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# Collection: Executive Secretariat, NSC: Country File: Records, 1981-1985 Folder Title: Soviet Bloc Economic and Financial Situation Update: (04/08/1982) (1) Box: RAC Box 19

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#### **Ronald Reagan Library**

Collection Name	EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY	TFILE <b>Withdrawer</b> KDB 8/24/2015
File Folder	SOVIET BLOC ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL UPDATES (4/8/82) (1)	
Box Number	19	SKINNER
ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Doc Date Restrictions Pages
168781 MEMO	N. BAILEY TO W. CLARK: SOVIET BLOO ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION: UPDATE #17	C 3 4/8/1982 B1
168782 REPORT	RE USSR (PAGES 5-6 ONLY) PAR 10/28/2009 CREST 748-19-28-	2 4/1/1982 B1 - <b>2-5</b>
168783 CABLE	312335Z MAR 82	1 3/31/1982 B1
168784 CABLE	RE USSR	2 3/30/1982 B1
168785 CABLE	311607Z MAR 82	1 3/31/1982 B1
168786 CABLE	312214Z MAR 82	1 3/31/1982 B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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File Folder	SOVIET BLOC ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAI	SITUAT	ION <b>FOI</b>	A
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168787 CABLE	RE USSR	6	4/1/1982	B1
168788 CABLE	RE USSR	2	4/1/1982	B1
168789 CABLE	022229Z APR 82	1	4/2/1982	B1
168790 CABLE	RE USSR	3	4/5/1982	B1
168791 REPORT	RE USSR ET AL. (PAGE 9 ONLY)	1	4/6/1952	B1
168792 CABLE	RE USSR	2	4/5/1982	B1
168793 CABLE	RE USSR	3	4/5/1982	B1

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### National Security Council The White House

Package # 2468

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Jacque Hill	3	-9-	
Judge Clark	4	1	1
John Poindexter	1.		
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COMMENTS

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver

Other

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<i>File Folder</i> SOVIET BLOC ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION UPDATES (4/8/82) (1) <i>Box Number</i>	<i>FOIA</i> F03-002/5 SKINNER
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ID Document Type Document Description	No of Doc Date Restric- pages tions
168782 REPORT RE USSR (PAGES 5-6 ONLY)	2 4/1/1982 B1

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#### USSR: Food Situation Deteriorating. (U)

(S) The 1981 grain harvest was 158 million tons, 37 million tons below average for the past 5 years and 70 million tons below planned levels, 25x1 25x1 Three consecutive disastrous grain harvests combined with poor potato and sugar beet crops have caused a significant deterioration in the Soviet diet. Although the previous low of 140 million tons in 1975 was a serious setback, it occurred between two good years and other crop yields were normal. The Soviet Union has been forced to import record amounts of grain and other foodstuffs and has spent \$12.5 billion of scarce hard currency -- 44 percent of hard currency imports -- for food in 1981.

(S/WNINTEL/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT/ORCON) Despite record grain imports, 25x1 the food situation in Moscow, normally the best-supplied Soviet city, is the worse it has been in 30 years. Concern with the deteriorating food situation continues to be reflected in pronouncements by the leadership. Brezhnev, in November 1981, said that the food situation is the central economic and political problem of the current Five Year Plan. He reiterated this point in a speech on 16 March before the Soviet Trade Union Congress and stated that a forthcoming special plenum of the Central Committee will examine a "new food program that will outline ways of radically solving the food problem."

(S) Food shortages are widespread and various forms of rationing are being used. In at least 20 cities, formal rationing systems have been instituted. The populace is forced to spend hours queuing for food and many people travel hundreds of miles to big cities to acquire food and other consumer items. Empty state stores have forced many consumers to the much higher priced free markets -- significantly increasing the cost of food. To combat labor unrest and low productivity, special distribution systems have been set up to provide food packages directly to workers in key factories and coal producing areas.

(C/NOFORN) These severe shortages are occurring at a time of general economic decline. A recent article complained that enterprises are failing to supply enough tractors, spare parts, and fuel to the farms for them to be ready for spring planting. Brezhnev's special food plenum to solve the food problem has been under development since October 1980, suggesting that the leadership has not agreed on the measures necessary to correct the systemic problems that are responsible for the current situation. When it is announced, however, the new food program is apt to have little effect. Soviet agriculture is plagued by poor weather, inadequate transportation, and a grossly inefficient collectivized agricultural system.

