

TO : IRG/EUR Members
Department of Justice - Mr. Doherty
Department of Labor - Mr. Weaver
Department of the Treasury - Mr. Davis

FROM : Staff Director, IRG/EUR *RW*

SUBJECT: IRG/EUR Meeting on Port Security, December 19

Attached is a copy of a letter dated December 8, 1966, from Secretary McNamara to Secretary Rusk, with enclosures, containing Defense views on reducing restrictions on entry of Soviet and Eastern European ships into U. S. ports.

Enclosure:

As Stated

OSD, JCS and DOS review(s) completed.



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WASHINGTON

10061

8 DEC 1966

Honorable Dean Rusk
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Dean:

State, Treasury, and Defense have agreed that reductions in restrictions on entry by Soviet and East European ships into US ports are desirable. I understand that in the past several years all US requests for permission for commercial ships to enter Soviet ports have been granted. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have recently provided additional recommendations on this subject (JCSM-718-66, copy attached). I concur with these recommendations and I feel we should reduce our restrictions now, particularly in view of recent Soviet actions on our requests.

It now appears that all interested departments might agree on the following four specific reductions in restrictions:

1. Changing search and surveillance checks from mandatory (applicable to all visits) to selective. Implementation of this recommendation should be gradual, so that there would be no abrupt change.
2. Opening all coastal ports in the continental US, except that no additional ports would be opened in the counties noted by the JCS.
3. Opening Anchorage, Seward, and Juneau to ocean-going ships engaged in international commerce.
4. Reducing the 30-day advance notice requirement for entry to 7 days.

I strongly support reductions in restrictions on Soviet and East European citizens where the reductions can be accomplished without danger to national security. I believe the changes recommended above would substantially contribute to the President's "bridge-building" program set forth in NSAM 352. I am requesting the Defense representative on the Port Security Committee, the Under

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Secretary of the Navy, to ask that the committee be convened to consider the Defense recommendations.

I hope it will be possible to reach early agreement.

Sincerely,

Attachment
JCSM-718-66

cc:

Secretary of the Treasury
Acting Atty General
Director, CIA
Secretary of Transportation

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

JCSM-718-66

16 November 1966

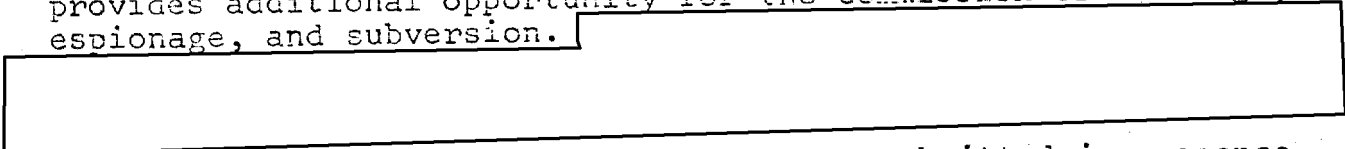
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Reducing Restrictions on Entry by Soviet
and East European Ships Into US Ports (U)

1. (S) Reference is made to a memorandum by the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA), I-27039/66, dated 19 October 1966, requesting recommendations concerning which Great Lakes, Hawaiian, and Alaskan ports might be opened to Soviet and East European shipping. A request was also made for recommendations as to what minimum number of ports should remain closed to such shipping.

2. (S) The Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that any increase in the number of ports open to Soviet and East European shipping provides additional opportunity for the commission of sabotage, espionage, and subversion.

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3. (S) The following comments are also submitted in response to your memorandum:

a. The Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that the United States should obtain similar relaxations on the part of the Soviets and the East Europeans.

b. The opening of any port should be contingent upon the development of security arrangements acceptable to the Department of Defense, as well as to the Port Security Committee.

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
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declassification

Copy 8 of 8 pages serial "ISA" Copies each

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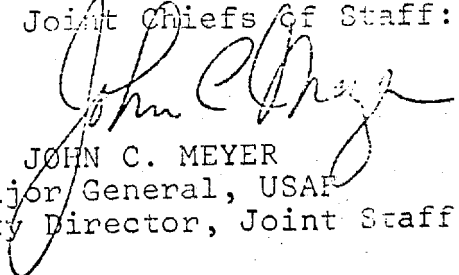
d. The Alaskan ports of Anchorage, Seward, and Juneau may be opened for ocean-going vessels engaged in international commerce. The extension of similar privileges to the very large and growing number of Soviet fishing vessels operating in and/or transiting the Alaskan waters would pose prohibitive security requirements. Soviet and East European nationals entering the Alaskan seaports aboard vessels should be restricted to the port cities.

e. No Hawaiian ports should be opened. The island of Oahu serves as the base for a major military command center and staging area in support of US operations in Vietnam. The United States is engaged in military conflict there against forces receiving extensive material support carried by Soviet and East European ships. Visits to Hawaiian ports by such ships would expose US operations in support of Vietnam to intelligence collection and the risk of sabotage and would require the imposition of additional security tasks on existing heavily committed security surveillance resources. These resources, especially on islands other than Oahu, are not sufficient to cope with additional requirements at this time.

f. Coastal ports in the United States, less Alaska and Hawaii, may be opened to ocean-going vessels engaged in international commerce, except ports within the closed counties listed in Appendix B.

4. (S) The day-to-day application of port security procedures is presently the responsibility of the Coast Guard and the Bureau of Customs, both components of the Department of the Treasury. The scheduled transfer* of the Coast Guard to the new Department of Transportation may well result in an interim period of administrative difficulty in maintaining necessary coordination between these two agencies in safeguarding US ports. In view of this, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that no final action be taken to open any US ports without practical assurances that an acceptable degree of protection against attempts at espionage, sabotage, or subversion can be afforded at all times and under all circumstances.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:


JOHN C. MEYER
Major General, USAF
Deputy Director, Joint Staff

Attachments

* Public Law 89-670, Section 6b for transfer, Section 15 for the effective date.

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APPENDIX B

CLOSED COASTAL COUNTIES

STATE	COUNTY	
California	Contra Costa	1
	Marin	2
	Orange	3
	All ports on the Sacramento River	4
	San Diego	5
	Santa Barbara	6
	Ventura	7
Connecticut	New London	8
Delaware	Sussex	9
	Kent	10
	Bay	11
Florida	✓Brevard	12
	✓Dade	13
	✓Duval	14
	✓Hillsborough	15
	Monroe	16
	Okaloosa	17
	✓Pinellas	18
	Walton	19
Maryland	St Mary's	20
Massachusetts	Barnstable	21
	Essex	22
Mississippi	Hancock	23
	Harrison	24
New Hampshire	Rockingham	25
New Jersey	Monmouth	26
Rhode Island	Bristol	27
	Newport	28
	Washington	29

GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

South Carolina	Berkeley	1
	Charleston	2
Virginia	Gloucester	3
	City of Hampton	4
	King George	5
	York	6
Washington	Island	7
	Jefferson	8
	King (except Seattle)	9
	Kitsap	10
	Pierce	11