



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

May 30, 1974

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PLACE: Vice Presidential
Ceremonial Office
TIME: 4:30 p. m.
DATE: May 21, 1974

SUBJECT: Meeting With Soviet "Parliamentary" Delegation

PARTICIPANTS: The Vice President
John O. Marsh, Jr.
Walter Mote
Spof Canfield
Lieutenant Colonel Sardo
Warren Rustand

Soviet "Parliamentary" Delegation

The Vice President met with the Soviet delegation, and the entire conversation was conducted through interpreters. There was the usual exchange of greetings and expressions of good will with the hope of further good relations between the two countries.

The Chairman of the Soviet delegation indicated that they had had two days of meetings where the discussions were frank and objective with an expression of views on mutual problems. The Chairman said that they had listened to opinions of members of the House and Senate during these meetings and that they had been met with great hospitality by the leaders of these two bodies. The exchange at the lunch on Monday and Tuesday, he stated, had been extremely helpful. He paid special tribute to Senator Sparkman and Speaker Albert for their kind attitude to the delegation.

The Vice President responded that he was glad this had gone well and hoped that we could address those problems that confront the US/USSR.

The Chairman stated that the visit was a concrete step to promote detente and peaceful coexistence, but that there still remained a greater task. He hoped to get the cooperation on these efforts from the Administration.

The Vice President responded that parliamentarians getting together can be helpful, and the fact that there were just two countries involved facilitated this, rather than a multi-national meeting. The Vice President said that he hoped that detente can be expanded and that we had made great progress over the last ten years toward achieving a better understanding of one another, and that our people appreciate one another better. He said he hoped that the President and Brezhnev can continue cooperation in international affairs and technology to end some of the controversies that have existed and that he, the Vice President, was optimistic for the future.

The Vice President pointed out that there were difficult problems which Kissinger has discussed with the Soviet Ambassador and others. He wished that we could make more headway in the area of trade and exchanges, but that there are difficult problems of which the Soviet Ambassador is aware. If there can be mutual solutions it could mean that detente could produce something for a better world and for mankind as a whole. The Vice President stated that in the field of international affairs cooperation in the Middle East had been helpful in the past and could help against having a much larger and broader problem.

The Vice President inquired as to what kind of problems they had discussed with Members of Congress. The Chairman responded that they were the ones that the Vice President had already touched on in the conversation.

The Chairman pointed out that when President Nixon was in the Soviet Union, as well as when their leaders came to the United States, concrete results flowed from such visits. The Chairman stated that in reference to recent agreements signed by Brezhnev and Nixon their Supreme Soviet had talked about these documents during their ratification procedure.

The Chairman indicated that there was general support for these policies in the Soviet Union. He stated that the Vice President was correct when he spoke of mutual cooperation, but it was necessary that this be not only in words, but deeds, and that efforts in the Middle East indicate how we can solve problems and help people of a region solve problems. He agreed with Secretary Kissinger as to many of the actions to be taken, but we need to go further. He stated that wars are easy to start, but hard to stop. He emphasized that he hoped that the legislative bodies of our two countries will help to further mutual relationships. He stated that they had tendered an invitation to the House and Senate to visit the Soviet Union and hoped that the Vice President would also participate.

The Vice President extended his thanks and indicated that he had been to the Soviet Union once. He further stated that he hoped the House and Senate would send a delegation, and that any such delegation would support the President on matters currently under negotiation. In fact, such a delegation might be helpful in negotiations. The Vice President stressed that in important matters the President and Congress stand together in areas of mutual interest and matters which relate to our two countries notwithstanding the differences of Party. The Vice President inquired whether or not the Speaker indicated there would be a delegation going to Russia shortly. The Vice President mentioned the forthcoming elections which might delay such a visit.

The Chairman responded that in the past Members of Congress have visited more on a private basis, and that they were pleased with the response they had received. They also stated that Senator Hugh Scott and Senator Sparkman had expressed the same view which I assume relates back to the statement of Speaker Albert.