(C) The severe food situation is quite likely to deteriorate further in the coming months. Sporadic incidents of labor unrest are likely to occur and the downward trend in labor productivity is expected to continue. These factors combined with less hard currency to import Western technology and equipment will exacerbate further the decline in Soviet economic growth.

### DIA REVIEWED 30-MAY-2008: SANITIZED FOR RELEASE IN PART

1 Apr 82

Defense Intelligence Summary

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Page 5 TCS 568696/82

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No Objection To Declassification 2009/10/28 : NLR-748-19-28-2-5

(C) The Soviet people's capacity to withstand hardship is legendary. Thus, it is difficult to assess how Moscow will respond to sustained food shortages. In the shortterm, however, Moscow is expected to persevere by intensifying efforts in the agricultural sector; continuing to import grain and foodstuffs when necessary, and calling on the people to exert more discipline. (Revw 31 Mar 02)

**Defense Intelligence Summary** 

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DIADIN 90-2F as of 1919 EST 31 Mar 82
Prepared by: 25x1

1 Apr 82

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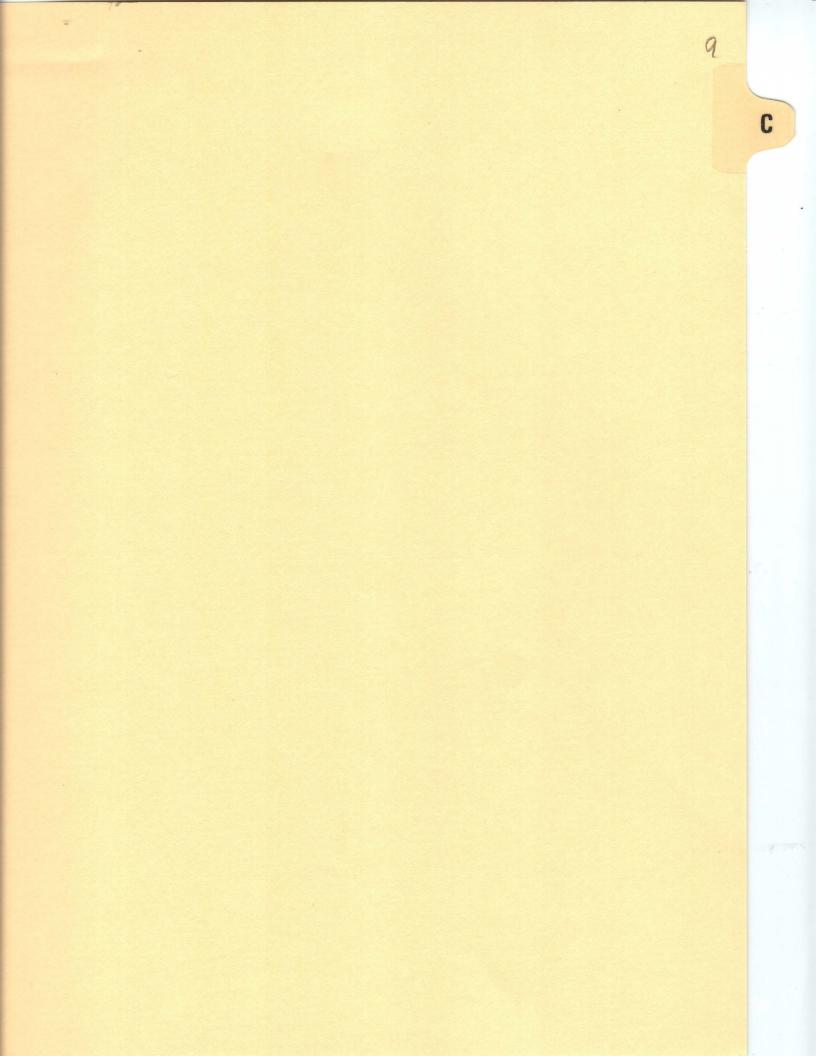
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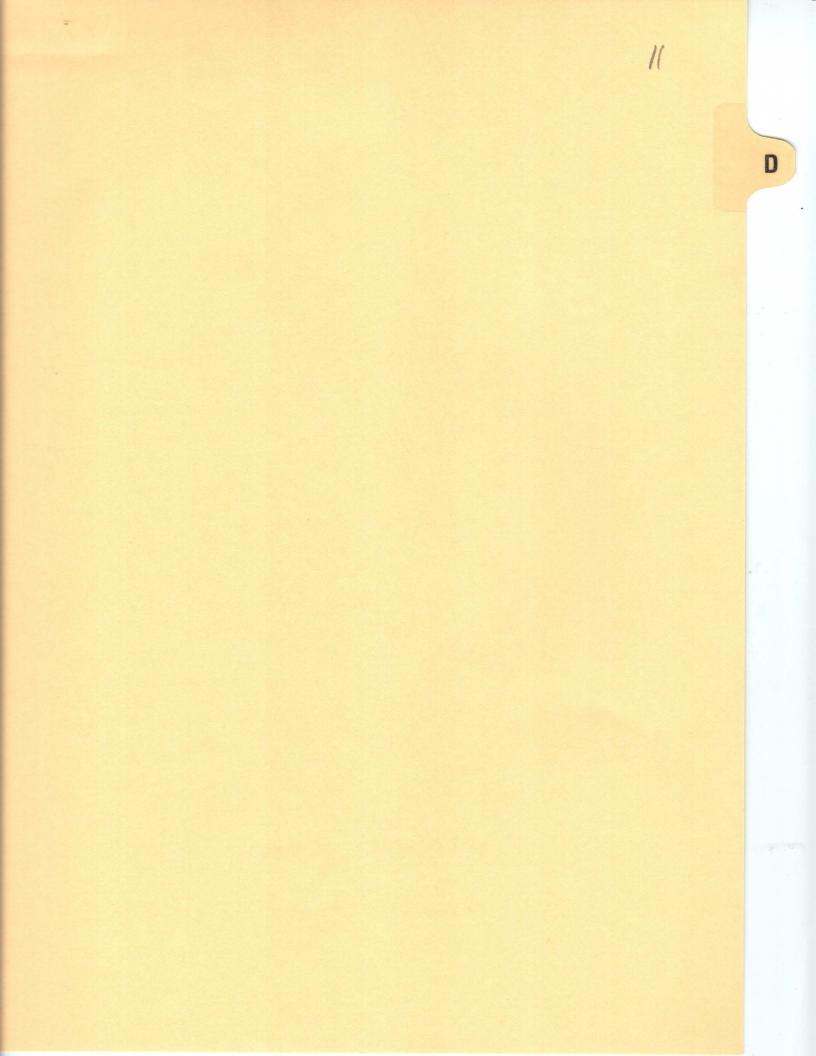
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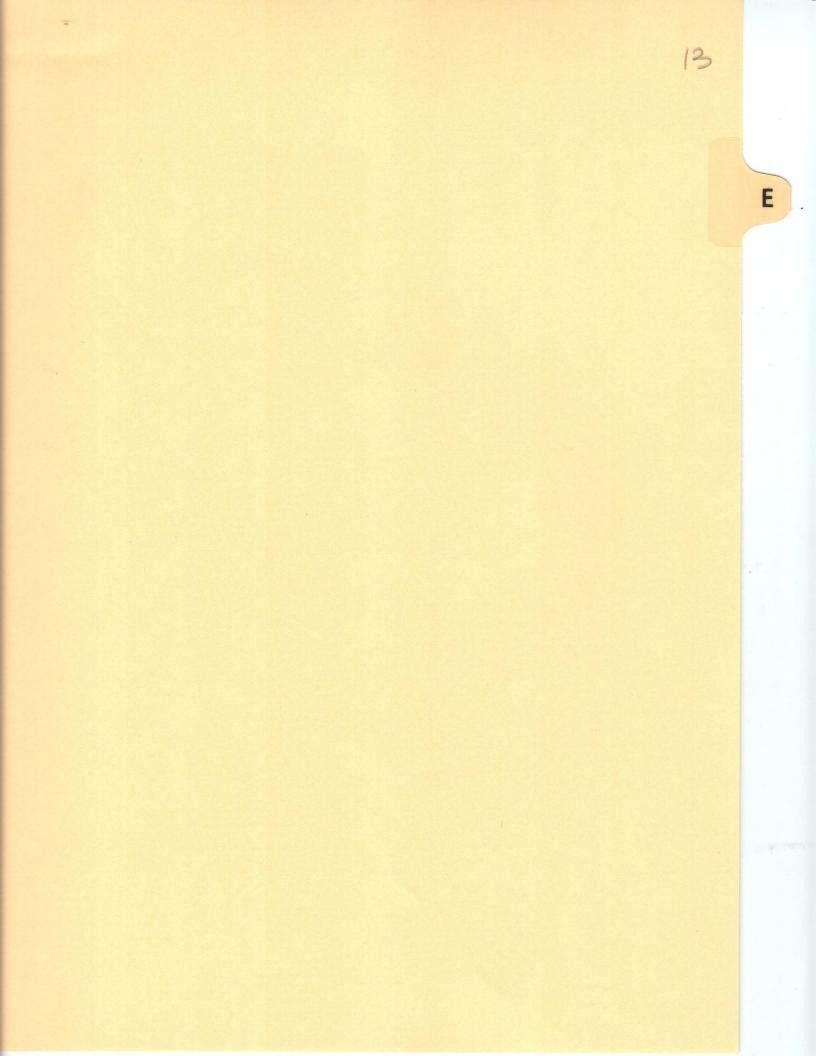
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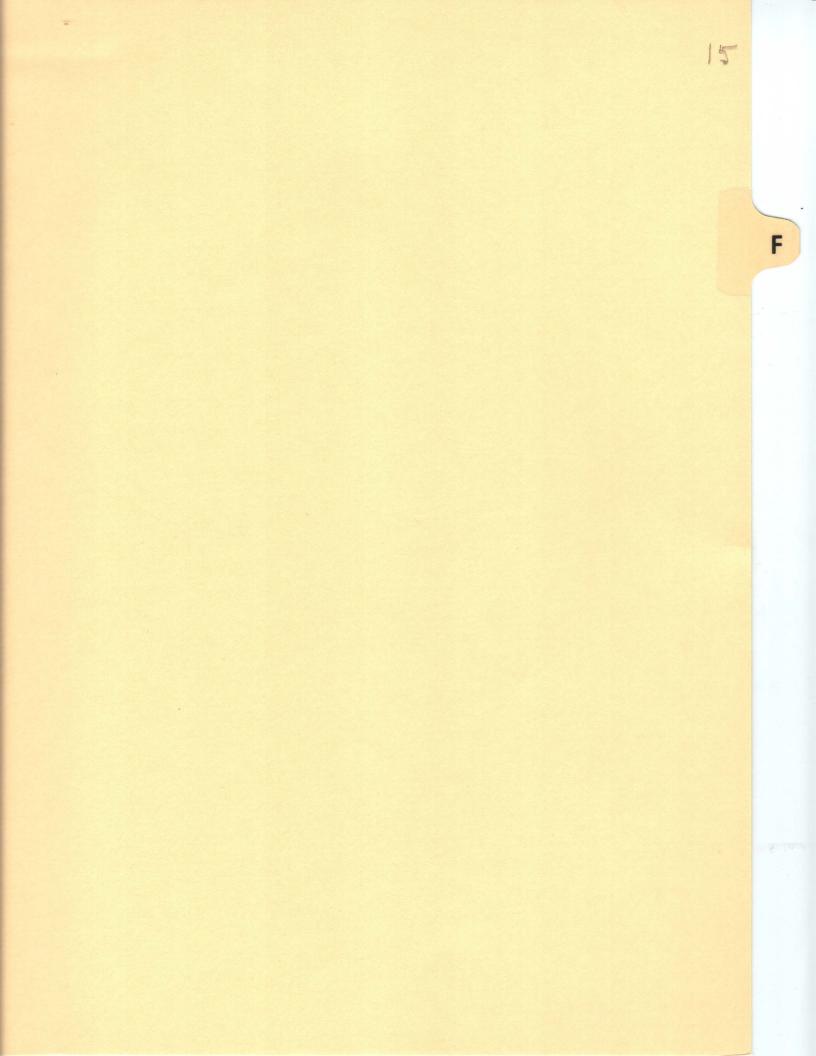
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168787 CABLE RE USSR	6	4/1/1982	B1

