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NATO COUNTRY IMPORTS OF OIL FROM THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES  
IN 1971

Note by the Economic Directorate

The attached statistical tables have been prepared by the Statistics Service on the basis of the 1971 data assembled by the OECD Oil Committee and published in December 1972. They show, on the one hand, the volume of NATO countries' imports from the Communist countries in 1971(1) and, on the other hand, the degree of dependence on these imports since 1960.

2. In 1971, oil from Eastern countries represented the same proportion of overall NATO Europe imports and consumption as in 1970: 4.2% and 5.1% respectively. An upward trend was however, noted in the case of Belgium, France, Iceland and Norway. Except for Greece and Iceland, the share of Eastern oil in overall NATO country imports remains at levels which do not entail any high degree of dependence. Moreover, in the case of Greece, the proportion is steadily dropping.

3. In 1971, the Communist countries sold NATO Europe 15.6 million tons of crude and semi-refined product, i.e. some 5% more than in 1970, and 11.3 million tons of petroleum products, which is about the same as for the previous year. Sales to North America, (252,000 tons) were insignificant and 55% down on the 1970 figure.

4. During the same period, total imports by NATO countries - 657.9 million tons - rose by only 3.6%. This is the lowest growth rate recorded since the present statistics began to be kept. There are three main reasons for this phenomenon: the slackening of economic growth in 1971 in several of the industrialized Western countries, the particularly clement winter in Western Europe and the fact that natural gas is now encroaching on oil as an energy source in Europe. On the other hand, North American imports (241.3 million tons) rose sharply by more than 12% although, economically speaking, 1971 was not a notable year for the United States. This development is mainly an indication of the growing dependence of the United States on oil from abroad.

(1) In this note, the term "Communist countries" covers only the Soviet Union, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, the GDR and East Berlin.

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5. Of the Eastern countries, the Soviet Union remains NATO Europe's main supplier with 88% of the total. In 1971, the European NATO countries purchased 15.6 million tons of Russian crude oil (6.1% more than in 1970) and 8.1 million tons of petroleum products (10% more).

6. Sales by Rumania and the other Communist countries were mainly in the form of petroleum products. Purchases by NATO Europe from Rumania (1.7 million tons) were 23% up on the 1970 figure. At the same time, imports from the other Communist countries (1.6 million) were 42% lower than in 1970. This sharp drop explains why there was no change between 1970 and 1971 in the East European share of overall NATO Europe oil imports.

7. Soviet statistics show that in 1971, out of a total production of 372 million tons, 105.1 million tons were exported (74.8 million tons of crude oil and 30.3 million tons of petroleum products). These exports were broken down as follows: other COMECON countries, 45 million tons; Cuba, 6.4 million tons; North Korea and North Vietnam together, 1.1 million tons; Yugoslavia, 2.9 million tons; Western and Third World countries, 49.7 million tons. However, in 1971, the Soviet Union also imported 6.6 million tons of oil, of which 1½ million tons were petroleum products. If these purchases from abroad are taken into account, it will be seen that net Soviet exports amounted to only 98.5 million tons, which is about 3 million tons more than in 1970. It also emerges that sales to non-Communist and Third World countries (49.7 million tons) are about 4.4 million tons up on the 1970 level. However, the most remarkable feature with respect to Soviet sales to the industrialized Western countries was the 20 to 35% rise in the price of crude oil in 1971. This rise was partly responsible for the increase - in value - of Soviet exports to the advanced market economy countries in 1971.

TABLE I

DEGREE OF NATO COUNTRY DEPENDENCE ON OIL FROM THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES  
 (a) - PRODUCTS AND PRODUCT EQUIVALENTS (b) - AVERAGE PERCENTAGE  
 BETWEEN 1960 AND 1965; ANNUAL PERCENTAGE BETWEEN 1966 AND 1971