The Vice President said that he might go alone to the Soviet Union or with the delegation, and that the last time he had been there was in 1959. The Chairman said it was better to go and see it once than to read about it ten times, and that he would be impressed by the great developments that have occurred since his last visit. He stated that they would show him what he wanted to see and would answer any questions that he sought to ask.

The Vice President said that he hoped the group would visit more in the United States, particularly in the heartland of the country.

The Chairman responded that they did hope to visit more of the United States at some later time. They felt it was most important to talk about vital issues.

The Vice President mentioned that there were problem areas in which we need to make headway, such as SALT, MBFR, and trade.

The Vice President inquired as to when the first joint space shuttle flight would be made, and the Chairman responded that it was now under preparation and would be made next year.

The Chairman responded in reference to arms limitations that they saw no problem, and are prepared for same now. He indicated that they had mentioned to Members of Congress the subject of peaceful coexistence. (There was a statement that could not be clearly understood in reference to the military on this subject.)

The Vice President, apparently referring to some of our talks that are now underway, said that he hoped they would make progress in 1974. This apparently was made in reference to SALT, MBFR, and trade negotiations.

The Chairman responded, apparently referring to nuclear weapons, that the stockpiles were so large that we should stop now. The Vice President pointed out the need to have a SALT agreement and stated that it would be too bad if we did fail because then the US would have to step up its own programs. It would be better to find a way to limit nuclear arms. He pointed out that the Congress would support such increases. A statement was then made which is believed was attributed to the Soviets where they indicated agreement with the Vice President's statement and indicated that their leadership was prepared to do this.

The subject then changed, and the Vice President inquired as to how long they would be in the country. He mentioned that he had just returned from Hawaii and described what a nice place it was, and then spoke of the climate.

The Chairman countered by saying everyone who visits Russia wants to visit Siberia. He went on to speak of Siberia and the progress that had been made, particularly as to the construction of power stations.

The Vice President indicated that he liked cold weather and particularly skiing, and that Russia has some great skiers--both jumpers and cross-country athletes.

The Soviets concluded the meeting by thanking the Vice President for the appointment. Soviet newsmen and photographers were admitted into the Ceremonial Office for approximately 5 minutes for the purpose of taking pictures.

Prepared by: Mr. Marsh

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'JM' or similar, written in a cursive style.



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

May 16, 1974


MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit of Mr. Marsh and Lt. Col. Sardo with
General Scowcroft, May 2, 1974

Mr. Marsh and Colonel Sardo visited General Scowcroft with the purpose of discussing two principal issues. First, any potential problems that might be encountered by the Vice President meeting with the visiting Soviet Parliamentarians on Tuesday, May 21st; and, second, discussion of the proper procedures to follow on the interface of State/NSC recommendations relative to the Vice President receiving foreign visitors.

On the proposed visit of the Parliamentarians, after discussion of the parameters of the visit, General Scowcroft agreed there would be no problem with the Vice President receiving the delegation in his Capitol ceremonial office.

On the second issue of the proper procedures to be followed concerning proposed visits of foreign dignitaries with the Vice President, it was agreed that the State Department recommendations would be processed through the NSC. The NSC in turn would offer their own recommendations and forward such to the Assistant to the Vice President for Defense Affairs. All agreed that a full and timely recommendation by the NSC on proposed visits should be made as quickly as possible in order that the Vice President be fully warned of any foreign policy implications of such visits.


