

31
Action
SS

Info

~~SECRET~~

Control: 15210
Rec'd: MAY 24, 1961
11:37 AM

003

FROM: MOSCOW
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 2898, MAY 24, 4 PM

EYES ONLY

PRIORITY

EYES ONLY SECRETARY

FOLLOWING ARE MINOR AND SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS IN MY CONVERSATION WITH KHRUSHCHEV LAST NIGHT.

K MENTIONED WE HAD PRESSED HIM FOR RELEASE RB-47 FLIERS. HE HAD DELIBERATELY NOT DONE SO UNTIL AFTER ELECTION AS EARLIER RELEASE WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPLOITED BY NIXON AND IN HIS OPINION MIGHT HAVE CHANGED OUTCOME. SAID FRANKLY DID NOT LIKE NIXON AND THOUGHT PRESIDENT KENNEDY MUCH HIGHER CALIBRE. SAID LODGE HAD TOLD HIM RELATIONS WOULD BE EVEN BETTER UNDER NIXON THAN UNDER EISENHOWER.

K MENTIONED LAOS ONLY IN PASSING STATING HOPE WE WOULD BE ABLE REACH AGREEMENT. NO MENTION OF CONGO.

K SAID IF VIENNA WENT WELL AND RELATIONS IMPROVED HOPED WOULD BE POSSIBLE INVITE KENNEDY VISIT SOVIET UNION NEXT YEAR THOUGH CLEARLY ATMOSPHERE NOT RIGHT FOR INVITATION THIS YEAR.

K POINTED OUT THEY HAD ABOLISHED FOREIGN BASES AND SETTLED AUSTRIAN PROBLEM. THEY VERY SATISFIED AUSTRIAN SOLUTION. HE MENTIONED HE HAD TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY THROUGHOUT AUSTRIA IN 1946 INCOGNITO IN GENERALS UNIFORM.

DISCUSSING DIVISION OF GERMANY, MENTIONED HIS BROTHER HAD SUPPORTED WHITES IN SOVIET CIVIL WAR AND I GATHERED HAD BEEN KILLED AT THAT TIME. HE REFERRED TO GRIEF THIS DIVISION HAD BROUGHT HIS MOTHER.

~~SECRET~~

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS
PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

EYES ONLY

-2- 2898, MAY 24, 4 PM, FROM MOSCOW

HE REFERRED HIS CONVERSATION WITH LIPPMANN WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS WISE AND INTELLIGENT MAN AND SAID HE READ HIM REGULARLY. SAID HE HAD AUTHORIZED PUBLICATION SEVERAL LIPPMANN COLUMNS TO SHOW NOT ALL AMERICANS HELD SAME OPINIONS.

DISCUSSING TACTICAL ARMS HE SAID US RICH COUNTRY AND COULD AFFORD BOTH THESE AND STRATEGIC WEAPONS WHEREAS SOVIET UNION AT PRESENT TIME COULD NOT AFFORD BOTH.

K REFERRED TO GOOD WEATHER IN UKRAINE AND SAID THEY EXPECTED BUMPER CROP. ONE REASON HIS GOING BY TRAIN WAS SEE FIELDS AT CLOSE RANGE.

ALTHOUGH IN NOVOSIBIRSK HE SAID DOCTOR HAD STRICTLY FORBIDDEN ANY HARD LIQUOR, LAST NIGHT HE TOOK 5 OR 6 BRANDIES.

TROYANOVSKY EXPECTS ATTEND VIENNA MEETING.

IN DISCUSSING MY IDEA FOR HANDLING GERMAN PROBLEM BY DEFERRING SETTLEMENT FOR GIVEN NUMBER YEARS I POINTED OUT THIS WOULD GREATLY REDUCE REFUGEE PROBLEMS AS EAST GERMANS WOULD KNOW NO CRISIS IMMANENT. I SAID I DID NOT THINK EITHER WE OR WEST GERMANS WANTED REFUGEES TO LEAVE. LATER ON IN DISCUSSING HIS INTENTION GIVE CONTROL ACCESS TO EAST GERMANS I POINTED OUT THIS COULD BUILD UP DANGEROUS PRESSURES INSIDE EAST GERMANY. HE THEN REVERTED TO MY REMARK THAT WE HAD NOT WANTED REFUGEES TO LEAVE AND SAID THIS WOULD STOP THEM.

K MENTIONED FACT PRESIDENT YOUNGER THAN HIS SON WOULD HAVE BEEN HAD HE LIVED BUT SAID PRESIDENT OBVIOUSLY ABLE MAN AND REPRESENTED US.

HE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR BRITISH EXHIBIT SAYING THEY HAD DISPLAYED INDUSTRIAL GOODS WHICH WE SHOULD HAVE DONE. SAID NIXON HAD THOUGHT THAT BY SHOWING OUR WAY OF LIFE AND MAKING STRONG SPEECH WE COULD UPSET SOVIET REGIME. I DENIED THIS VIGOROUSLY.

~~SECRET~~

-3- 2898, MAY 24, 4 PM, FROM MOSCOW

K TOOK ONE CRACK AT HAMMARSKJOLD BUT ONLY IN PASSING.

K PROFESSED NOT TO HAVE KNOWN OF DIP CORPS TRIP TO UKRAINE. WHEN I SAID NEW UKRAINIAN PRIME MINISTER HAD MADE VERY GOOD IMPRESSION ON EVERYONE HE BOASTED THEY HAD VERY GREAT NUMBER OF TALENTED ADMINISTRATORS. HE WAS FULLY FAMILIAR SCHERBITSKYS BACKGROUND AND EXPRESSED GREAT CONFIDENCE IN HIM.

K SAID HE HAD NOT MET YOU AND MADE NO COMMENT ON MY BUILDUP BASED ON OUR PREVIOUS ASSOCIATION IN DEPT.

AFTER SOME REMARK OF MY WIFE HE SAID HE THOUGHT SHE WAS 100 PERCENT FOR PEACE AND THAT I WAS PROBABLY 50 PERCENT FOR IT. I REPLIED I HAD TO BE FOR PEACE AS I WOULD PROBABLY BE FIRST ONE KILLED IN WAR. HE ASKED WHY AND SEEMED STARTLED WHEN I REPLIED I WOULD BE TARGET FOR BOTH SIDES IMMEDIATELY ON OUTBREAK.

K SAID HIS STOP IN KIEV WAS FOR RELAXATION AND HE SPOKE WITH RELISH OF HIS INTENTION GO FISHING.

NEITHER FURTSEVA NOR KUZNETSOV TOOK PART IN CONVERSATION BUT FURTSEVA STUDIED MY FACE INTENTLY WHENEVER K GOT ON SUBJECT OF SOVIET ACTION ON BERLIN.

IN VIEW IMPORTANCE FORTHCOMING MEETING THOUGHT THESE MINOR DETAILS WORTH REPORTING.

THOMPSON

BP

~~SECRET~~

**NATIONAL
SECURITY
ARCHIVE**

This document is from the holdings of:

The National Security Archive

Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University

2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037

Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, nsarchiv@gwu.edu