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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
 GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ROBERT BLAND SMITH, JR.
 CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

January 3, 1974

Mr. William E. Colby
 Director of Central Intelligence
 Central Intelligence Agency
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Colby:

Enclosed is my summary of a discussion I had with Victor Isakov, Counselor of the Soviet Embassy, on December 10, 1973. I thought it might be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Percy
 Charles H. Percy/sar
 United States Senator

Enclosure

Long
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Summary of Discussion Between Senator Charles Percy and Victor Isakov
of the Soviet Embassy, December 10, 1973

At noon on Monday, December 10, 1973, Victor Isakov, Counselor of the Soviet Embassy, came in to see me in my office at his request. Present were Mr. Isakov, my foreign affairs assistant Scott Cohen, and myself. The meeting lasted about 20 minutes.

Isakov seemed to be concerned with three issues: 1) the future of the Nixon presidency, 2) the prospects for the 1976 party nominations, and 3) the Jackson amendment to the trade bill.

On the question related to the Nixon presidency, I expressed my view that the President is still very much in charge, particularly in the field of foreign affairs, and that his leadership in this area continues to be acknowledged. When pressed by Isakov on the prospects for impeachment or resignation, I stated that I had no special information on this subject, that impeachment is the prerogative of the House of Representatives and that resignation is a prerogative of the President. But I doubted that either one would occur.

Isakov said clearly that the Government of the Soviet Union considers President Nixon's continuance in office to be important and desirable. He asserted that President Nixon is considered by the Soviet Government to be the most reasonable and cooperative American president since FDR. He said he was uncertain as to what policies Gerald Ford might follow if he became president, so I stated my own belief that

Ford would be inclined to carry forward President Nixon's foreign policy, including detente. In fact the foreign policy initiatives of President Nixon and Secretary Kissinger are so fully supported by the American people, particularly the policy regarding the USSR, that no future President, be he Republican or Democrat, would reverse it providing continued progress is made and there is benefit gained by both countries.

On the question relating to party nominations in 1976, I replied by stating my view that the situation is fluid in both parties and by mentioning the major contenders for nomination. He expressed no attitudes about individuals and did not pursue the question.

He was much more concerned about the prospects for the Jackson amendment to the trade bill and showed some controlled agitation when I predicted that the amendment would carry by an overwhelming margin unless the Soviet Government modified its emigration policies. He said that the Soviet Government also must contend with public opinion, and that the people of the Soviet Union regard those who wish to emigrate as "traitors".

I stated that the President and the State Department were doing their best to defeat the Jackson amendment, but they would not succeed. The only way to defeat the amendment, I said, was for the Soviet Union to end the harassment of those who apply for emigration and to allow increasing numbers of Soviet citizens to leave. I said that the Soviet Government is strong enough at home and its prestige in the Arab nations is sufficiently high that it can afford to let Soviet Jews leave.

Before the meeting ended, I assured Isakov of my own continuing interest in promoting good relations between our two countries in both the political and economic fields. For the overall picture we would occasionally have to take into account some "hang ups" that exist in the USSR, just as they would have to be realistic about some of ours.

Charles H. Percy
United States Senator

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