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French Ambassador Crouy-Chanel has told me that during a recent three hour tete-a-tete luncheon which he had with Soviet Ambassador Lapin latter had taken the occasion to comment that the Soviet Government recognized it had made a mistake in its handling of the Hungarian situation in 1956, and that it would never make that mistake again. According to Crouy-Chanel, Lapin also remarked Soviets had made certain mistakes in connection with East Germans. Lapin then went on to say Soviet Union is now busily engaged in assisting to improve conditions in both Hungary and East Germany and has hopes that the flow of emigration will eventually be reversed so people will be going to East Germany and Hungary rather than away from them as at present.

601.64/6-1659

Ambassador Crouy-Chanel is inclined to give some significance to Lapin's remarks regarding Hungary since, he says, to his knowledge this is the first admission by a Soviet authority of Soviet mistakes in handling of Hungarian problem.

MATTHEWS

Cleared in draft
with Ambassador

W. Tapley Bennett, Jr.
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6/15/59

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