

State Dept. declassification instructions on file

AIR PORCH

SUBJECT

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

6071161/1-2855
0160852

25X1

TO: AMEMBASSY, [redacted]

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

January 20, 1955

REF

CA-4098, Dec 23, 1954; [redacted] desp 567, March 12, 1953.

For Insp.	REC'D	041-6	CCIR 2	NEA 4	EUR 5	P-1	SCA-2	R-1
Use Only		2-10	CIA	ARMY 4	NAVY 3	AIR 3	250-4	

SUBJECT: Social Relations with Soviet and Soviet Orbit Officials

In its despatch No. 567 of March 12, 1953 the Embassy noted indications that Soviet officials were displaying greater cordiality in their social contacts with Embassy representatives, although their efforts in that direction appeared rather sporadic and not sufficiently marked to suggest a concerted effort along those lines. Since then, however, and particularly in the past year, it has become quite apparent that Soviet officials, especially the Military and Naval Attaches, are in fact making a concerted effort to develop closer personal relations with their opposite numbers among our Service Attaches and those of other western countries

25X1
25X1
25X1

In so far as the Embassy proper is concerned, contacts with Soviet Embassy officials remain limited to attendance at the annual reception given by the Soviet Ambassador on November 7, the anniversary of the Russian Revolution of 1917, and contacts at similar official receptions of other diplomatic missions and official functions. Invitations to the Soviet reception on November 7, 1954 were received by the Ambassador and senior officers of the Embassy, in addition to the Service Attaches, and all of them attended. Similarly, invitations were extended to the Soviet Ambassador and senior Service Attaches (as also to the Chiefs of Mission or Charges, and senior Service Attaches of the satellite countries with which we maintain diplomatic relations) to the Fourth of July reception given by the Ambassador. The Soviet Ambassador and all others invited came to this reception except one or two satellite officers who were apparently out of town.

25X1

These formal occasions, however, afford members of foreign diplomatic official and their wives, obviously offer little opportunity for individual contacts. It is noteworthy, however, that on occasions of this kind in the past year or more, Soviet officials have made a point of greeting American and other western officials cordially and engaging in conversation with them, in contrast to their prior behavior of remaining coldly aloof. These conversations are quite innocuous and on banal subjects, except that the Soviet official invariably inquires about the American official's knowledge of languages and the

25X1

25X1

Page 2 of 25X1

Disp. No. 343

From

SECRET

(Classification)

Page of

Encl. No.

Disp. No.

From

countries where he has previously served.

As already noted, the major effort at developing closer personal contacts on the part of Soviet officials has been on the military side. The following observations describe the trend in this direction:

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1
25X1

"During the past two and one-half years, that I have been at this station, I have observed the change from absolute rudeness on the part of the Soviets to one of open attempt to establish friendly or at least agreeable relationships. The phases in this respect can be summed up as follows (all of which I have noted in the past eighteen months):

"a. Phase I (prior to eighteen months ago). Deliberate snubbing their moving away as an American approached; effort not to be seen even passing pleasantries with U.S. military personnel.

"b. Phase II (from eighteen months to twelve months ago). The beginning of the 'new approach' by the Soviet Attaches. Invitations issued to a greater number of U.S. Service Attaches by the Russians; semi-cordial greetings; reserved but pleasant approach on all attaché levels; willingness to engage in conversations but only in 'protective' groups. Conversations with individuals as such impossible. Queries began as to why Americans did not like Russians.

"c. Phase III (last nine to twelve months). Invitations to individual homes issued on their part. Suggestions that bridge games or poker games be arranged. Great effort to introduce their wives to U.S. Attaché wives. Individual conversations possible and often initiated by Soviet Attaches. Extreme cordiality on their part. Not uncommon for Soviet Attaches to cross room to greet U.S. Attaches. Continued emphasis on equal leadership position of U.S. and Russia in world affairs. Constantly cited need for friendship and understanding between the two countries in order that regrettable incidents might not happen."

There are enclosed memoranda prepared by the Naval and Army Attaches, the Acting Air Attaché and an Assistant Air Attaché, commenting on the development of Soviet efforts to cultivate our Service Attaches. It is apparent that the Soviet officers have gradually acquired greater confidence and self-assurance, and that it is now a deliberate policy to seek to develop personal, individual contacts with our officers. Soviet officers now feel free to talk alone and at great length with our officers; they now extend invitations to parties in their own residences; and, as reported in enclosure No. 4, the wife of one of the Soviet Assistant Military Attaches at a recent reception and buffet dinner

25X1

Page 3 of 25X1
Desp. No. 21.3
From [redacted]

SECRET
(Classification)

Page [redacted] of [redacted]
End. No. [redacted]
Desp. No. [redacted]
From [redacted]

Hotel made a point of joining the wife of the Embassy's Acting Air Attache at a table in a room with no other Soviet personnel present. This kind of thing was unthinkable a few months ago.

