

29 September 1989

JUDGE:

Here is the tape of last night's "Nightline" broadcast exploring the feasibility of KGB-CIA cooperation in areas such as international terrorism and narcotics trafficking. The statement we issued yesterday -- pointing out that there are well-established ways that our governments can cooperate such as diplomatic channels -- was included in the broadcast. Former DCI William Colby, who appeared on the show, reiterated this point. My view is that last night's "Nightline" was very fair and balanced.

During our conversation with Richard Harris, the producer of "Nightline," he indicated that Ted Koppel would like to have you on his show to discuss intelligence issues. This is something we can discuss and consider in the future. Harris was most cooperative during our discussions.

(Jim Jones)

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28 September 1989

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JUDGE:

RE: ABC's "Nightline" To Air Program on CIA-KGB Cooperation

Richard Harris, a producer for ABC's "Nightline," called my office yesterday afternoon and said that Ted Koppel is planning to do a show tonight on the feasibility of the KGB and CIA sharing information on issues such as terrorism and narcotics trafficking. The backdrop for this program is the RAND Corporation conference on terrorism that is taking place in Santa Monica this week.

Due to the sensitive nature of this issue, we declined when Harris asked if a high-ranking official in the Agency would appear on camera tonight to discuss CIA-KGB cooperation. However, we passed a statement to "Nightline," which is based on your remarks at the Godfrey Sperling interview last April (a NEW YORK TIMES account of your comments is attached). The statement was also incorporated in your question and answer package for THE LOS ANGELES TIMES editorial board meeting. It says this:

The problems of terrorism and narcotics affect both the United States and the Soviet Union, and these are issues in which our two countries can cooperate. There are well-established ways that our governments can cooperate -- such as diplomatic channels -- that do not involve intelligence agency to intelligence agency sharing of information.

Harris mentioned in a conversation with a member of my staff this morning that "Nightline" hopes to have either William Colby or Ray Cline on tonight's broadcast. Both Colby and Cline are participating in the RAND conference. "Nightline" has already lined up Fjodor Sherbak, former KBG deputy chairman for Latvia, who is also participating in the RAND conference.

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Attachments:
As stated

U.S. May Tell Soviets: Let's Share Some Secrets

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 20 — The Bush Administration is considering proposing to the Soviet Union that the two countries share intelligence data, the better to combat terrorism and the spread of missiles, Administration officials said today.

The proposal is part of a broad negotiating brief the Bush Administration is preparing for Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d to take to Moscow May 10 to 11, when he will meet with Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader. The idea is significant because it is premised on the belief that changes in the Soviet Union have become promising enough for Washington to consider cooperative efforts that would have previously been unthinkable.

On Sharing Information

"Five years ago it would have been a way-out idea," said William Colby, the former Director of Central Intelligence. "Today, I would say that it might be a little difficult, but not impossible. I think we could exchange information on groups that neither of us feels any responsibility for. The minute you get close to the bone, though, one side or the other might clam up a bit, but there are a lot of crazy terrorist groups out there whom we could cooperate on getting information about. We'd both benefit. We could contribute a little information and they could, and you end up with a much bigger pie."

As for sharing information with the Soviets without revealing American intelligence abilities or sources, Mr. Colby said: "It is a problem you have any time you share information, whether with the British or Israelis or anybody else. But there are ways to turn out the substance without revealing the source."

In a recent meeting with reporters, the Director of Central Intelligence, William H. Webster, was somewhat more skeptical about the idea, which has strong backing in the State Department. Mr. Webster was clearly reflecting wariness about sharing any data with the K.G.B. — something that has never been done before.

"I don't know how we would approach that," he said. "We want to reduce the threat of terrorism, but there are many ways to do it that do not necessarily involve intelligence agency to intelligence agency sharing."

Mr. Webster added, though, that while Moscow and Washington could find themselves arguing over who is a "terrorist" and who is a "freedom fighter," there clearly were cases — such as the explosion of Pan Am flight 103 — in sharing information could have mutual benefit.

Giving an example, a State Department official said: "We might come to

them and say: 'We have information on this group that is about to do something. Can you get in touch with your friends and get them to stop? We hear that such an organization is recruiting people for some operation we don't, can you check it out?'

'A Limited Exchange'

"We may start with a very limited exchange, see how it works, and then start to broaden it," the official said.

The idea is reflective of what is expected to be the Bush Administration's general approach to the Soviet Union, once its policy reviews have been completed by early May. That is, to make concrete proposals that will test just how real is Moscow's "new thinking" not only on the traditional East-West arms agenda, but also on a broad array of North-South issues, from terrorism and the drug trade to environmental cooperation.

