

Executive Registry

13 JAN 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President

SUBJECT: Soviet Propaganda Treatment of Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan's Tour of the United States

The Soviet propaganda apparatus has given prominent attention to Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan's tour, but has confined its reporting to very detailed factual items about his activities. The emphasis has been on the cordiality, candor, and mutual respect of all concerned; no mention has been made of the anti-Mikoyan demonstrations. In other contexts, Moscow's standard attacks on the United States have continued with no change in tone.

Moscow has published daily reports on Mikoyan's visits to Washington, Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, and San Francisco, giving details of the things he has seen, the functions he has attended, and the people he has met. The US Embassy in Moscow notes that these accounts are exploited in such a way as to present American politeness, open-mindedness, and even curiosity as friendship for the USSR and sympathy with its positions. These reports have included Mikoyan's remarks on such general subjects as the need to end the "cold war," peaceful coexistence, and the

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improvement of Soviet-American relations. Many of his more pungent comments on specific current problems of international importance, however, have not been quoted, nor have his statements on internal Soviet questions.

Soviet news media, noting that Mikoyan is "on holiday," nevertheless reported that he has talked with American government and business leaders and is expecting to be received at the White House. The subjects of discussion were said to have included the Berlin question and "other international issues," peaceful coexistence, and US-Soviet relations--particularly increased trade, which was presented as a stepping stone to the solution of more complex problems. A public lecturer in Moscow added a new thought--that if Mikoyan is getting such a welcome from top Americans in and out of government when he is only on a private visit, then it is clear how starved Americans are for official contacts with Soviet leaders, how vitally necessary such meetings are, and how right the USSR has been in pursuing a summit conference.

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While Moscow has so far devoted no editorial comment to the visit, several news items have linked it with the USSR's "peaceful aims," and the American and other foreign press has been cited to present a picture of optimism and hopefulness on the results of the trip. One discordant note appeared in a Soviet broadcast in Turkish which complained that the Turkish press is distorting the aims of Mikoyan's trip, since "the prospect of the relaxation of international tension does not suit those in Turkey who derive profits from American military aid."

Soviet officials in Moscow have not commented thus far on the visit.

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SIGNED

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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