

*Social Approach file*

AIR POUCH  
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SUBJECT: Social relations with Soviet and Soviet orbit officialdom

The following is the Embassy's report for December 1955:

In a departure from previous practice the Soviet Embassy this year included members of the American Embassy of various ranks on their mailing list for "Season's Greetings" cards. As in previous years, top officials in the Soviet Embassy sent these to their opposite numbers in the American Embassy. This year, however, each Russian apparently sent cards to any member of the Embassy known personally to him. The impression of those Americans who received cards was that even the most casual acquaintanceship with a Soviet official was the occasion for a greeting card. Naturally, these cards made no mention of Christmas, but merely sent greetings, or wished the recipient a "prosperous" New Year. Some Norwegians have reported receiving bottles of vodka on the occasion of the New Year, but no American seems to have been thus honored.

Other than this, contacts between Soviet and American officials in Oslo continue to be official and sporadic.

For the Ambassador

*W. Stratton Anderson, Jr.*  
 W. Stratton Anderson, Jr.  
 First Secretary of Embassy

State Dept. declassification instructions on file