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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

~~SECRET~~

17 February 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: OO/Contact Division

ATTENTION : Support Branch, Shirley Stetson

THRU : DO/OS

SUBJECT : Request for Information on Minsk

1. In support of operational research presently being conducted, this office would appreciate receiving any OO reports for the period 1959 to present dealing with:

- a. The Institute of Scientific-Technical Information in Minsk, BSSR.
- b. The State Committee for the Coordination of Scientific Research Work (GKKNIR) of the BSSR.
- c. Scientific personalities, Inturist personalities and other personalities encountered by travellers to Minsk, BSSR.

2. Thank you for any assistance you may be able to provide in this priority matter. Any questions which you may have relating to this request should be addressed to A. W. Brasko, x-7735, Headquarters building, Room 5 C 39.

Document Number 833-380

for FOIA Review on JUL 1976

Lee H. Wigren
C/SR/CI/Research

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1. Minsk is the capital as well as the economic and cultural center of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, one of the fifteen republics comprising the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It is situated at 53°54' N., 27°33' E., approximately 450 miles southwest of Moscow. Its population, as of 1959, was 509,000. The Svisloch River, a non-navigable tributary of the Berezina, runs through the center of the city.

2. Almost completely destroyed during World War II, Minsk has been largely rebuilt and today it is considered by the Soviets as one of their "show cities."

3. Minsk is an important Soviet industrial center; its chief products include tractors, trucks and other heavy automotive equipment, machine tools and precision instruments, radios, phonographs and television sets, leather goods, cotton and linen goods and lumber and wood products.

4. Minsk has several large institutions of higher learning including the Lenin State University of the BSSR, with some 7,000 students, a medical institute and a polytechnical institute. It also has a wide variety of technical schools. As the seat of the Academy of Sciences of the BSSR with its numerous affiliated scientific institutes, Minsk is also an important center of scientific research.

5. The city is in the midst of a generally flat marshy area 656 feet above sea level. The surrounding area is mostly woodlands interspersed with marsh lands. Its average January temperature is 23°F.; the average July temperature is 65.6°F. Precipitation averages 24 inches annually with the greatest amount during the months of July and August. Snow cover lasts an average of 111 days annually with the highest accumulation averaging 14 inches.

Document Number

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for FOIA Review on

JUL 1976

Hand carried to Commission,

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See 25
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