

ER 11-120/a

12 January 1958

Mr. Herbert Skinner
H. K. Skinner & Son
Box 177
Springfield, Ohio

Dear Mr. Skinner:

On behalf of Mr. Dulles, I should like to
thank you very much for your letter of 31 December
and the enclosed newspaper clipping.


Your courtesy in writing to us is indeed
appreciated.

Sincerely,

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Assistant to the Director

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DOCUMENT NO. 172
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NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 020781 REVIEWER: 

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11-170

H. K. Skinner & Son

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BOX 177 SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

Dec 31 1958

Allan Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington D.C.

Honorable Sir:

Enclosed clipping is for your consideration
in the present tense international situation.

I have an obsession on what I like to call
"Operation Smash - A Blueprint for a New Russian
Revolution."

I feel so much can be gained on playing on
the fears and suspicions of the Communist leaders as
well as the apparent dissatisfaction of the Russian
and satellite peoples.

Respectfully Yours

Herbert K Skinner

The Sun

Monday, December 29, 1958

ESTABLISHED 1894

Maynard Kniskern, Editor

Published every morning except Sunday by Springfield Newspapers, Inc., Springfield, Ohio, also publishers of The Springfield Daily News every afternoon except Sunday and The News-Sun Sundays.

Phone FA 3-3731

Mail Subscription Rates: in Clark, Champaign, Union, Logan, Shelby, Miami, Greene, Fayette and Madison Counties—The Springfield Daily News, \$2.00 per year; The Sun, \$2.00 per year; The Springfield News-Sun (Sunday), \$1.50 per year. Zone rates given on request. All mail subscriptions payable in advance. These rates do not apply in territory covered by direct carrier or motor delivery service.

Subscription Rates by Carrier—The Springfield Daily News, 30c a week; The Sun, 30c a week; The Springfield News-Sun (Sunday), 15c.

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People's Column

A FORUM FOR READERS

THE RED THREAT IN BERLIN

Editor, The Sun:

It is not very often the free West is given a definite period in which to meet a threat from the Soviet East as in the case of West Berlin. Khrushchev has said that by May 15 he will withdraw his Red Army from East Berlin and the administration of that city as well as the rest of East Germany will be placed in the hands of the communist regime in that half of the divided nation.

So we have six months. What are we going to do with that period?

There is one thing sure, we cannot sit on our hands. If we do not want to have to meet the Red Army with cold steel and hot atomic bombs we are going to have to move quickly.

An assessment of the weak spots behind the Iron Curtain shows many possibilities. We know the bulk of East Germans are not communists. They would join the West if given half a chance. We know the Soviet Union is holding the satellite nations in subjugation through the power of the Red Army within their borders. These subject nations would join the West if this military power was removed. The action in Hungary proved this.

We know there is dissatisfaction in Russia itself. The proletarian masses whom the communist doctrine was supposed to help have turned out to be a classless society ruled by the chosen handful of Marxists who control the government, the military, and the secret police. These masses of people are not the ones getting the better living and education. They are poorly paid and poorly housed while the princes of the party give the fruits of their labor to foreign countries in the economic battle against the West.

We know that within the Communist Party there is dissatisfaction with the leadership of Khrushchev. This condition is unchanged since Stalin was the leader. In a police state the best way to solve opposition problems is through liquidations. But one cannot kill every member of the opposition. So there is always the worry that those remaining will someday grow powerful enough to contest the leadership.

These are but a few things that we know of that must keep Khrushchev awake nights. There must be others we know nothing about. All of these are weak spots in his armor. Instead of sitting on our hands and waiting for Providence to help us we should take the initiative in fighting this war threat with every known fact at our command.

By letting the satellite nations know that we will do everything within reason to help them throw off the shackles that now bind them we would quickly cause Khrushchev to revamp his conquest plans. By showing the East Germans that they can and should throw off the hated communist leadership when the Red Army leaves we would give the Soviet additional worries.

By pointing out to the Russian people how their leader is sacrificing them and their wealth to further his campaign of international communism, we would quickly show them that he and his regime are not even on safe ground in vast Mother Russia.

There are those who oppose inflammatory broadcasts to another nation. We opposed broadcasts by Egyptians trying to overthrow the Jordan government. The time has come, however, to fight fire with fire unless we would prefer to wait like sitting ducks for the communists to start the fight on their own terms.

One thing is sure, we would have taken the initiative. The initiative in our hands would be far better than in the hands of the enemy.

There are those within the Administration ready to gloss over almost any suggestion as highly impractical. In anything we do at a time like this there is always the element of danger. But the communists have succeeded because of their daring. We know their weaknesses and the deep-seated strength of the West. Any leader who prefers to sit quietly by and await the fall of the sword is doing this nation and the free world an irreparable disservice.

This is no sporting game. We are now facing a put up or shut up ultimatum. What are we going to do?

HERBERT K. SKINNER

Springfield.