NATO countries	Percentage of imports from Communist countries in relation to overall imports (c)							Percentage of imports from Communist countries in relation to overall consumption (d)						
	Average% 1960-65(4)	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	Average% 1960-65(4)	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
(0)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Belgium	2.3	1.7	2.5	4.3	1.1	3.1	4.4	3.2	2.3	3.2	6.1	1.6	4.3	6.2
Denmark	4.3	2.6	2.9	5.8	5.0	4.3	4.1	4.7	3.0	3.4	6.3	5.5	4.9	4.6
France	3.4	5.2	4.8	4.6	3.7	2.8	4.0	4.1	6.6	6.1	5.4	4.3	3.3	4.6
Federal Republic of Germany(1)	8.4	7.1	7.0	6.6	5.8	6.6	5.8	8.3	7.0	7.1	6.8	5.9	6.9	6.0
Greece (2)	33.4	25.8	21.3	17.3	19.0	15.2	14.0	31.7	26.7	22.3	17.7	19.8	15.6	13.7
Iceland	90.8	93.3	81.7	78.7	74.1	70.8	73.0	92.0	96.8	80.6	86.1	75.0	73.2	71.5
Italy	14.3	10.5	12.5	13.1	9.8	8.7	7.7	20.3	17.9	20.4	18.1	13.0	11.3	10.0
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	na	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	na
Netherlands	neg.	neg.	0.1	0.1	neg.	0.8	1.2	neg.	neg.	0.2	0.1	neg.	1.6	2.5
Norway	6.5	5.7	7.4	5.3	5.6	4.6	6.3	7.8	6.9	9.1	6.6	6.5	5.9	7.4
Portugal	1.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey (3)	0.7	2.8	6.4	6.0	8.6	5.3	1.3	0.7	2.0	4.3	3.1	4.4	3.3	0.8
United Kingdom	0.2	neg.	neg.	neg.	neg.	neg.	0.1	0.3	neg.	neg.	neg.	neg.	neg.	0.2
Sub-total	5.4	5.0	5.4	5.5	4.3	4.2	4.2	6.7	6.2	6.7	6.6	5.2	5.1	5.1
Canada	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	neg.	-	-
United States	-	-	neg.	neg.	0.2	0.3	0.1	-	-	neg.	neg.	neg.	neg.	neg.
Sub-Total II	-	-	neg.	neg.	0.2	0.3	0.1	-	-	neg.	neg.	neg.	neg.	neg.
Total - NATO	3.6	3.6	3.6	4.0	3.2	3.2	3.1	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.0

See notes on page 6

TABLE II

NATO COUNTRY IMPORTS OF OIL FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES (a)  
TOTAL IMPORTS AND TOTAL CONSUMPTION  
PRODUCTS AND PRODUCT EQUIVALENTS (b) - 1970 and 1971

Thousands of metric tons

NATO countries	Imports from Communist countries (c)		Total imports (c) (including Communist countries)		Total consumption (d)	
	1970	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971
(0)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Belgium	1,065.4	1,586.1	33,883.0	35,826.3	24,982.0	25,538.0
Denmark	867.0	825.0	20,361.7	20,063.9	17,865.0	17,798.0
France	2,865.7	4,292.2	100,604.0	108,209.9	86,583.0	94,176.0
Federal Republic of Germany (1)	8,287.7	7,420.3	125,128.7	128,489.5	119,943.0	124,476.0
Greece (2)	885.0	968.5	5,837.0	6,933.6	5,688.0	7,062.0
Iceland	370.8	389.0	523.6	533.0	506.0	544.0
Italy	9,489.8	8,752.4	109,266.3	113,097.4	83,775.0	87,484.0
Luxembourg (5)	-	na	1,381.5	1,331.0	1,355.9	1,319.0
Netherlands	520.6	798.8	65,508.9	64,770.8	32,757.0	32,113.0
Norway	475.8	584.0	10,249.9	9,236.6	7,999.0	7,936.0
Portugal	-	-	4,909.1	5,427.3	4,159.0	4,957.0
Turkey	245.0	72.0	4,663.7	5,712.2	7,428.0	8,764.0
United Kingdom	55.0	146.9	115,128.6	119,257.9	96,349.0	97,170.0
Sub-total I	25,127.3	25,835.2	597,446.0	618,889.1	489,390.7	509,337.0
Canada	-	-	37,191.9	40,218.2	69,972.0	73,623.0
United States	576.0	252.0	170,576.4	192,430.2	689,918.0	712,945.0
Sub-total II	576.0	252.0	207,768.3	232,648.4	759,890.0	786,568.0
Total - NATO	25,703.3	26,087.2	805,214.3	851,537.5	1,249,280.0	1,295,905.0

See notes on page 6

**TABLE III**  
**NATO COUNTRY IMPORTS OF OIL FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES**  
**1970 AND 1971**

