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375 Park Avenue

New York City 22

April 23, 1953

Dear Allen:

Mr. Elia Simkhaeff, a British subject of Russian descent, who has been working for many years for a British fur organization, Lampson, Fraser and Huth, and whom I met several years ago as a bridge partner, called me today and told me the following:

He was visited by a certain Mouraviou, who has recently arrived in New York as head of Amtorg, the official Soviet trade organization. Several years ago he was a subordinate employee in the fur department of Amtorg, and, as a result of the Russian sales of furs in this Country, was in constant touch and on very friendly terms with Simkhaeff.

As head of Amtorg, Mouraviou approached Simkhaeff, on the basis of their past friendship, requesting him for help in contacting leading business and financial circles in New York. Mouraviou said that he had instructions from Moscow to make every effort to resume trade relations between the Soviet Union and the U.S., and to develop them to the highest possible level. He added that the Soviet Union was willing to sell goods of all kinds and wanted to make large purchases in the U.S. Mouraviou asked Simkhaeff to think the matter over, and to contact him within the next few days with suggestions for the promotion of Soviet-American trade relations.

I have been well impressed by Simkhaeff over the years. Although he is a British subject, he has lived in the U.S. for many years, and would, I believe, be disposed to act in the best interests of this Country. He emigrated from the Soviet Union during the early years of the Bolshevik revolution. I thought that his personal relations with Mouraviou might be of some use and decided to write to you about it. Please let me know if you think that I should have any further discussions with Simkhaeff. He does not know, of course, that am writing to you or that I know you personally.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

/s/ L Moore
L. MOORE

P.S. Sam Anderson was in New York today and we had dinner ~~skin~~ together. I told him the above story thinking that it may be of interest to him in connection with East-West trade. Sam, however, thought that at this point the matter has more political ~~and~~ significance than otherwise.

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However, if you think that as this affair develops it would be wise to have the O.I.T. become better informed Mr. Anderson is at your disposal for further investigation.

/s/ IM

P.S.S. While this letter was being typed Sinkhaeff telephoned me that he saw Mouraviov again and has "many interesting things to tell me". I shall try to see him over the week-end and write you again.

P.S.S.S. As agreed, Count Faina will come to see you at 4PM on Thursday, April 30. Among other things he wants to talk about the danger of pre-election "deals" leading to the nationalization of big industrial enterprises; may be you will find it useful that he also see General Bedell Smith?

/s/ IM

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O/PD/IS

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