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8 October 1959

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

10001

SUBJECT: Secretary Herter's statement that the USSR will be held responsible for the aggressive behavior of the entire Communist Bloc.

Participants: Assistant Secretary of State Andrew Berding and the undersigned.

1. I have known Mr. Berding for a number of years, often meeting in the house of mutual friends. On the day before Berding's departure for Geneva, second installment, we had cocktails together and discussed at length the situation facing us in Geneva and the world at large. In the course of our discussion, I mentioned our concept of the Bloc as a "socialist commonwealth." Berding was impressed and asked me to send a copy of SRS-10 to his secretary who would pouch it to Geneva immediately. This was done.

2. On 7 October, I again had an opportunity of talking to Berding. I expressed my pleasure concerning Secretary Herter's statement (repeated by Mr. Dillon the next day) and asked him whether he had read SRS-10 and what he thought about it. He replied that he was impressed, that he thought "there was a lot of sound thinking" in that paper, and that he generally agreed with its propositions. We then discussed Sino-Soviet relations. He felt that it was dangerous to entertain any optimistic illusions about serious frictions, and I suggested to him the thesis of a "dialectic" relationship, comparing the cooperation between the USSR and Red China with that of the earlier Soviet Foreign Commissariat and the Comintern as respectively responsible and irresponsible. He seemed quite struck with this idea.

3. He then told me that in a week he would have to speak before the Association of Broadcasters and asked me whether I could help him obtain some background material to expound the points we had discussed. I promised to send to him some of the SRS papers (which I immediately proceeded to do) and he then asked me whether I could furnish him with a couple of paragraphs that he might use. I replied that I would do that gladly once I had his explicit questions so that I could answer to the point. He said he would call me about these questions as soon as he had read the papers I sent him.

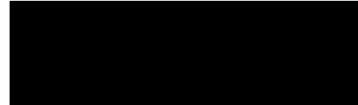
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4. I don't know, and I did not ask Berding, whether he had shown SRS-10 to Secretary Herter. But I may point out that I had hours of conversation with George Morgan, now Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning, on this subject on the way to the Los Angeles Conference last June. He accepted our proposition and seemed impressed with SRS-10 which we made available to him. It is not impossible that as a result of this line of thinking, the Policy Planning Staff suggested Secretary Herter's announced views.

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