Thousands of metric tons

NATO countries	Crude and semi-refined oil						Petroleum products							
	Communist countries					World-wide (including Communist countries)	Communist countries					World-wide (including Communist countries)		
	Total		USSR	Rumania	Other Communist countries		Total		USSR	Rumania	Other Communist countries			
	1970	1971	1971	1971	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971	1971	1971	1971	1970	1971
(0)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Belgium	537.0	513.0	513.0	-	-	29,886.0	30,867.0	566.0	1,109.0	996.0	59.0	54.0	6,089.0	7,120.0
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	10,162.0	10,544.0	867.0	825.0	620.0	-	205.0	10,911.0	10,258.0
France	1,418.0	2,569.0	2,569.0	-	-	101,343.0	107,587.0	1,547.0	1,903.0	1,288.0	615.0	-	6,355.0	8,154.0
Federal Republic of Germany (1)	3,454.0	3,396.0	3,342.0	54.0	-	100,347.0	101,907.0	5,075.0	4,262.0	2,314.0	763.0	1,185.0	31,806.0	33,716.0
Greece (2)	618.0	665.0	665.0	-	-	4,600.0	5,334.0	310.0	350.0	273.0	54.0	23.0	1,559.0	1,973.0
Iceland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	370.8	389.0	389.0	-	-	523.6	533.0
Italy	8,825.3	8,295.0	8,290.0	-	5.0	114,072.4	117,309.0	1,282.3	1,038.0	821.0	109.0	108.0	3,179.0	4,000.0
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	na	na	na	na	1,381.5	1,331.0
Netherlands	35.0	32.0	32.0	-	-	60,130.0	60,732.0	488.0	769.0	741.0	26.0	2.0	9,588.0	8,290.0
Norway	-	-	-	-	-	6,527.9	5,710.0	475.8	584.0	571.0	12.0	1.0	4,179.0	3,926.0
Portugal	-	-	-	-	-	3,684.0	4,067.0	-	-	-	-	-	1,483.0	1,645.0
Turkey	-	-	-	-	-	4,405.0	5,469.0	245.0	72.0	69.0	3.0	-	567.0	626.0
United Kingdom	-	158.0	158.0	-	-	102,149.0	107,730.0	55.0	-	-	-	-	20,130.0	19,069.0
Sub-total I	14,887.3	15,628.0	15,569.0	54.0	5.0	537,306.3	557,256.0	11,281.9	11,301.0	8,082.0	1,641.0	1,578.0	97,751.1	100,641.0
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	29,144.0	34,312.0	-	-	-	-	-	10,088.0	8,308.0
United States	-	-	-	-	-	71,380.0	89,712.0	576.0	252.0	-	252.0	-	104,193.0	108,998.0
Sub-total II	-	-	-	-	-	100,524.0	124,024.0	576.0	252.0	-	252.0	-	114,281.0	117,306.0
Total - NATO	14,887.3	15,628.0	15,569.0	54.0	5.0	637,830.3	681,280.0	11,857.9	11,553.0	8,082.0	1,893.0	1,578.0	212,032.1	217,947.0

See notes on page 6

Notes to Tables I, II and III

- (a) For the purposes of this document, the term "Communist countries" covers only the USSR, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, the GDR and East Berlin.
- (b) Crude and semi-refined oil has been converted into "product equivalents" by reducing by 7%.
- (c) Including bunkering abroad.
- (d) Domestic consumption and bunkers.
- (1) In the case of the Federal Republic of Germany the term "oil from Communist countries" also covers deliveries within the framework of trade between the Federal Republic and the GDR; these deliveries totalled 802,000 tons in 1970 and 769,400 tons in 1971.
- (2) Greece 1970: OECD estimates for total imports of crude oil. No breakdown is given either for these imports or for imports of petroleum products. The figure given for imports from the Communist countries: 928,000 tons, is a Western estimate. The breakdown of these figures between crude oil and petroleum products (two-thirds and one-third) has been made by the International Staff. Also, these figures concern only oil from the Soviet Union; Greece also imports oil from Rumania but no figures are available for 1970.
- (3) Turkey: The percentages for 1968 and 1969 are International Staff estimates (AC/127-D/388).
- (4) Figures for Canada and the United States are not available for 1960, 1961 and 1962. The average percentage for NATO countries as a whole (total of NATO) therefore applies only to 1963, 1964 and 1965.
- (5) Luxembourg 1971 (column (6)): OECD Secretariat estimate.

neg = negligible

na = not available

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