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26 February 1962

Dear Allen,

When [redacted] recently returned from Vienna, he told me of some interesting conversations he had had with Molotov. I asked [redacted] to summarize these in a memo, a copy of which is attached.

I thought several points would interest you, and particularly Molotov's expressions of very deep admiration for your brother (see para 5).

Sincerely,

[redacted signature]

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Attachment

Mr. Allen Dulles
Room 202
South Building

Approved for Release
Date NOV 1999

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19 February 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: ██████████
FROM: ██████████
SUBJECT: Vyacheslav M. Molotov

1. ██████████

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The following is a brief digest of Molotov's comments regarding the late Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles.

2. In all my talks with Molotov this normally taciturn septuagenarian Bolshevik seemed less dour and became slightly more human on only two occasions. These were whenever he talked about his grandchildren and on the one occasion when he expressed his sincere respect for the late John Foster Dulles. His remarks concerning the late Secretary were made in ██████████ 1961, ██████████

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3. We used every opportunity to make the point with Molotov that he was a historical figure whose duty it was to write his memoirs. On the occasion ██████████ 1961 I was able to have a long talk with Molotov on this theme. He thawed considerably when I respectfully commented that he was probably the only living prominent Bolshevik who was in St. Petersburg when the Revolution started. (Stalin was in Siberia; Lenin in Finland; Trotsky was on a speaking tour in the USA; Molotov was editor of Pravda in St. Petersburg. All the other prominent Bolsheviks

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were either purged by Stalin later or died from other causes.) Molotov said he vividly remembered these days but made no further comment about the other prominent Bolsheviks or about writing his memoirs.

4.

[REDACTED] I commented that his organization during his long reign as Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs seemed to have been well organized. (He was Prime Minister from 1939 to 1941 and Foreign Minister from 1939 to 1949 and 1953 to 1956.) He reflected that he had been very fortunate in being able to serve his country in its early formative stage.

5. This reflection by the aging, though still virile Molotov, was further noted when [REDACTED] he remarked that this was obviously the "wine of the four ministers". Actually I do not believe that the [REDACTED] wine we were drinking had been served during the gala dinner, which accompanied the signing of the Austrian Peace Treaty, which Molotov signed for the USSR. When offering me a light for my cigarette he said that he still had the cigarette lighter given to him by Ambassador Smith. This allowed me the occasion to note that he must have personally known many U. S. diplomats and that many of these American diplomats had written about their experiences. Ex-Secretary of State Acheson was one such recent author. Molotov smiled and asked, "What did he write about me?" I dodged this question by promising to send him Acheson's book. Actually Acheson, in his book, accuses Molotov of being a bad diplomatist. Molotov laughed and answered that Acheson had probably maligned him. Without a great show of malice he added that Acheson was not the most distinguished of the American Secretaries of State that he had known. Then unsolicited by me he said, "Aba Dulles etot bil yedinstvenny vozhd u vas." "But Dulles, this was the only leader you had." I was somewhat surprised by the feeling which he showed at this time. He squeezed my forearm and looked me straight in the eye.

6. Later ~~during~~ we discussed a number of topics among which were Molotov's walks in the Wienerwald, his grandchildren, his dacha and my summer place ~~at Lake Umbagog, New Hampshire.~~ At the mention of my northern New England summer place, he again mentioned the late Secretary Dulles. He said Dulles also used to have an island retreat in northern New England. He mused that this "veliky vozhd", "great leader", used to go up to this island alone and even used to do his own cooking. It is curious to note that he again used the ancient Russian, almost reverential, term for leader, "vozhd", when referring to the late Secretary. As often happens when talking to Soviets, I was again surprised by the wistful naivete in Molotov's voice when he was talking about the late Secretary's retreat. It was as though this 71-year old Soviet "Chinovnik" could not visualize that a foreign minister of a great country could enjoy some personal privacy.

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