

GENERAL
TR 11-3
743/10158
cm35

January 24, 1975

Dear Mr. Lockhart:

On behalf of President Ford, I want to acknowledge your letter of December 3, 1974, in which you expressed concern about the possibility of Soviet snow plows being exported to the United States.

Neither the President's reported casual remark to General Secretary Brezhnev nor Brezhnev's reply, while traveling together from the Vladivostok airport to the city, indicate any intention to import Soviet snow plows. These would seem to be just pleasantries being exchanged by the two leaders while they were viewing the snow-covered landscape from the train.

According to our information, the Soviets are not major exporters of this equipment. The domestic U.S.S.R. market absorbs most of their snow plow production.

United States-Soviet trade data show that the United States has not imported any snow plows from the U.S.S.R. and we are not aware of any plans to do so in the future.

I hope that this answers your question.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott
Director of Correspondence

Mr. Palmer Lockhart
President
Frank Sno-Plows
205 Webb Street
Clayton, New York 13624

RLE:COMMERCE:JH:RLE:blh

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20230

JAN 20 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR Roland L. Elliott
Director of Correspondence
The White House

Subject: Reply draft to Mr. Palmer Lockhart, President,
Frink Sno-Plows, 205 Webb Street, Clayton,
New York

This is in response to your referral memorandum to the Secretary of Commerce with which you enclosed a letter from Mr. Palmer Lockhart of Frink Sno-Plows who expressed concern about a reported remark of President Ford during his recent trip to the U.S.S.R.

A draft of a reply to Mr. Palmer Lockhart's letter is enclosed for your comments and signature. Unfortunately, no statistics are available on Soviet snow-plow production and trade.

Murray S. Scureman *msj*
Assistant to the Secretary

Enclosure



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: The Secretary of Commerce

Date: January 2, 1975

1975 JAN 6 AM 10 03
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ACTION REQUESTED

- Draft reply for:
 - President's signature.
 - Undersigned's signature.
- Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- Direct reply.
- Furnish information copy.
- Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- For your information.
- For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

Letter: Telegram: Other:

To: The President

From: Mr. Palmer Lockhart, President, Frink Sno-Plows, 205 Webb St., Clayton, NY

Date: 12/3/74

Subject: American snow plow company objects to President's remarks in Soviet Union and to possibility of Soviet plows being sold in U.S.

By direction of the President:

JHH:mgs

RE
Roland L. Elliott
Director of Correspondence



(Copy to remain with correspondence)

1-9-75



FRINK SNO-PLOWS

A DIVISION OF COMPRO-FRINK CORPORATION

205 WEBB ST., CLAYTON, N. Y. 13624

December 3, 1974

President Gerald Ford
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Mr. President:

In the November 24th copy of the New York Daily News, you are quoted as saying "We have snow problems in Washington. We don't get much, but it is a problem when it comes. It really handicaps the city. We don't have the equipment and we don't have the people who know how to drive in the city in snow."

Messrs. Brezhnev and Gromyko replied "And that will be our first deal. We send you Soviet snow plows. At a good price."

As a somewhat disenchanted supporter of the administration, I respectfully draw to your attention that our company has been in business 54 years solving the problems of snow and ice removal from Maine to California, and more to the point, we have a wholly owned subsidiary in Alpena, Michigan.

Perhaps you don't have the right equipment in Washington because you don't make the right choices.

In any event, your casual remarks can be taken quite seriously, not only by people in our industry, but Russians and other people that our government seems overly attentive to, in spite of the critical situation of the domestic economy.

Yours respectfully,

FRINK SNO-PLOWS

Palmer Lockhart
President

PL:rp
Enc:

You can WIN more friends at home!





Towards
2020 a.d.

Frink moves ahead to the second fifty years.

From the first efficient plows, introduced by Carl Frink in 1920, to today's intricate and powerful snow-masters, Frink Sno-Plows Inc. has always stood for the very finest in snow removal and control.

