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STENOGRAPHIC NOTES OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN DCI AND ADMIRAL LEWIS L. STRAUSS
ON 17 OCTOBER 1959 AT 1200 HOURS

S- "...outside of asking, and he said, 'I wanted to get hold of you before
you came in, I want to tell you what happened.'"

INTERRUPTION FOR CONVERSATION WITH

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S- "Tom said, 'About an hour ago, the President mentioned to Khrushchev
that he has asked you out for dinner for the evening.' And Khrushchev
said, 'Oh, I know all about that man, he is a war monger - he wants
to see our two countries at war.' And the President said, 'Oh no,
you must be mistaken, not this man.' And Khrushchev said, 'I read
all his speeches, I know just what he - he goes up and down the
country preaching war.' So the President said, 'Well, I think you
are wrong - I am' - this is now third hand I am quoting--"

D- "Yes, I understand."

S- "'I think you are wrong, he is interested - got into the atomic
energy situation because of his interest in atoms for peace, and
as a matter of fact, he had a great deal to do with my program Atoms
for Peace.' And Khrushchev said, 'Well, he prays to God for war.'
And the President said, 'Well, no. As a matter of fact, I could tell
you this. I asked him to do something for me on the 12th of October,
and he wouldn't - although it was something he wanted to do - because
he is a devout Jew and he goes to church that day.' I couldn't think

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what the President asked me to do, then later on I remembered. What he asked me to do was to go with him, as his guest, to this White House Correspondents Dinner, and I am sure Khrushchev must have thought it was something terrific. Well, when I came in the President introduced me and Khrushchev said, you know, jaggging, 'I know you, you are a - you just - you hate our people and you hate Russians,' and I said, 'No, Mr. Khrushchev, you are mistaken, I was one of the very first people to conduct a feeding operation in your country as a Lieutenant of Mr. Hoover's - I have - I reflect the mark in attitude towards the Russian people, a great friendship,' I said, 'I don't like your Government, but I think your people are just fine.' Then, at table, the President had me seated so that I was right across from Khrushchev, and the President had evidently decided that, during the meal at any rate, he was going to get off of anything very serious. So he said, 'Lewis, I took the Chairman in helicopter up and showed him my farm this afternoon. Mr. Chairman,' he said, 'too bad you didn't have time to see some other cattle farming operations, if we could have flown you down to Admiral Strauss' farm, you would have seen a really big one, he has got a much bigger farm than I have, and a great many more cattle.' Khrushchev said, 'They are not as good as Russian cattle.' This other interpreter was there--"

D- "Not Troyanovsky."

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S- "Troyanovsky was seated at the table, but the other man was doing the interpreting. And I said, 'Well, you don't have any Angus Cattle, I don't believe, in Russia.' And Khrushchev said, 'What are they?' And I said, 'The kind that you saw on the President's farm,' suiting the actions of the words, 'without any horns.' 'Oh,' he said, 'cattle is cattle.' He said, 'Ours are better than those and I will send you two of mine.' So I said, 'Well, I will send you a bull and a heifer.' And the President said, 'Well, this we can't - let the bull go there with just one heifer, I will send a heifer too.' So - about eleven o'clock, when we broke up--"

D- "That got in the paper, didn't it? That part got in the paper."

S- "Yes, but in a very curious way. That is the reason I am telling you the story - and then I will leave. That evening, about eleven, as I was taking off, Khrushchev crossed the room and said, 'You are not going to forget, you are sending me those two cattle.' And I said, 'No, I wouldn't think of forgetting it, I regard it as a responsibility to do that.' Then, when he got to Moscow, he said nothing about any exchange, he simply announced that everybody had been very good to him, that IBM had given him something, that the President had given him a heifer, that Farmer Coolidge had given him - whoever that is - a pig, and that Admiral Strauss was giving him a steer and a heifer,' which is, I suppose, the way the translator translated bull - it wouldn't do much good, I might add, for the

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cattle population in Russia. Then I wrote a letter to - no - then I got a call from somebody in the Department of Agriculture - to my office, because I was in the hospital in New York having some deferred maintenance done - and this party said, 'We are very much concerned about this arrangement because we can't let any Russian cattle in here - there is a quarantine on with mouth disease, and can't Admiral Strauss call off this part of it, because it would create an incident, we don't want' - so I wrote a letter to Thompson and recited the circumstances, he had been present anyhow, and I said, 'I don't even know how to get the cattle any further than to some port here, or what can you find out for me, how the delivery can be made.' And he called me up--"

D- "Ambassador Thompson?"

