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NY 100-134637

ANTICIPATED EFFECT OF KRUSHCHEV'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO PARIS ON 3/15/60. ANTICIPATED WELCOME TO PRESIDENT EISENHOWED IN MOSCOW. AN EVALUATION OF USA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES BY A SOVIET LEADER

While in Moscow, in February, 1960, NY 694-S conferred with NIKOLAI VLADIMIROVICH MOSTOVETS, head of the North and South American Sections of the International Department of the CCCPSU, and ALEKSEI ANDREEVICH GRECHUKHIN, Assistant to MOSTOVETS, and in-charge of North American Affairs, including the USA but not Canada.

The informant asked them how President EISENHOWER's welcome to the Soviet Union would compare with KRUSHCHEV's welcome to the USA; and also how Vice-President NIXON was received in Moscow, and what the Soviet opinion of the latter was.

He was answered as follows:

EISENHOWER would receive a far greater reception in the Soviet Union than KRUSHCHEV received in the US. EISENHOWER was popular with the Russian people even before KRUSHCHEV's visit to the USA. The people are excited already about his visit to the Soviet Union. (The informant noted that MOSTOVETS and GRECHUKHIN appeared genuinely animated and elated as they discussed the EISENHOWER visit.)

With regard to NIXON, he was well received in the Soviet Union, and was popular with the people. They considered him a capable, though "cunning" man. He handled himself exceptionally well. He was most correct in his manners. The Soviets saw in him a man well versed in politics. In his various debates with KRUSHCHEV and other Soviet officials, he exhibited a real understanding of the issues involved. When he asked questions, the Soviets realized that he knew what he was talking about.

NY 100-134637

Despite his qualifications, however, NIXON to the Soviets was a very ambitious man. He was careful to assume the role of "an EISENHOWER man".

Concerning KRUSHCHEV's scheduled visit to Paris, the Soviet leadership considers that the visit will be as effective in laying a foundation for the Summit Conference as was KRUSHCHEV's visit to the USA. KRUSHCHEV's visit to Paris will constitute the second phase of preparation for the Summit Conference and of a further thawing of the cold war.

The attitude of TRUMAN and ACHESON is strictly anti-Soviet in that they oppose the Summit Conference and desire a continuation of the cold war.

The informant was asked who in his opinion would be elected President of the USA in the next election. NY 694-S replied that in his opinion, if the election were held now, NIXON would be elected in view of his strong "link" with EISENHOWER, and also in view of ROCKEFELLER's withdrawal from the presidential race.

The informant then was asked who the next Vice-President would be, but he replied that he did not know.

NY 694-S then inquired whom MOSTOVETS and GRECHUKHIN would like to see as President and Vice-President of the USA. The reply was "the ideal combination would be STEVENSON as President and HUMPHREY as Vice-President". MOSTOVETS and GRECHUKHIN then proceeded to evaluate presidential USA candidates as follows:

KENNEDY is a wealthy young and inexperienced politician, supported by the Catholic Church. He would not have the support of the labor movement.

SYMINGTON is nothing but a puppet of TRUMAN's. He could play no role except to foster continuation of the cold war and to oppose world disarmament.

LYNDON JOHNSON is a Southern reactionary who would not be supported by a united Democratic Party.

NY 100-134637

ADLAI STEVENSON is a man with a deep understanding of the relationship of forces in the world, and he is wise in advocating co-existence. He would support disarmament. His and HUMPHREY's thinking tends toward support of labor and liberal forces.

MOSTOVETS and GRECHUKHIN said that they did not believe that NIXON could be "overwhelmingly" elected, since, in their opinion, the labor and liberal forces in the USA would not support him. They said that the 1960 USA elections are most important; that the election would determine many important matters in the world.

In a separate conversation later with GRECHUKHIN, the informant asked the latter why the Soviets thought so well of President EISENHOWER. GRECHUKHIN's reply was to this effect: EISENHOWER is a man who, as a General knows the meaning of war, and knows and understands the strength of the Soviet Union and of the other Soviet countries. He acts like a realist. NIXON, an ambitious, practical politician, if "pressured" by reactionary forces supporting him, might go in a direction different from EISENHOWER's and therefore could be a dangerous man as President of the US.

FOR SECRET

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM: FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE DATE 07-01-2011

Mr. Parsons
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Baumgardner
1 - Mr. Dise

REC- 75

The Attorney General

Of 12 600 Director, FBI

March 16, 1960

FX-132

COLTUNIST PARTY, USA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS INTERNAL SECURITY - C

I thought you would be interested in the following information obtained as a result of our over-all coverage of the Communist Party, USA. This data was obtained from sources which have provided reliable information in the past.

In February, 1960, Nikolai Vladimirovich
Mostovets, head of the North and South American Sections
of the International Department of the Central Committee,
Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and his assistant.
Aleksei Andreevich Grechukhin, stated that President Eisenhower
will receive a far greater response in the Soviet Union than
Nikita Khrushchev received in the United States due to
Eisenhower's tremendous popularity with the Russian people.
In speaking of Vice President Nixon's visit to the
Soviet Union, these functionaries stated Nixon is considered
to be a capable, though "cunning," man who is well versed
in politics. When he asked questions, the Soviets realized
he knew what he was talking about.

Grechukhin later stated that President Eisenhower knows and understands the strength of the Soviet Union and acts like a realist. Mr. Nixon, according to Grechukhin, if pressured by reactionary forces, night go in a direction different from President Eisenhover's, and, therefore, could be a dangerous man as President of the United States.

Mostovets and Grechukhin stated the 1960 elections in the United States are nost important and will determine many important matters in the world. They said the ideal combination for President and Vice President of the United States would be Stevenson and humber, respectively. The Soviets stated Stevenson is a man of deep understanding

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## The Attorney General

of the relationship of forces in the world. He is wise in advocating coexistence, and he would support disarmament. The thinking of Stevenson and Humphrey tends to support labor and liberal forces.

This information is also being furnished to the Honorable Richard H. Nixon, Vice President; Honorable Gordon Gray, Special Assistant to the President; and Honorable Christian A. Herter, Secretary of State.

In view of the extremely sensitive nature of cortain of the sources of our information, it is requested that the contents of this communication be afforded the most careful security and its use restricted to a need-to-know basis.

## NOTE ON YELLOW:

This letter is classified "Top Secret" since the information was obtained from a highly-placed source, and unauthorized disclosure of the information would tend to disclose the identity of the source, with resultant grave damage to the national defense.

See memorandum Baumgardner to Belmont, 3-15-60, captioned "Solo, Internal Security - C," PWD:djw.