Now, as the nation's oldest, largest and foremost manufacturer of snowfighting equipment, we pledge a second half century of progress in research and development to help all types of transportation conquer the elements.

That's a promise.

Frink Sno-Plows Clayton, New York 13624
Choice of those whose job is making right choices.



NY Daily News
11/24/74

Summit Ice Melts

By JAMES WIEGHART
Of The News Washington Bureau

Vladivostok, Nov. 24—Although there were signs that the spirit of detente had not filtered down to lower echelons, it was clear from their first handshake on the frozen runway at Vozdvizhenka Airport that President Ford and Soviet Leonid I. Brezhnev were going to his it off.

After that, Brezhnev shook hands with Kissinger and others in the American party while Ford exchanged greetings with Soviet foreign Minister Andre A. Gromyko and the Russians. Then the two chief executives walked over to the makeshift press stand to pose for pictures and banter with reporters.

Athletic Prowess

Brezhnev said he had heard that Ford, who was captain of the University of Michigan Football Team, was quite an athlete.

"Well, Kissinger and I understand you're quite an expert on soccer," Ford replied.

"Oh, I haven't played for

(Contd on page 51 col. 1)

Ford-Brezh Warmth Fails to Filter Down

(Continued from page 2)

years," the burly Russian replied. "Well, I haven't played football for a long time either," Ford said.

After a short ride in Brezhnev's black Zil limousine to an open-air train station, Ford and Brezhnev emerged from different doors and walked up to the platform talking animatedly. Brezhnev wagged his cigaret to emphasize a point and Ford laughed. The two leaders then boarded a 12-car train, pulled by two electric locomotives, and went first to their separate cars. They met soon afterward in a conference room where the summit talks began.

Laments Snow

As the train zipped through the snow-covered landscape—rolling hills covered with scrub oak and pine—Ford said: "We have snow problems in Washington. We don't get much, but it is a problem when it comes. It really handicaps the city. We don't have the equipment and we don't have the people who know how to drive in this city in snow."

Brezhnev laughed and said: "And that will our first deal. We send you Soviet snowplows."

"At a good price," Gromyko added.

The first meeting at the summit site—Okeanskiy Sanitarium, in suburban Vladivostok—was a 100-acre resort on Amur Bay was delayed for an hour to give Ford a chance to swim in an indoor pool and have a snack.

Does a Dance

While waiting for Ford at the white stucco conference building, Brezhnev leaned over a balcony and kidded with photographers, then danced a jig to give them some action shots.

Ford finally showed up wearing a wolfskin parka that had been presented to him by Air Force personnel in a refueling stop at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

Responding to the laughter caused by his appearance, Ford told Brezhnev: "I'm a sheep in wolf's clothing. I'll see that you get one from Alaska." Brezhnev tried on the parka and modeled in it for photographers.

Signs of Cold War

While their two leaders were getting so famously, lower echelon personnel on both sides gave indications that the cold war was not over.

Soon after the press plan landed at Vozdvizhenka Airport, one White House staffer ex-

pressed annoyance at the petty restrictions imposed by Russian bureaucrats by declaring: "I'd as soon turn right around and go back. I just hate those SOB's."

The Russians had promised to have telephones and teletype facilities at the airport so U.S. reporters could transmit stories on Ford's arrival at once. But there were none. Instead, the reporters had to wait the two hours it took the buses to make the 60-mile trip to the Vladivostok press center.

Tent Set Up

However, the Russians had honored a White House request that a warming tent be set up so the press and staff could get out of the freezing weather the hour-long wait for the President's plane. However, guards refused to let Americans leave the outdoor press area to get to the tent, which went unused.

Russian security men also declined to respond when asked what was stored in guarded, concrete bunkers that lined the runway of the military airport.

But Brezhnev, who chatted with the press while awaiting Ford's arrival, said: "I bet you think they are for bombs. No, they are for storing vegetables. Tomatoes, I think."

