

MEMORANDUM

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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November 11, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Minister Counselor Vladillen Vasev of the Soviet Embassy, 9:00 a.m., Friday, November 11 1977

Minister Vasev and I talked about SALT, Comprehensive Test Ban, telecommunications and microwave jamming, and some specific bilateral issues.

SALT

Minister Vasev wanted to know our views on how fast we should move in the negotiations and how important are the remaining issues. He said Moscow wanted to move "as fast as possible" but that the Embassy, looking at the internal American situation, was less optimistic about how fast SALT could be concluded.

I allowed that there were considerations of timing with regard to the Congress, but I said we had made no decision to artificially slow down SALT. I agreed we had made very important progress in SALT but said that the remaining issues were important, too.

Comprehensive Test Ban

I asked Vasev for an explanation of Brezhnev's recent proposals regarding PNE's. He said that the "moratorium" on PNE's would be parallel to the treaty banning weapons tests and would be a corollary to it. I said we would have difficulty with any arrangement whereby the moratorium might lapse, but the treaty banning weapons tests would continue. He said their corollary approach would solve that problem but was not specific about the precise interrelations between termination or renewal of the PNE Protocol and termination and renewal of the Treaty.

Telecommunications -- Intercepts and Microwaves

This was the main subject of the meeting. I reviewed our concern over Soviet microwave flooding of our Embassy and intercept activities in Washington. I recalled in some detail the history of the discussions between Hyland and Vorontsov. I explained that we would soon be briefing the Congress on the protective measures we would be taking in regard to communications intercepts, and I said they could expect to have a spate of stories about the problem. Finally, I emphasized that we could not

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accept the situation where individual Americans had either their health or their privacy jeopardized by these sorts of activities. I said it had become a political matter with potentially serious adverse consequences on our relationship and, therefore, at a political level it was necessary to exert control over such activities.

I suggested to Vasev that we pick up where Hyland and Vorontsov had left off. I noted that we tore down one of the shacks on the top of our Embassy, that they had temporarily reduced microwave radiation but that it had now increased again, and I said they had not gone ahead with what we understood to be an arrangement whereby they would tear down the shack on top of their Embassy. I stressed that that shack on their Embassy would become politically contentious because it was visible and already the object of photographs. I suggested that the solution was their turning down and ending the microwave radiation at our Embassy and tearing down the shack on top of their Embassy.

Vasev said that this was a very sensitive matter -- that he was not in a position to even speculate about the Soviet response. He urged that I read carefully Ambassador Dobrynin's most recent reply to Ben Read on the question of microwaves in Moscow, saying it had been approved at a very high level and was carefully drafted to be responsive. He said the whole problem had started when someone in the United States had found it necessary to brag about how good U.S. intercept capabilities were in Moscow (this must refer to the Jack Anderson column several years ago of the effectiveness of our "Gamma Guppy" operation against their automobile radio phone system).

He said that he would get back to me on the intercept question and noted that their Embassy had a "good record" in being able to raise sensitive issues such as this with their authorities.

Other Issues

Vasev complained about the fact that the Soviet Trade Exhibition in Los Angeles would have a counter-exhibition in the same building with the same entrance on the subject of "Sixty Years' Suppression of Russian Jews."

He also complained that a recent group of Soviet Mayors was refused entrance into the United States on its way to Guadelupe due to visa technicalities.

Vasev was particularly concerned about the level at which the "Soviet Governors Delegation" would be received in Washington. He mentioned that the delegation would contain candidate members of the Politburo and asked specifically if I could let him know at what level they would be accorded a reception in Washington.



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