MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

On 12 August 1953, there appeared in the Washington Post an article by Joseph Alsop containing information possibly derived from a COMINT source.

On 25 August 1953, the Assistant Director, Current Intelligence, of CIA sent a Memorandum to the Executive Secretary, USCIB, stating that an item in the subject Alsop column was traceable only to COMINT.

On 26 August 1953, the Executive Secretary, USCIB, requested that people having access to certain information published by Mr. Alsop be queried as to their knowledge of how Mr. Alsop had access to, or received, this information. (CIB #000134, 26 August 1953)

In a Memorandum for the Executive Secretary, USCIB, dated 17 September 1953, the Chief of Staff, NSA, stated that distribution of this sort of information is extremely limited and that an investigation was under way. (Ser. 039S)

On 23 September 1953, the Acting Chief, Security Division, NSA; in a DF to AG stated that hundreds of NSA personnel could have had access to the information and that further investigation should be abandoned as impracticable.

On 12 October 1953, in a Memorandum for the Executive Secretary, USCIB, the Chief of Staff, NSA, supported the recommendations of NSA's Security Division.

For subsequent developments see USCIB papers:

13.5/33
13.5/41
Malenkov's Power Machine

The easiest way to understand Malenkov's claim to have carried out a part of the hydrogen bomb is to accept the claim.

In brief, it is now confirmed that the Soviets have started quantity production of the TU-31—a big turbojet bomber comparable in range and other characteristics to our own B-36. The TU-31 will give the long-range air arm what it has heretofore lacked, the capability to make round-trip attacks on American targets from bases on Soviet territory.

In addition, there are good reasons to believe that the Soviets now have the prototype of a giant jet bomber comparable to our B-52—the most advanced bomber we possess. The new plane was expected to be shown, in fact, at the Moscow air show that was canceled by bad weather. If other permits, the showing may well have taken place before these words can be printed. In any case this new plane, if its existence is confirmed, will put Soviet strategic air development almost on a par with our own.

Finally, to complete this pattern of growing Soviet air-atomic strength, there are the marked peculiarities of the new Soviet budget, which Malenkov announced with such flourish.

Malenkov chiefly emphasized the larger share of the Russian national income that is now to be allocated to the consumer. In view of the extraordinary rise of Soviet national income and productivity since the end of the war, greater generosity to the mass of the population is certainly overdue. It should not be difficult to finance, either, since the Soviets have largely completed their most massive military program, the reequipment of their huge ground forces.

Meanwhile Malenkov made no mention whatever of two features of the budget which are deeply disquieting. On the one hand, all the grandiloquent capital projects of Stalin's old age have now been canceled. For instance, the dead dictator's heirs have stopped construction of the canal from the Aral Sea to the Caspian Sea, and the tunnel from Sakhalin, under the Straits of Tatarian, to the Siberian mainland. By so doing, they have proportionally increased the already enormous capital funds available for more immediately useful purposes, such as the expansion of aircraft production.

On the other hand, 'residual' expenditures have also been enormously increased.

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