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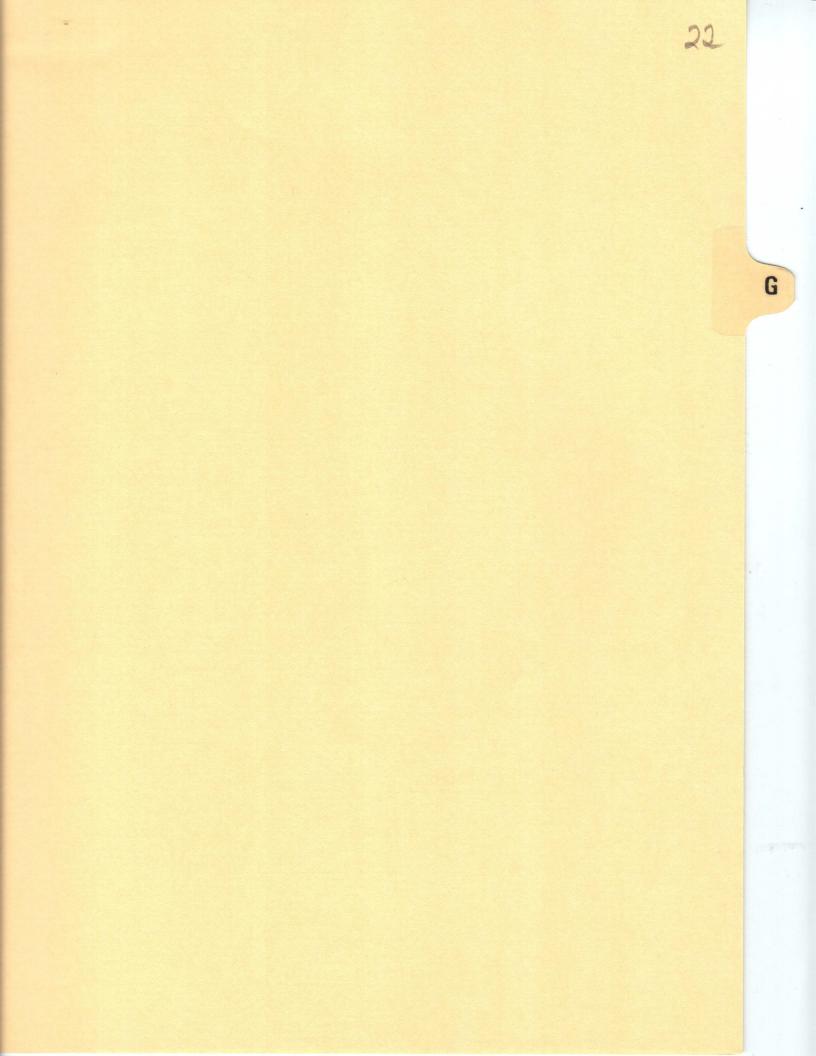
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