

Dear Jim:

I appreciate your writing about your concerns over the Evans-Novak column of March 22 on U. S. -Soviet relations. Hal Sonnenfeldt tells me he has already spoken to you on the phone but I wanted to confirm to you in writing that the column in question does not reflect our policy toward Eastern Europe.

I wish to assure you that our long-lasting policy toward Eastern Europe has not changed and that the newspaper rendition of the discussions with Ambassadors in London and of Mr. Sonnenfeldt's remarks on that occasion is severely distorted.

Our policy in no sense accepts Soviet "Dominion" of Eastern Europe nor is it in any way designed to seek the consolidation of such "Dominion." On the contrary, we seek to be responsive to, and to encourage as responsibly as possible, the desires of East Europeans for greater autonomy, independence and more normal relations with the rest of the world. It is our objective that in this way there should also occur a greater Soviet acceptance of this autonomy and independence. It is deplorable that a widely circulated newspaper column would imply that we have a surreptitious policy for Eastern Europe which is at variance with our announced policy.

Warm regards,

Henry A. Kissinger

The Honorable James L. Buckley
United States Senate