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 The Director of Central Intelligence  
 Washington, D.C. 20505

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National Intelligence Council

NIC #05472-85/1

8 NOV 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Robert C. McFarlane  
 Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

FROM: Robert M. Gates  
 Chairman, National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Estimate 11-18-85, "Domestic Stresses  
 on the Soviet System"

*End -*

1. The DCI has instructed that I make available to you the uncoordinated draft of the forthcoming National Intelligence Estimate 11-18-85, "Domestic Stresses on the Soviet System," so that its themes can be of use in preparations for the meeting between the President and Gorbachev.

2. Please be reminded that this draft does not represent coordinated national intelligence. So far it is only the product of the National Intelligence Officer/USSR and select analysts of CIA/SOVA. Since we have not previously tackled this range of internal Soviet problems, it is more than usually difficult to anticipate final agency positions. I anticipate that some will take the position that this draft exaggerates the depth of Soviet internal difficulties and their constraining impact on Soviet foreign and military behavior. Others may feel that these Soviet problems make it more likely than this draft judges that the Gorbachev regime will compromise on security issues to achieve a relaxed and predictable course for East-West relations. Nevertheless, while dissents may be vigorous, I doubt they will be radically at variance with this draft.

3. We plan to submit a coordinated draft for approval by the National Foreign Intelligence Board on 14 November and to publish the NIE shortly thereafter.

[Redacted Signature]

Robert M. Gates

Attachment

cc: Under Secretary of Defense for Policy  
 Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

Approved for Release by CIA  
 Date 6/10/09

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