The Bush Administration is clearly still torn between a "don't-rock-the-boat" instinct, which argues that no radical new initiatives toward Moscow are needed when the Soviets are making unilateral concessions, and a "don't-miss-the-boat" instinct, which contends that the Gorbachev regime presents an extraordinary opportunity to reshape Soviet-American relations.

"If you want to have an activist policy toward the Soviet Union and to test their new thinking, but without necessarily taking steps, at this stage, which would involve radical arms control proposals going to the heart of American security, then the best way to do it is in some of these other areas like terrorism or regional conflicts," an Administration official said.

"Are the Soviets really ready to cooperate in combating terrorism by sharing intelligence they might have about certain organizations, or is it just talk?" he added. "That's what we want to see. How they respond in these areas will then bounce back and influence our own positions on arms control."

The same approach is expected to be used on the spread of missiles. The issue has been discussed by the United States and the Soviet Union before, but Mr. Baker plans to propose a way to begin to institutionalize Soviet-American cooperation in this area.

The Washington Post
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The Wall Street Journal
The Christian Science Monitor
New York Daily News
USA Today
The Chicago Tribune

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Ex-KGB Aides to Assist U.S. Effort on Terrorism

Talks With Ex-CIA Experts Start Here Today on Boosting Cooperation in Sharing of Intelligence

By ROBIN WRIGHT, Times Staff Writer

Two former ranking KGB officials arrived in Santa Monica on Sunday for talks designed to channel the growing superpower dialogue into specific areas of cooperation on international terrorism.

American and Soviet specialists on terrorism begin weeklong unofficial talks here today that will focus primarily on intelligence sharing, narcotics terrorism and hostage seizures.

"This is the first time that former officials of the KGB and CIA have met in a public policy forum," said Igor Velayez, leader of the 10-man Soviet delegation. "This is a real opportunity for an exchange of views and the development of a new approach to international terrorism."

There are already indications of a tentative opening on terrorism between the superpowers. U.S. intelligence officials have confirmed that Moscow was "helpful" after the murder of Lt. Col. William R. Higgins in Lebanon two months ago and the threat by Islamic Jihad (Islamic Holy War) to kill other American hostages.

The Soviet Union intervened on two fronts, according to Arab sources. Moscow warned Iran, which is widely believed to back the Lebanese extremist groups holding 14 Western hostages, that further hostage deaths might lead to U.S. military action in the Middle East.

Opposition to Hostage-Taking

It also made clear that the Soviet Union shares U.S. opposition to hostage-taking and that Moscow would "appreciate" Iran's intervention in Lebanon. Soviet-Iranian relations have warmed considerably after Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze's visit to Tehran and new Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani's meetings in Moscow this year.

Soviet diplomats in Syria and Lebanon also pressured Damascus and Muslim militias in Lebanon to use their influence on the Shiite fanatics to prevent another hostage death, the Arab official said.

The decision to allow two former ranking Soviet intelligence officials—Valentin Zvezdenkov, the KGB's counterterrorism chief for eight years, and former Deputy KGB Director Fyodor Sherbak—to join Moscow's delegation is seen as further evidence of Soviet interest in superpower cooperation and coordination.

"The way things are developing now, the terrorism Mafia is pooling its resources. It is time that world forces find a common language and a common way to prevent terrorism and protect all human beings," Sherbak told The Times.

"The KGB and CIA each have their own specific responsibilities, but as far as prevention of terrorism, there is no question that active cooperation could begin in the near future."

Coordination by Terrorists

Concern about disparate groups coordinating resources, such as the widely-believed cooperation between Palestinian radicals and Iranian factions in the bomb destruction of a Pan American Airways flight over Scotland last December, has also been growing within U.S. intelligence circles.

The American delegation includes former CIA Director William E. Colby and former CIA Deputy Director Ray S. Cline.

The weeklong talks at the RAND Corp. in Santa Monica are a follow-up to sessions in Moscow in January that were credited with opening the way for the first official discussions of international terrorism at behind-the-scenes talks in Moscow in June. This time, however, both sides have added former intelligence officials.

Intelligence-sharing is considered the most sensitive area of potential new cooperation—in warning of impending attack, in follow-up investigations or in pooling data to prevent incidents.

Ranking CIA officials are known to be wary of sharing intelligence for fear of endangering or exposing sources and informants.

The Washington Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Washington Times _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The Christian Science Monitor _____
 New York Daily News _____
 USA Today _____
 The Chicago Tribune _____
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