

AIR POUCH

Approved For Release 2007/10/23 : CIA-RDP65-00756R000600040053-3 'ACE

PRIORITY

(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

607,1161/2-1555  
YR 601,6163

FROM : AMEMBASSY [redacted]

937

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

February 15, 1955

DATE

REF : State Dept. declassification instructions on file

D173767

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION OL1-6	DEPT. I OC/R-2, EUR-5, P-1, R-1, SCA-2
	REC'D 2/25	OTHER O CIA-7, ARMY-3

SUBJECT: Social Contacts with Soviet and Iron Curtain Representatives

This despatch is in reply to the Department's Airgram CA-4098 of December 23, 1954.

Post-war social and unofficial relations with Soviet representatives [redacted] have fluctuated widely since the end of the war. The relatively uncontrolled association between Western and Soviet officials in the days of the war-time alliance began to diminish by early 1946. With the growth of hostility between the USSR and the Western world in succeeding years, unofficial intercourse all but terminated. Of course, joint participation of the four Occupying Powers in the Allied Commission necessitated almost constant contact around the conference table with each meeting being followed by the traditional refreshment period. Moreover, from 1952 the custom was established that the Element in the Chair each month held a reception at which a motion picture was shown to which all members of the staffs of the Occupying Powers were invited.

Between 1947 and 1952, however, social engagements other than official functions, such as state holidays, were exceedingly limited, with private entertainment almost unknown. Occasionally during this period Soviet officials who were closely associated with U.S. representatives in the Allied Council attended a cocktail party, but only after lengthy and obvious clearance from above. Furthermore, invitations were seldom acknowledged and the American host was never sure of Soviet attendance until the guest actually appeared. The Soviets were careful to honor only western social affairs for which the guest list included representatives of all four of the Occupying Powers. Such political discussions as were held during this time showed at least an occasional inkling of individual exploratory thought as contrasted with more recent conversations, when Soviet representatives have hewed rigidly to the sterile party line.

Beginning in 1953 after the accession of MALENKOV, the Soviet attitude quite abruptly became more liberal. Up until this time, the Soviet Element had shown no initiative in entertaining other than the normal refreshment periods after the Allied Council

SECRET

INFORMATION COPY

Retain in divisional files or destroy in accordance with security regulations.

SECRET

Desp. No. 937

25X1

(Classification)

meeting during their months of Chairmanship, state occasions such as the November 7 anniversary of the revolution, Red Army Day on February 20, or the monthly quadripartite film showing. However, after Stalin's death the Soviet practice noticeably changed. Not only were Soviet representatives available for invitations to private gatherings, but they were prone to engage in extensive political and ideological discussions. The apparent freedom of Soviet representatives to associate with Americans actually reached a point of occasionally accepting on-the-spot invitations for a lunch or even for dinner after a quadripartite film showing.

At the present time there are probably more frequent social contacts [redacted] between American and Soviet personnel than in any other place in the world. During 1954, for example, over 250 quadripartite meetings were held with each followed by the customary thirty-minute to one-hour social period. The Soviets now appear regularly at most social functions to which normal social custom and other circumstances would lead them to be invited. The Soviet Deputy High Commissioner in fact seized the initiative in the autumn of 1954 and entertained at dinner in the Soviet Embassy the other three Western Deputy High Commissioners with a limited number of their staffs. This Soviet hospitality was reciprocated in due course by the Western Deputy High Commissioners. Another notable feature of Soviet social intercourse with the Western Elements has been the appearance of Soviet wives in the company of their husbands. While Russian wives have not always come with their husbands, the number who do is noteworthy.

Members of the Soviet Embassy have mentioned to their U.S. counterparts their embarrassment at being unable to entertain properly in their limited quarters in the Grand Hotel. From their remarks, it appears that the Russian families there occupy living space more in accordance with Russian standards. Hence, Soviet entertainment never takes place in a Soviet apartment or home but is held either at the Soviet Embassy or in their officers' club [redacted]

The relaxation over Soviet social intercourse with Westerners during 1953 was accompanied by two distinct features: (a) several of those in positions calling for most frequent contact with Americans and other Westerners were replaced by known or suspected MVD agents, and (b) the conversational attitude of these "socialites" in political discussions was tightened to conform precisely to the Pravda line. In apparent preparation for this planned expansion of social contacts, the Soviet Embassy acquired an "American" expert who apparently had the task of trying to coordinate the relationships below ministerial level. This was Mr. Mikhail GORSCHAKOV, whose English is untainted by any accent other than Brooklynese, although he continues to deny that he has ever passed by the Statue of Liberty. Certain Soviet diplomatic

SECRET

**SECRET**

(Classification)

personnel appeared to be pre-selected for contacts with Americans, and are well briefed on the biographic data of those Americans they are scheduled to meet.

There have been several instances in the past two months which may be indicative of a Soviet "cooling-off" towards Americans [redacted] although the Embassy is not yet prepared to draw any conclusions. For instance, Counselor of Embassy TIMOSHCHENKO recently explained the lack of Soviet diplomatic participation in a program of international political discussion held by the [redacted] on the grounds that it was "extremely difficult" for him to persuade the younger Soviet diplomats to attend meetings at which Americans were present, in view of the current U.S. attitude on the Paris Agreements. Other cases include inability of the Soviet representatives to accept dinner invitations. On the other hand, most Soviet officials remain cordial towards American representatives. [redacted] (Embassy telegram No. 1726, dated February 6, 1955) will have any effect remains to be seen. In considering the prospects for future social intercourse between American and Soviet personnel as requested in the ultimate paragraph of the referenced airgram, the Embassy expects that future relations with Soviet representatives will be maintained and developed on about the same level as in recent months.

Social contact with satellite diplomatic representatives in [redacted] is much more limited, perhaps more through circumstance than design. Coincidence of interests, either social or official, is rare, and the tendency is to seek out the Soviets as spokesmen for the iron curtain bloc. However, recently a Rumanian Legation official attending a party given by an American correspondent complained that the satellite diplomats were consistently ignored in American social functions and indicated that invitations would be welcome. There is no present intention to meet his desire, although the Chiefs of satellite missions are included in the Embassy's invitation list for July 4th.

The Embassy has in the past made it a practice to obtain from officers and interpreters associating with the Soviet personnel a memorandum of remarks of any significance. [redacted]

**SECRET**

Encl. No. \_\_\_\_\_

**SECRET**

Desp. No. 937

Desp. No. \_\_\_\_\_

(Classification)

From \_\_\_\_\_

25X1

In response to the Department's airgram, the Ambassador has designated Counselor of Embassy \_\_\_\_\_ to coordinate social contacts between American and Soviet personnel and the subsequent reporting thereon. This coordination will include staffs of USOM, USIA, the Army, as well as the Embassy.

25X1

There is attached hereto as Enclosure 1 a representative list of despatches sent by the Embassy which reflect the results of past Soviet/American contacts.

For the Charge d'Affaires a.i.:

25X1

\_\_\_\_\_

Richard H. Davis  
Counselor of Embassy

**Enclosure:**

1. Partial List of Embassy Despatches which Report on Contacts Between U.S. and Soviet Representatives.

**Copies to:**

\_\_\_\_\_

25X1

**SECRET**