



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL

January 23, 1974

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This refers to your memorandum of August 7, 1973 to Mr. Charles G. Stefan, Director of the Department's Office of Soviet and Eastern European Exchanges, commenting on the cooperative area of forestry under the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation. Enclosed is a letter from Mr. R. W. Brandt, a member of the U.S. Working Group which met August 26 to September 7, 1973 in Moscow with the Soviet counterpart group. I believe his review of this cooperative area will be of interest.

*forestry*

Sincerely,

*Oswald H. Ganley*  
Oswald H. Ganley  
Executive Secretary

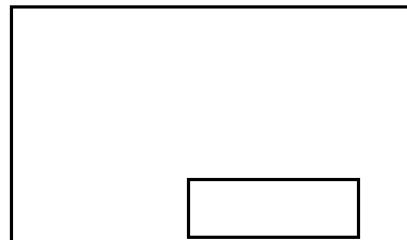
Enclosure:

Letter fr. Mr. Brandt

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January 18, 1974



Dr. Oswald H. Ganley  
Executive Secretary  
Bureau of International Scientific  
and Technological Affairs  
US-USSR Programs Secretariat  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Dr. Ganley:

At the October 31, 1973, meeting of the U.S. side of the US-USSR Joint Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation, I was presented with some CIA-assembled background materials on USSR forestry. I spoke to the question raised in this material during my presentation but did not realize that a written response was desired. My apologies for this oversight.

The CIA analysis of USSR forests and forestry practices agrees with that made here in the Forest Service. It also agrees with what we have learned from our Canadian forestry colleagues who have worked closely with the Russians for some years. The Russians are striving mightily to improve their forest industry capabilities and are borrowing heavily from the Canadians, Japanese, Swedes and Finns.

The Soviets are exploring new markets, as pointed out in the CIA report, and U.S. forest industry is also exploring the USSR forest resource with both foreign trade and investment in mind.

The general level of technology in U.S. forestry (except perhaps for specific industry-owned processes) is not too different from that available to the Russians through the above-mentioned countries. On the other hand the Soviets have made significant advances in areas such as biological control of insects, shelterbelt plantings, and soil microbiology. In addition, the USSR has a tremendous resource in forest tree germplasm that could become available to the US forest tree improvement program through this agreement.

The September 1973 forestry delegation to Russia included foresters with University and industrial experience as well as federal foresters and the feeling was unanimous that through careful trade offs of information and technology, the U.S. can benefit greatly from the S&T forestry exchange program.

In summary, we feel we will be trading information on fire control and harvesting technology (already available through Canada) for the latest Soviet findings on biological control of forest pests, ecology, and the environment, and afforestation with emphasis on shelterbelt plantations.

Sincerely,



R. W. BRANDT  
Assistant to the Deputy Chief

U.S.-U.S.S.R. Joint Commission  
on Scientific and Technical Cooperation

U.S. WORKING GROUP ON FORESTRY

J. R. McGuire (Chairman) 202-447/6661  
Chief, Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
12th and Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

M. B. Dickerman 202-447/6666  
Deputy Chief for Research  
Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
12th & Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

R. W. Brandt 202-447/6044  
Assistant to the Deputy Chief  
for Research  
Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
12th & Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

L. Biddison 505-766/3002  
Division of Fire and Air Management  
Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Southwestern Region (R-3)  
517 Gold Avenue, S.W.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

E. Ellwood  
Dean, School of Forestry  
North Carolina State University  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

O. Traczewitz 212-490/6000  
International Paper Company  
220 E. 42nd Street  
New York, New York 10017

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