S- "Yes. I thought he was back in Moscow, he is still here - or was three or four days ago. And he called me up and said that he was taking that up with them. And I said the only thing I want to avoid is any impression that we would be welshing on it and number two, in view of what the Department of Agriculture said, I am not particularly anxious to enforce the trade if - if he says nothing further about it, let it go, forget it. Because, I wouldn't want the damn Russian cattle anyhow."

D- "What has ever happened, you are just left there."

S- "The conversation with Thompson took place - today is Saturday, on

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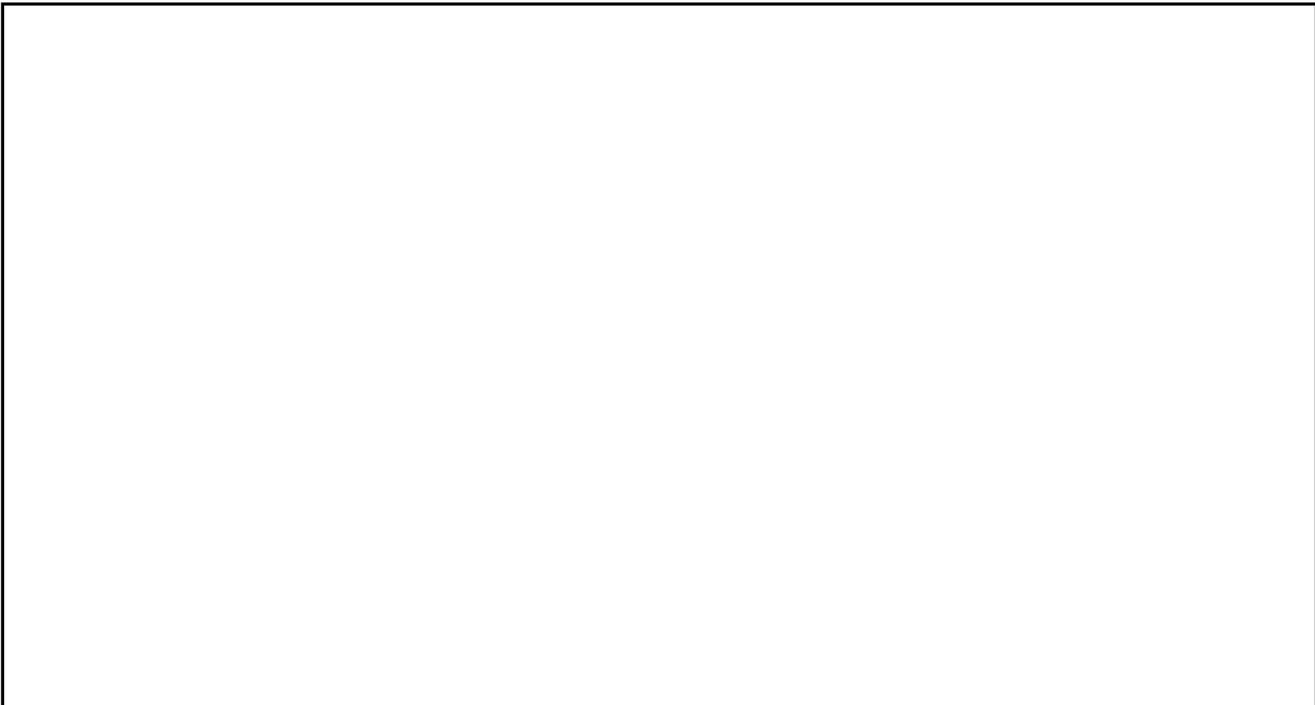
Wednesday, I guess it was. Well, goodbye Allen."

D- "Sit down and--"

S- "I haven't anything further to take your time with, you have got a million things to do."

D- "You are a very wise observer--"

S- "I wouldn't say that!"



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D- "Yes, yes."

S- "So long."



S- "Yes. And I will send my itinerary along to you."

PARTING CONVERSATION

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