OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON

July 8, 1974

MEMORANDUM TO: MR. JOHN MARSH

FROM : J. W. Roberts W

RE : Yermishkin Conversation

Lunched at Trader Vic's today with Second Secretary Yermishkin, from about 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Meeting postponed from July 3, at my request. It was mostly an exchange of information on background and personal experiences, with me more interested in him than he seemed to be in me. He said he was born in Moscow in 1938, left there when his family was moved to the Urals in 1941, then went to Sinkiang in 1944, where his father was in charge of a secondary school for the Soviet Staff, returning to Moscow in 1948. He's been with the foreign service since 1967, after working as a sports reporter.

In the little time we spent on substantive questions, he emphasized that the Soviets are very hopeful of continuing the present good relations with the U.S., mentioned how hard he would work when Brezhnev comes here next year, and noted that the Vice President had expressed his support of President Nixon's foreign policy. My response was that he has done that in many, many speeches.

He also was very critical of the U.S. press treatment of Nixon, but since he mentioned earlier that he's reading only the Eastern Establishment papers, I pointed out not all the press was unsympathetic. After learning I had never been to Russia, he expressed the hope that if the Vice President became President I would be able to go to Moscow with Mr. Ford. I shrugged, and said who knows.

At the end of the luncheon he invited me to the Embassy, which I declined, then said he hoped I would be able to go to a reception sometime so I could meet the people there. I said I might. He asked if there would be any problem if he called me in the future. I said no. And we shook hands.

Should I continue?

JWR: vad

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON, D.C.

N/C -1, Copy to Sanders (disregard Roberts' note) L. Gare Dave Peterson a cogny

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