

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
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AMERICAN EMBASSY

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OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

Mr. James A. Brammell,
Special Assistant, Office of Libraries and
Intelligence Acquisition,
Department of State,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Brammell:

May I thank you for your two letters concerning the maps and books we have shipped to you. I appreciate very much such indications that the material sent from here is found useful and does not simply fall into the dark recesses of some library.

Since the shipments to which you refer in your second letter were sent, I have collected a few more maps and I enclose a list in case those sent through channels are slow in arriving. I sent these maps by air with the idea that you could examine them and instruct me which, if any, are needed in more copies. It appears that as for books, the stocks of any given map in the Moscow stores are very small and quickly sold out, so that your requests for additional copies must reach me quickly if I am to obtain them.

This situation is illustrated by the requests contained in your second letter, since the store from which I got the "Pribaykale' i Zabaykal'e" is now out of it. I did get the "Pamir i Tyan-shan" and will send it and the 1:8,000,000 by sea.

Please let me know whether this arrangement meets your approval: i.e., the first few copies of each new map to be sent by air and additional copies, upon request, to be obtained and forwarded by sea.

I appreciate very much your functioning as a collector and disseminator of these maps since it relieves this end of a good bit of fiscal and other bookkeeping which would be involved in my buying separately for each agency and mailing directly to them. I hope that this arrangement can be

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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adhered to so that Mrs. Cannon's office will filter out requests for Soviet maps and turn them over to your section. I only wish such an arrangement were in operation for the whole publications field.

With regard to the number of copies to be bought of any one map, I myself find it very difficult to reach any firm conclusion. The clerks in the central store all recognize me now, they know that I buy in quantity for some institution and that I'm a foreigner, yet they are down-right eager salesmen (by Soviet standards). They regularly drag out new maps when I come in and bring them to my attention. It would thus seem to make little difference whether I buy one copy or ten. Still, I can't help feeling that to buy everything available in large numbers would in the end draw the attention of the Soviet security agencies to the fact that the U. S. Government is very anxious to get this cartographic material. Like any security agency, they could then be expected to revise the classification on maps and perhaps restrict the valuable VUZ maps and the political-administrative series to official channels, leaving us only the school maps. I might mention that a store from which I once got quite a few maps now says that the VUZ maps cannot be sold to persons without a permit. The central store does not observe any such rule but I would not want to provoke them into establishing it.

So my suggestion is that I continue to buy four or five of everything, including things you don't particularly want, and return for further copies of anything that you or any other Government department finds particularly valuable.

We are bringing to the attention of every Embassy officer who does a any travelling the addresses of provincial map stores which are given in the back of the catalog. This has already produced several items (i.e. a map of "Routes of Communication" which some Air people bought in Novgorod and the newer edition of "White Russia" which I came across in Brest-Litovsk. We would, of course, appreciate your support in connection with our repeated appeals for travel funds and can promise, I think, to pay dividends on any such investment. I would like to emphasize this because the map selection in Moscow is very haphazard and limited. It will also be haphazard and limited in provincial stores, but by covering a lot of the latter we should eventually run across most of the maps on your want list. An Air officer, for example, bought "Khabarovsk Krai" not too long ago in Khabarovsk; it does not seem to have ever been available here.

The service attachés and I inform each other whenever a new map appears on the market. They regularly buy several copies of everything and your office should thus, presumably, be relieved of any obligation to keep the Pentagon supplied with these Soviet maps.

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We have received the cylinders you sent. They will be very useful for transmitting when I have only a small number at a time. When there are 20 or 30 sheets the roll is too bulky for the cylinders and seems quite adequate protection in itself.

I have not seen the atlas for geography teachers to which you refer in your letter. The other items I am sure I can locate and send.

Very truly yours,

s/ James F. Leonard

James F. Leonard

Enclosure:

Transmission List dated
January 4, 1954

And a later list of items sent by sea.

copied:dps
2/8/54

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MISSING PAGE

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Enclosure