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VE DAY DELEGATION ANNOUNCEMENT

April 30, 1975

Monday we announced that W. Averell Harriman will lead the U. S. delegation to the May 8 commemorative ceremonies in Moscow marking the 30th anniversary of the restoration of peace in Europe.

Accompanying Mr. Harriman as members of the U. S. delegation will be:

Ambassador John D. S. Eisenhower who served with his father General Eisenhower during the war and as our envoy to Belgium from 1969 to 1972.

General Alfred Gruenther who held positions of high responsibility in the European Theater as a General Officer throughout World War II.

Mrs. Llewellyn Thompson whose late husband served as an Ambassador to the USSR from 1957 to 1962.

General Lyman Lemnitzer, a former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and who also served as a General Officer in the European Theater in World War II.

Mrs. Charles Bohlen whose late husband served as a U. S. Ambassador to the USSR and as President Roosevelt's Russian interpreter during World War II.

April 28, 1975

ANNOUNCEMENT OF U.S. DELEGATION
TO USSR VE-DAY CEREMONIES

The President has accepted an invitation extended by the Soviet Government to send a U.S. Delegation to the May 8 commemorative ceremonies in Moscow marking the 30th anniversary of the restoration of peace in Europe. W. Averell Harriman will lead the U.S. Delegation, the membership of which will be announced later when the acceptances have been received.

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MAY 8, 1975

de Estauz
President Giscard of France called the President this morning and thanked the American people for their contributions during World War II. This is as you know, the anniversary of VE Day.

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URGENT

BREZHNEV #092 LEAD (NO PICKUP) 150

MOSCOW (AP) - LEONID I BREZHNEV SENT A MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT FORD TODAY MARKING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY SAYING THE "FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE SERVING THE CAUSE OF STRENGTHENING UNIVERSAL PEACE;" TASS REPORTED.

AT A KREMLIN CEREMONY EARLIER; THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY SAID; THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY SAID THE END OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM COULD HELP DETENTE AND LEAD TO IMPROVED UNITED STATES-SOVIET RELATIONS.

"THE ELIMINATION OF THE HOTBED OF WAR IN INDOCHINA CREATES CONDITIONS FOR A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE;" BREZHNEV WAS QUOTED AS SAYING IN HIS KREMLIN REMARKS.

"THIS WILL BRING BENEFITS TO THE CAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE; INCLUDING AS WE HOPE; DETENTE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

IN HIS MESSAGE TO FORD; AS CARRIED BY TASS; BREZHNEV SAID TENSIONS ARE LESSENING IN THE WORLD AND A TREND TOWARD PEACE AND SECURITY IS STRENGTHENING.

MORE

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BACKUP Q's and A's

Q: Who in the USSR extended this invitation, and was the President personally invited to attend?

A: The invitation was extended by Chairman Podgorny (Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet), and he invited an official U.S. Delegation to come to the 30th anniversary ceremonies.

Q: Are any other Western countries participating in this VE-Day celebration in Moscow?

A: Yes, it is my understanding that there will be considerable foreign representation.

Q: Doesn't U.S. participation in an event like this simply open old wounds and further complicate relations with some of our present, most important allies?

A: No. The United States and Soviet Union participated in the Second World War as allies. It is the President's belief that this forthcoming anniversary of our wartime cooperation is another reminder of the need for us to continue to work together for a peaceful world, and it is in this spirit that he has accepted the invitation to send a U.S. Delegation.