'S VERSION OF THE BIS FACILITY IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHERS WE HAVE HEARD. OFFICIALS AT THE BANK SEEM RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE TERMS OF LENDING.

6. REGARDING THE BIS/CENTRAL BANK "CONDITIONALITY", A GENERALLY-PHRASED HUNGARIAN COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE THE REFORM PROCESS OBVIOUSLY LACKS SPECIFICITY. WE BELIEVE IT IS NONETHELESS USEFUL AND SIGNIFICANT THAT EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANKERS WOULD LINK A HUNGARIAN REITERATION OF THE NEED FOR CONTINUED REFORM TO THE PROVISION OF CREDITS. END COMMENT.
KUCHEL
BT

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168911	CABLE	3	5/7/1982	B1

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168913	CABLE	3	5/10/1982	B1

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168914	CABLE RE SOVIETS	3	5/7/1982	B1

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USSR

SUBJECT: SOVIET BLOC ECONOMIC & FINANCIAL SITUATION UPDATE # 22

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FOR ACTION

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