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HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE
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24 DEC 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Comments on Cable from United States Army Attache, Stockholm (U)

1. (S) In connection with our telephone conversation regarding the message from our Attache in Stockholm reporting that Khrushchev is "worried" over internal hostility toward his administration, I have the following comments.

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3. (S) As you know, there have been other reports, since Moscow moves against Berlin, that Khrushchev is in trouble and confronted with strong internal opposition to his programs and policies. There is a tendency for such reports to arise whenever a crisis condition exists; but they are generally speculative and without real substance. I believe that the message from our Attache is in this category.

4. (S) There have recently been signs, of course, of conflict within the Soviet leadership. Serov's unexplained dismissal and Khrushchev's strong attack on the "anti-Party group" last week could indicate that all is not well in the regime, but these events are, at best, tenuous evidence of a struggle for power. Moreover, Ambassador Thompson recently reported that the Central Committee plenum which ended on 19 December demonstrated the extent to which Khrushchev was "running the show" with apparent confidence that he has unchallenged control of the present situation. In the absence of any firm evidence of discord within the Soviet leadership, I concur in the Ambassador's analysis.

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Handwritten signature/initials



John M. Willems

JOHN M. WILLEMS
Major General, GS
ACofS for Intelligence

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24 DEC 1958

Army review(s)
completed.

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