Ric Sardo

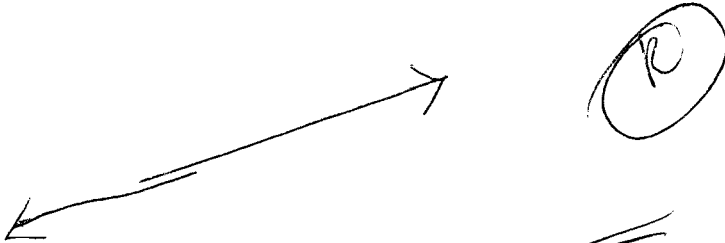
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 1, 1974

Message from Spof Canfield:

"It is not possible to schedule the reception for Tuesday at 4:00. Recommend that we forget about our involvement in any reception and instead set up an informal meeting in the ceremony office at about 4:30 p.m. on that same day, Tuesday, May 21. The format could be the normal type of of thing, just running them in, being introduced and then leaving, with perhaps a picture. If this does not work out, there is really no problem since we have done more than our part to try to bring this off."



~~John Sawcraft~~ sees no
problem w/ this, so long as it
takes place on Hill, +
within parameters noted
above.



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

April 30, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit of Soviet Parliamentary Delegation

After a conversation with Mr. Marsh on information contained in the attached memo, I contacted Spof Canfield and requested that he firm-up with the Speaker's office and others the date and time for the US reception. Confirmed our desire that the Vice President and Speaker cohost the reception on 21 May from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Capitol.

I was in contact with Bill Luers at State and indicated our desires on the reception to be cohosted by the Vice President, further requesting that State attempt to discourage the Soviets from hosting their own reception on the evening of the 21st.

Subsequently received a call from Mr. Matlock, Director of Soviet Affairs at the Department of State, indicating Soviets would hold the date and time of their own reception in a flexible mode until the US reception was firmed. Conveyed this information to Spof Canfield and requested confirmation soonest from the Speaker's office on the date and time specified above for the US reception. Will convey that decision to Department of State for further relaying to the Soviets.

Called Warren Rustand and had him block out the period from 4:00-6:00 p.m. on 21 May as the tentative time and date for the reception to be cohosted by the Vice President.


Ric Sardo



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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

April 30, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MARSH

FROM:

Ric Sardo

(R)

Counselor Gromakov of the Soviet Embassy called this morning at approximately 10:20 regarding the visit of the Soviet Parliamentary delegation. Gromakov informed me the delegation now plans to arrive on 19 May, and the Soviet Embassy is tentatively planning to hold their reception on the evening of 21 May. Gromakov did indicate that the latter date was subject to change pending negotiations with the Department of State (and parenthetically the date of the reception which would be cohosted by the Vice President and the Speaker of the House).

On a new subject--that of the Vice President's invitation to the Soviet reception--Gromakov indicated that it had been withheld at the last moment due to uncertainties concerning the precise date. He indicated that the Vice President's invitation will be brought immediately to this office once the firm date of the Soviet reception has been established.

Decision -
Give reception - 4-6 PM, 21st May
Encourage Soviets to hold their on
22 or 23 May -
U.P. could not attend.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ullrich asked to inquire concerning possibility of
postponement for 6 or 7 days.
Head of delegation ill. —

Now in touch w/ Sparkman —

Inquiring as to possibility of
postponement. —

Agreed
in
principle

4-29.

Senate / Sparkman - said

Here - now in touch.

John - U.P. would be sympathetic.

Difficulty in terms of U.P.'s future
readiness. —

Date will be fixed by Tomorrow. —

Obstacle - L.A. delegation

Will let us know as soon as
confirmation from Ullrich arrives

To: Mr. Marsh

From: Ric Sardo

(R)

Checked with Spoff Canfield, per your instructions, re VP co-hosting a reception for Soviet Parliamentarians on Wednesday, May 8th.....

Spoff indicates following:

Reception will take place on 8 May, from 4 to 6 PM

Probable location: S-207

VP is co-hosting with Speaker Albert

All members of Congress are invited

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Spoff further indicated that the Soviets are hosting a reception the evening of 7 May at their Embassy. To the best of his (Spoff's) knowledge, the VP has not been invited. I'm checking with scheduling on that point, however.....