

*Dr. Zhivago legal document*

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE AR 70-14  
HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

19 November 1968

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director (Plans)**

**SUBJECT: Miniature edition of "Dr. Zhivago"**

**1. Problem:**

To publish a miniature edition of "Dr. Zhivago" which can be circulated in the Soviet Union more easily than the normal edition.

**2. Assumptions:**

a. There appears to be no prospect that the novel will be published in the USSR.

b. It is believed there is a tremendous demand on the part of Soviet students and intellectuals to obtain copies of this book.

c. Soviet customs officers may become increasingly alert to efforts to introduce copies of "Dr. Zhivago" into the USSR.

d. A miniature edition, more easily concealed and infiltrated into the USSR, would receive wide internal circulation.

**3. Facts Bearing on the Problem:**

a. The original Russian edition of "Dr. Zhivago" was intended to be legal but turned out to be illegal. As Dutch publisher Mouton was corresponding with Feltrinelli for publication rights,

A Mouton employee, however, failed to obtain specific approval from Feltrinelli prior to publication. Consequently the book came out only in Feltrinelli's

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- 2 -

name without the latter's consent - thereby becoming an illegal edition.

b. According to a recent statement by Feltrinelli, Mouton will print a new Russian-language edition for Feltrinelli. The publication date is tentatively set for about 1 January 1959.

c. The University of Michigan Press has announced it will put out a Russian-language edition of "Dr. Zhivago" on 21 November 1958. Reportedly, the Michigan publication will be a new edition.

d. Over 500 copies of the illegal Russian-language edition of the novel were distributed to Soviet visitors at the Brussels Fair and in Western Europe last summer. Many of these copies are presumed to be circulating in the USSR.

e. Publication of a miniature edition at headquarters would require approximately three months.

#### 4. Discussion:

The following possibilities for publishing a miniature edition have been considered: (a) To print a miniature edition of the book in a country which is not a member of the Geneva Universal Copyright Convention. This idea is rejected because of the security and control problems involved. (b) To print a black miniature edition using either of the two Feltrinelli-Mouton texts or that of the University of Michigan. The Michigan edition is rejected

The second Feltrinelli-Mouton edition is rejected because of the uncertainty of its availability.

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- 3 -

Regarding attribution, the book could be a direct copy of either the Feltrinelli edition or the Michigan edition, or it could be fictitious. A miniature edition attributed to an innocuous, fictitious publisher appears to be preferable as it would avoid incurring additional legal problems that might result from using the name of one of the bona fide publishers.

#### 5. Conclusion and recommendation:

In view of the security, legal, and technical problems involved, it is recommended that a black miniature edition of "Dr. Zhivago" be published at headquarters using the first Feltrinelli text and attributing it to a fictitious publisher. This recommendation is submitted for your approval.

  
Acting Chief, SR Division

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C/PP	Date
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Approved:

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Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee

1 - C/PP

1 - C/IO

1 - C/WE

1 - SR/COP/PP

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