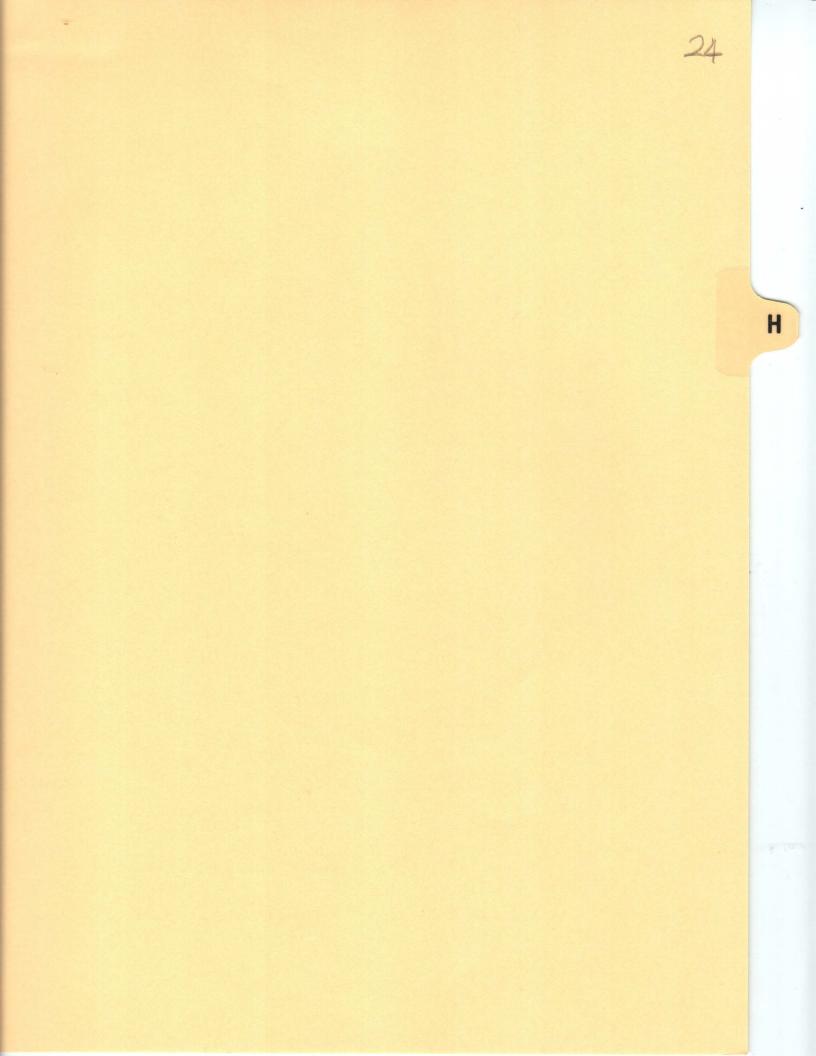
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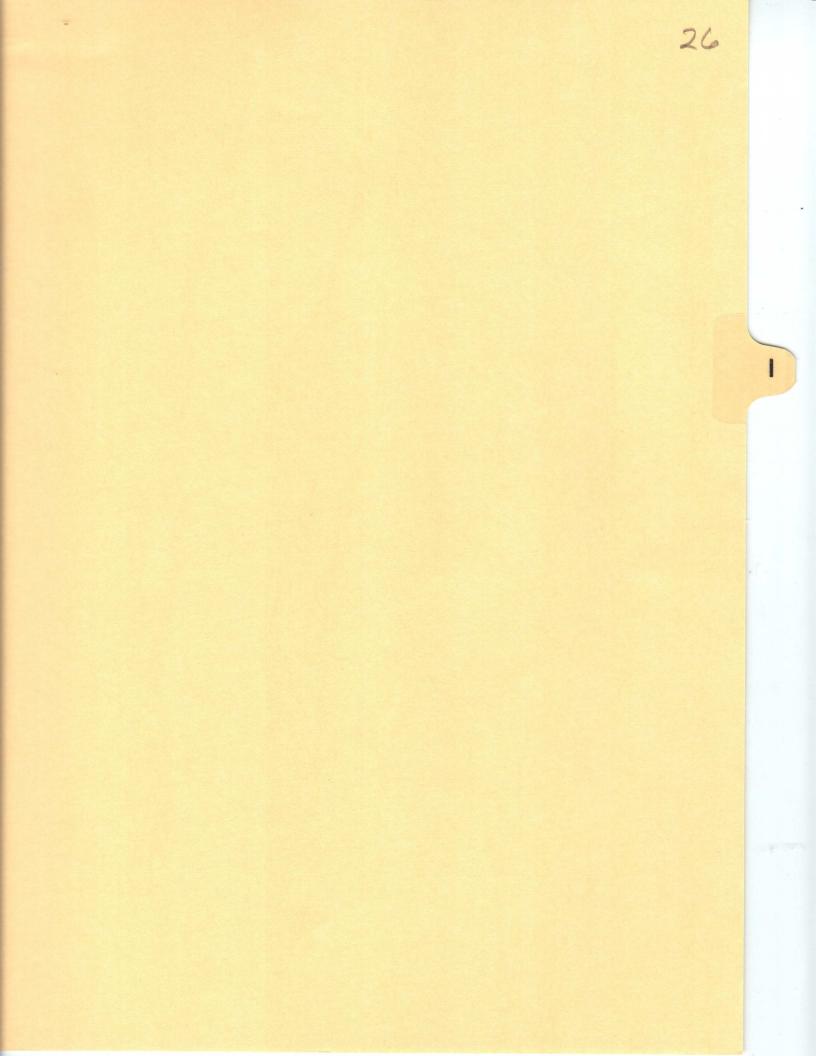
