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Warren Report In Russian

Washington

After months of semi-secret preparation, the U.S. Government has scrapped plans for mass distribution in the Soviet Union of a Russian translation of the Warren Commission report on President Kennedy's assassination.

The U.S. Information Agency has been working all through the past winter on a somewhat hush-hush project to have the 888-page document translated into the Russian language.

The translation, done by a private contractor at U.S. expense, has now been completed in draft form and is being edited.

USIA officials said a "limited number" of copies will be sent to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to be made available for Soviet readers.

Originally USIA had planned to send some 10,000 copies to Russia.

The idea grew out of an observation by U.S. Ambassador Foy D. Kohler in Moscow after U.S. publication of the Warren Report on Sept. 27, 1964. Kohler said the report's main conclusion — that the assassination was the work of one man and was not a right-wing plot — appeared to be lost on many Russians.

It proved to be an immense scholarly job requiring much time.

Four months ago the agency hired the Institute of Modern Languages here to complete the job.

The Institute put about ten Russian scholars to work, some recruited from universities.

Three main reasons were given for canceling the mass-distribution plan—the job took longer than expected and the events are pretty far in the past; through USIA's regular radio and press release efforts the report's message may be sinking in after all in Russia; a summary of the report was published recently in Amerika, the Russian-language magazine which USIA circulates in the Soviet Union.

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