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SUB-COMMITTEE ON SOVIET ECONOMIC POLICY

PROSPECTS FOR SOVIET WHEAT TRADE

Comments by the United Kingdom Delegation on AC/89-WP/202

We have a few comments to make on the United States Note on Prospects for Soviet Wheat Trade. Some are based on developments subsequent to the compilation of the United States paper.

Paragraph 1 (Penultimate sentence)

\$100,000,000 annually seems a rather high figure for foreign exchange earnings from wheat. It seems to be based on exports to all free world countries, including some with which trade was on a bilateral basis and did not involve convertible currency. It seems also to include freight charges.

Paragraph 2 and Table I

Our estimate is that the wheat production in 1966 could be as high as 75 million tons. Our estimates for previous years, made on a different basis from those of the United States Department of Agriculture, are consistently higher: 45, 60 and 54 million tons in 1963, 1964 and 1965 respectively.

Paragraph 8

Bulgaria is reported to be supplying up to 150,000 tons of wheat to Brazil.

Paragraph 9

Hungary is reported to be supplying 30,000 - 50,000 tons of wheat to Brazil.

Paragraph 16

Sales to Egypt and India are reported to be as follows:-
Egypt 250,000 tons already contracted for with the offer of a further 400,000 tons.
India 200,000 tons.

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Paragraph 17

The Soviet Minister of Agriculture has now claimed a grain harvest of 171 million tons, 6 million tons more than the forecast made by a Soviet official in October.

OTAN/NATO,
Paris, (16e).