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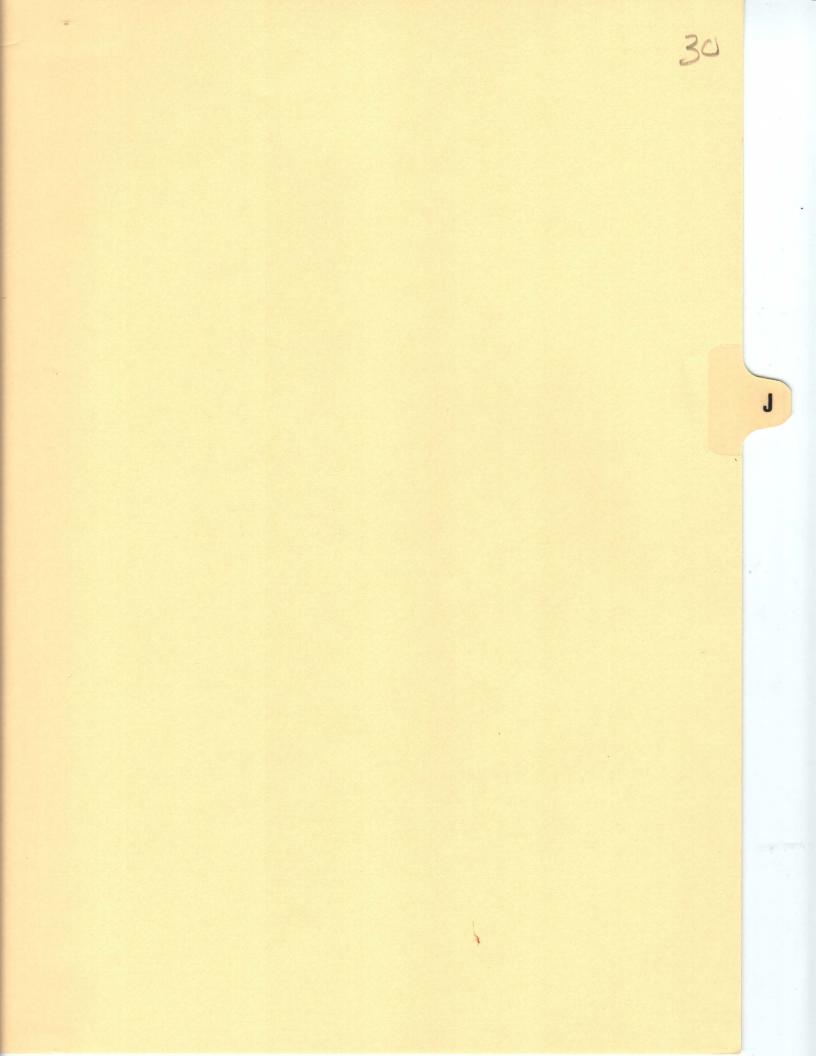
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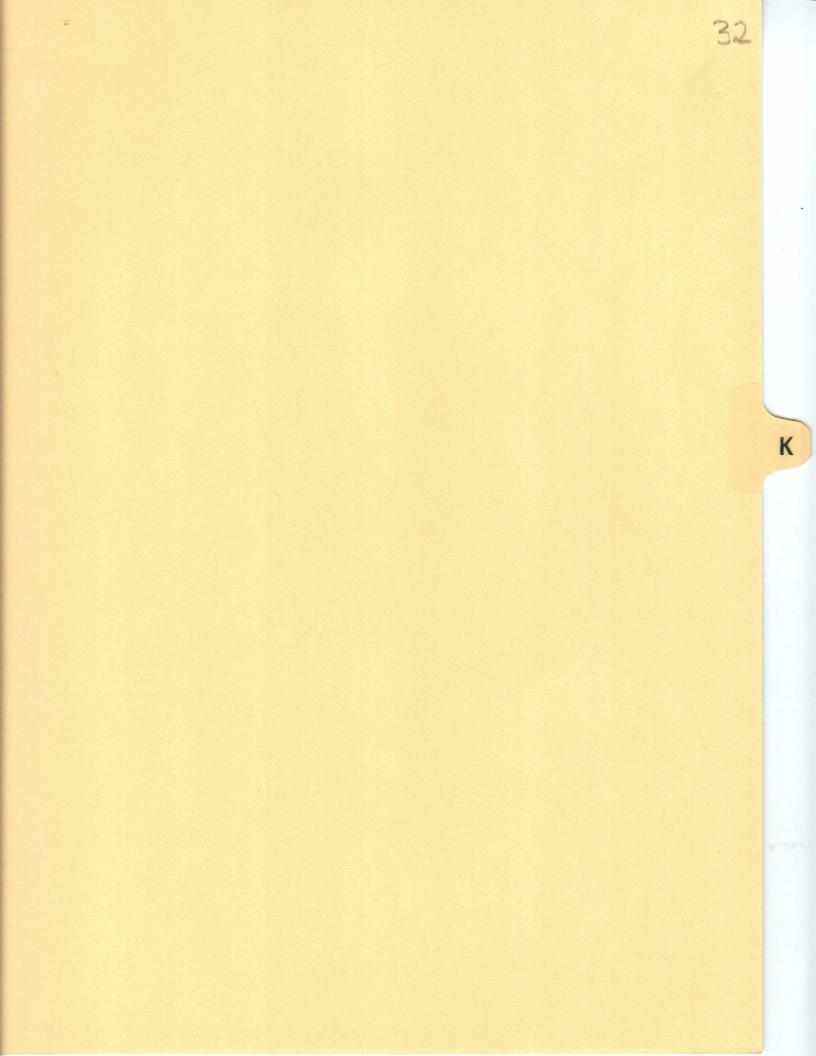
