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AT THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE

WITH JACK HUSHEN

AT 12:49 A.M. U.S.S.R. TIME

NOVEMBER 24, 1974

SUNDAY

(Vladivostok, U.S.S.R)

MR. HUSHEN: We have a little bit of information, not for sound, not for film.

The third session just concluded. Secretary Kissinger will be down here at approximately 1:15 to brief. The dinner has been cancelled. Let me see if I can fill in some of the times on these meetings.

Q Jack, can you tell us why the dinner was cancelled?

MR. HUSHEN: You will have Dr. Kissinger to answer the questions shortly that you want to have answered. I want to give you an interim report to hold you until then.

The first meeting was from 6:15 to 8:15. The second meeting began at 8:45 and went two hours and 45 minutes -- until 11:30 -- at which time President Ford and Dr. Kissinger left to take a walk.

The President and Dr. Kissinger returned to the meeting at approximately midnight and as I told you, that meeting broke up at about 12:35.

In the third meeting in addition to the President and Secretary Kissinger, General Secretary Brezhnev, Mr. Gromyko, and the Russian Ambassador, Dobrynin, took part. The American side stayed the same.

Q Just two on two, Jack?

MR. HUSHEN: The second meeting was two on two.

Q How about the first one?

MR. HUSHEN: The first one was four on four, I think. No, it was more than that.

Q They had never been alone?

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MR. HUSHEN: In the first meeting it was the President and the Secretary of State, Helmut Sonnenfeldt, General Scowcroft, William Hyland who is Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the State Department and Ambassador Stoessel for the American side. That was the first meeting from 6:15 to 8:15.

Q Hyland is what again?

MR. HUSHEN: Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the State Department.

Q Was Saunders at that meeting, too, Jack?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes, he was.

Q He was there?

MR. HUSHEN: I am told he was.

We will have to get these lists and post them because there is some confusion on that first meeting.

Q When you say they walked, where did they walk? Did they walk down in the snow?

MR. HUSHEN: You will have to ask Dr. Kissinger that.

Q I thought he would go more to substance and we would ask those things of you.

Q Do you have any details on what was discussed?

MR. HUSHEN: It was cold out there because the President remarked about how cold it was when he came back.

Q So they actually were out, they went out in the weather?

MR. HUSHEN: Oh, yes, sir. They were outside walking around. The President put on his parka.

Q Wore his hat again?

MR. HUSHEN: Probably wore his hat.

Q Jack, could I be absolutely sure on the second meeting. It was the President, Secretary Kissinger, Secretary Brezhnev and Grczyko?

MR. HUSHEN: That is correct.

Q One interpreter?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know the answer to that.

And in the third meeting the Russian Ambassador was at it.

Q Jack, we don't consider the meeting on the train a meeting?

MR. HUSHEN: I think we do. I am talking about these three meetings that have been continuations of it.

Q How long of a train meeting so we can run a rough program?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know.

Q Do you know who participated on the train?

MR. HUSHEN: I do not.

Q Do you have the subjects?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, the subject of the first two meetings was predominantly the SALT talks. I don't know what the subject was of the third meeting.

Q Are we to conclude from your answer that it was different from the previous two?

MR. HUSHEN: You shouldn't. I just don't know what it was.

There was one thing that you should know. There was a statement that was drafted and issued by the Russians which we agreed to which reads as follows:

General Secretary Brezhnev and President Ford reviewed the general state of relations between the U.S.S.R. and the United States. The two leaders considered the improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations, which has taken place in recent years, to be a very important development. Having noted the successful development, they reaffirmed their mutual determination to make all necessary efforts to give it an irreversible character in the interests of the peoples of both countries and of strengthening international peace."

As I said, that was a statement that was drafted and issued by the Russians that we agreed to.

Q In the chronology of the meeting, at what point was this Russian statement issued?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, I am just not sure and I prefer not to guess.

Q Jack, did this refer to the talks on the train or the first meeting here?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, I think just generally, but why don't you save those kinds of questions for Dr. Kissinger.

Q Jack, for those of us who are not used to reading between the lines of Russian communiques, what does all this mean?

MR. HUSHEN: That is a question you can save for Dr. Kissinger, too.

Q What happened to the dinner, Jack?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, as I understand it, they were just snacking, the best I can describe it.

Q Are they still together.

MR. HUSHEN: The meeting just continued. I think it got to a point where it did not make any sense to be having a full-scale dinner as they had planned.

Q Were the first two meetings restricted to SALT or were other matters discussed?

MR. HUSHEN: Predominantly SALT.

Q But there were other matters discussed?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, I cannot rule that out, but I think Dr. Kissinger can help you out on that.

Q Do you know, was that all discussed on the train?

MR. HUSHEN: I do not.

Q You are still planning to return to Washington tomorrow?

MR. HUSHEN: I have no indication that there has been any change in that, Helen.

Q Did the Russians draw up this statement and what did they do, present it to Ford and ask if he agreed or how did that go?

MR. HUSHEN: I am not sure of the specifics. Dr. Kissinger will be able to help you out there, too.

Q Jack, from the schedule you gave us it would appear that the second and longest meeting is the one that took place at dinner. Can you tell us how that developed, if they decided to have a meeting at that stage instead of having to go to the scheduled ceremonial route?

MR. HUSHEN: I can't answer that.

Q Jack, if that is all you know, why don't we have about a 5-minute recess until Dr. Kissinger gets here?

MR. HUSHEN: That is fine with me.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Jack.

END (AT 1:00 A.M. U.S.S.R. Time)