25X1 Aside from the increasingly friendly approaches made to our Service Attaches [redacted] similar approaches have been made by Soviet officials [redacted] (reference [redacted] despatches Nos. 48, August 10, 1954; 76, August 26, 1954; 184, October 27, 1954; and 235, November 30, 1954). A copy of a memorandum on this subject from the Consulate General [redacted] is attached as enclosure No. 6.

25X1 It should be observed that parallel with the "campaign of smiles", as one of our Assistant Air Attaches aptly labels it in his attached comments (enclosure No. 3), directed at our own and other Western military attaches:

25X1 [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] the Soviets took advantage of the return of 38 small naval units by the USSR to U.S. Naval authorities [redacted] last summer to put on a continuing display of friendliness. They allowed shore leave for their naval crews [redacted] gave lavish parties on board ship, and topped it off with a farewell visit by a Russian admiral in a destroyer (reference Embassy despatch No. 35 of July 20, 1954).

25X1 Another example of skillful propaganda by the Soviets featuring their new "friendly approach" occurred during [redacted] last summer (reference Isair's despatch No. 32 of November 15, 1954). Consul [redacted] comments on this [redacted] in a letter in response to the Embassy's request for information on Soviet and satellite activities in that area. He states that to his knowledge there were no direct contacts between Soviet or satellite officials and members of the Consulate staff during the period of the [redacted] (August 20-September 20, 1954), or since then. He adds:

25X1 [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] The Soviets, prior to the granting or approval for their participation in the 1954 Fair, formally agreed that they would not engage in any Communist propaganda activities either in their Pavilion or elsewhere. They abided by this agreement and there was neither overt nor, so far as the Security Police know, covert propaganda activity on the part of the Soviet personnel. It was, however, noteworthy that Soviet officials connected with the Soviet Pavilion went out of their way to be friendly [redacted] in what appeared to be an obvious attempt to dispel the notion that Russians are

25X1

25X1

Page 1 of 1
Dep. No. 101
From

SECRET
(Classification)

Page
Encl. No.
Dep. No.
From

25X1

25X1
25X1

unapproachable. The Director believes that this attitude is part of a well thought-out plan to give the impression that the Soviets are friendly feeling.

The Embassy is in entire agreement with the observations made in the Department's instruction under reference as to the objective sought by this campaign of friendliness on the part of Soviet officials and has had in mind at all times the need for caution in permitting such contacts to develop. Up to now the Service Attaches and Embassy and Consular officers, on instructions of the Ambassador, have followed the policy of not inviting Soviet officials to their homes for small, informal gatherings--in contrast to a formal occasion such as the reception given by the Army Attache at his home to present newly-arrived officers--(see enclosures Nos. 1 and 5).

The question now arises whether it would be desirable to respond more actively to Soviet advances by inviting Soviet officials to small, informal gatherings in the homes of Embassy officers (as already indicated, this would in practice at this time involve only Service Attaches and Assistant Attaches). Soviet Attaches, for example, have intimated they would like to engage in card parties.

25X1

[Redacted]

In the light of the foregoing considerations the Embassy proposes to proceed as follows:

1. Leave the initiative to the Russians; develop social contacts to the full at public functions but approach small, informal gatherings in private residences with utmost caution. This policy has the advantage of forcing the Russians to make the play and thus, perhaps, reveal their hand.
2. Maintain close, coordinated control of social contacts with Soviet and satellite officials. For this purpose the Ambassador has designated the Counselor of Embassy to act as coordinator. All officers attending any social gathering with Soviet or satellite officials will submit a written report thereon. Attendance will be approved in each instance by the officer's superior.

SECRET

25X1

Page 5 of 25X1
Desp. No. 341
From

SECRET
(Classification)

Page of
Encl. No.
Desp. No.
From

25X1 who will consult in significant cases with the Counselor of Embassy. A copy of this despatch will be sent to the Consul General [redacted] with instructions similarly to coordinate social contacts with Soviet and satellite officials at those posts. Pertinent instructions will be given by the Senior Attaches and by [redacted] to officers under their [redacted] to coordinate their activities in this field.

25X1 It may be observed, in conclusion, that satellite officials [redacted] thus far have not undertaken a campaign of friendliness at all comparable to that of the Soviet officials. This is probably due in part to the fact that only the Czechs and Rumanians are represented by military attaches.

25X1 The Embassy would appreciate any further observations that the Department and other interested agencies in Washington may care to make.

For the Ambassador:

[redacted]

Enclosures:

- 1. Memorandum of U.S. Naval Attache dated January 13, 1955.
- 2. Memorandum of U.S. Acting Air Attache dated January 13, 1955
- 3. Memorandum of U.S. Assistant Air Attache dated January 14, 1955
- 4. Memorandum of U.S. Acting Air Attache dated January 26, 1955
- 5. Memorandum of U.S. Army Attache dated January 13, 1955
- 6. Memorandum of U.S. Consulate-General [redacted]

Distributions:
25X1 [redacted]

SECRET

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1