

NYC185 28 OCT 62

TO BURKS INFO SMITH

FROM WALTER INFO RICHARDSON PAGE GALANTIERE ROWSON

536 PM

1) Rusk

THE FOLLOWING PIECE IS BASED UPON A STRICTLY OFF THE RECORD BRIEFING BY ~~VALRUS KAVA ZINNIA FEVER DUDE AIDA~~ AND MUST NOT RPT NOT BE USED IN ANY WAY. IT HAS RECEIVED NO DISTRIBUTION EXCEPT TO ABOVE-NAMED AND PETZALL HERE IN NEW YORK.

WASHINGTON, D.C., OCTOBER 28 (RFE SPECIAL/ ENDRST)-

THE ZIG-ZAG COURSE OF THE KREMLIN POLICY DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS REFLECTS THE HEATED DEBATE WITHIN THE POLITBURO AS THE DIRECTION THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD HAVE TAKEN IN THE CUBAN CRISIS.

MANY THINGS CAN HAPPEN BETWEEN NOW AND THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CRISIS AS PROMISED BY KHRUSHCHEV.

THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE KREMLIN HAS BEEN EXTREMELY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS OUTWARD APPEARANCES. KHRUSHCHEV MAY NOT BE A LIBERAL HIMSELF, BUT HE MAY HAVE BEEN PUSHED INTO THE BACKDOWN

ON CUBA BY A LIBERAL MAJORITY IN THE POLITBURO. THE U.S. DOES NOT WANT TO INDULGE IN TERMS LIKE "SOVIET CAPITULATION" OR IN ANY OBVIOUS GLOATING OVER THE SOVIET CONDUCT IN THE CUBAN CRISIS IN ORDER NOT REACTIVATE THE "AGGRESSIVE" ELEMENTS WITHIN THE KREMLIN. THINGS MIGHT YET GO THE OTHER WAY.

THE MOSCOW INNER DEBATE WAS VIEWED HERE AS "VERY SERIOUS." KREMLIN "OFFENSIVE FORCES" WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN CAUGHT JUST IN TIME BEFORE THE CRISIS WOULD HAVE BEEN HARD TO AVERT. THE DISPATCH OF DEPUTY-FOREIGN MINISTER VASSILY KUZNETZOV TO HANDLE THE TALKS AT THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND U.N. IS VIEWED HERE AS A GOOD AUGUR SINCE KUTNETZOV IS KNOWN AS "CULTURED MAN." THIS MAY BE AN INDICATION THAT THE KREMLIN MEANS BUSINESS AND IS READY TO SETTLE THE CUBAN CRISIS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE KHRUSHCHEV LETTER.

THE QUESTION OF CASTRO REMAINS WIDE OPEN. "I KNOW OF NOTHING THAT COULD FOUL THINGS UP MORE THAN CASTRO'S CONDITIONS ABOUT OUR LIQUIDATION OF THE GUANTANAMO BASE." RUSK SAID. (MORE)

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AMONG THE KEY ISSUES OF THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON IS THE FACT THAT KHRUSHCHEV HAS ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL VERIFICATION OF THE DISMANTLING OF HIS MISSILE BASES IN CUBA. HOW TO DO THIS INTERNATIONALLY, HOWEVER, IS TO REVEAL WHAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT HAVE REVEALED. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS SURPRISE THAT KHRUSHCHEV SUBMITTED TO HAVE U.N. PERSONNEL TAKE A CLOSE-UP LOOK AT SOVIET SUPER-SECRET MISSILES. THIS APPARENT SOVIET ACCEPTANCE MAKES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CUBAN FORMULA A VERY TRICKY BUSINESS. RUSK SAID THAT THE DISTINCTION MUST BE DRAWN BETWEEN THE POSITIVE

KHRUSHCHEV LETTER TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND THE ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KEY PASSAGES IN THAT LETTER, WHEN THESE PROMISES ARE TO BE PUT INTO OPERATION. -STRICTLY-OFF-THE-RECORD-
END MSG