

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION - W. AVERELL HARRIMAN
AND AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN, N STREET, DECEMBER 2, 1977

Ambassador Dobrynin arrived about fifteen minutes late because he was waiting for some chocolates which his wife wanted to send to Mrs. Harriman in the hospital. He finally came without the chocolates--which arrived shortly afterwards and in addition was a bottle of a new type of vodka which the Ambassador called "Moscow Vodka" which was his contribution to Mrs. Harriman's recovery.

We had a long, relaxed conversation on unimportant matters and a short but very much to the point discussion of substantive subjects. I bore down hard on our proposed provision in the protocol to ban any new type ICBM's. He argued a bit, explaining the Soviet viewpoint. I maintained that it was very much to both our interests to avoid a disagreeable debate in the Congress which would certainly occur even to the point of possibly blocking senatorial approval. I maintained that this far outweighed his arguments of the Soviet interests in replacing obsolete weapons. I had an opportunity to repeat my position several times and I feel it made an impression on him. But whether he will pass it on or not is another question.

We argued about the three-year automatic end of the test ban if China didn't come in. I maintained that the present value of a normal continuing agreement with a year or six-month out clause far outweighed the possible future embarrassment of the Soviets having to terminate the

treaty if the Chinese didn't come in within a reasonable time. But I freely admitted that this was not as vital as the new missile ban which I considered a must.

I told him that it was preposterous for Moscow to think that we were responsible for the Cairo Meeting at Sadat's request. I said that I could assure him without question that it was not true. He gave me the impression that he believed me. He said Vance had told him the same.

Dobrynin agreed to see privately the three Jewish leaders whom Marshall Shulman had told me about, if I thought it was useful. I said that talking would not do any harm even though I could not promise favorable results regarding the Jackson amendment. It is now up to Marshall Shulman to arrange the meeting.

Regarding Marshall Shulman's suggestion that Adlai Stevenson be given good treatment when he goes to Moscow, Dobrynin said that Marshall had told him that Adlai wanted to see the Soviet Trade Minister, Mr. Patolecher, when he was in Washington some weeks ago. Dobrynin had arranged with the Minister to see Adlai on one or two dates, so he sent one of his Counselors to see Senator Stevenson with this message. Stevenson said blandly that he had nothing to talk to the Trade Minister about, and that ended the incident. He said that he had forgotten to pass this along to Marshall, but he intended to do so and gave me permission

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to tell Marshall myself. I did so today when I talked to Marshall on the telephone.

I urged him to keep the propaganda about the Middle East in general and the Cairo Meeting in particular at a low key.