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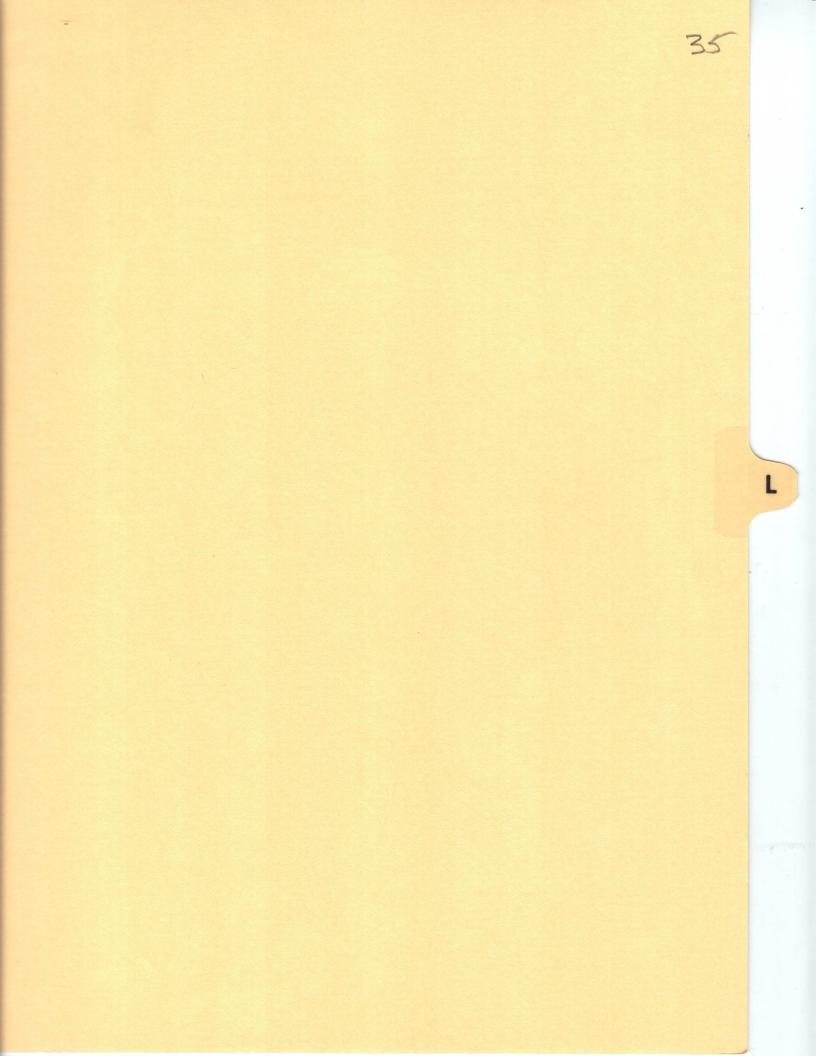
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