

REINHARD GENLEN

0181 HERO HBI STARNBERG, DSW August 3, 1964
NR. 06

Dear _____

I feel extremely guilty and apologize not to have answered your kind letter of June 1 yet. I had to deal with some difficult problems during the past months which kept me awfully busy.

Since the political problems touched in Mr. Meany's extremely interesting editorial have still some actuality I should not postpone my answer any longer.

To put it very bluntly: I consider Mr. Meany's editorial as a most lucid analysis and at the same time as a most convincing and constructive contribution among so many speculations affected at least in part by wishful thinking. Confronting with reality the theses of Mr. Fulbright with which a new "realism" was to be demonstrated and the necessity of greater flexibility was to be set forth, your criticism exposes the senator's statements as mere assumptions without proper foundation in fact, and then in the last analysis unmasks them for what they are: marks of a rather dangerous approach to match Khrushchev's "coexistence" strategy.

There is certainly no need to go deeply into the matter as far as your editorial is concerned since I could only state my full agreement to its detailed outlinings and assessments. Of course, the course of action Moscow takes before the background of the difficult intra-bloc-developments is not in all respect clear cut. So we here in Germany too understand that there is to be given some consideration to the problem, whether Khrushchev could possibly be drawn into some disadvantages by the process

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of careful negotiations. But the very precondition to that would be to my mind and experience the absence of any illusions which are just to meet Moscow's aims. Mr. Meany's statements are guarding this in an utterly needed distinction in opposition to an "appeasement-happy realism".

Not only from a German point of view but also in the best interest of the West as a whole I want to assure you of my great appreciation and comfort this editorial gives to me by countering Mr. Fulbright's speech and laying bare once more that solid ground on which the unity and the strength of the West are to be based. It is in this respect that we feel a profound solidarity with America: we are convinced with our American friends that we are motivated not "perversely by an inclination for cold war" but correctly by an awareness of Moscow's hostile intentions even if covered by false persuasion, and of our responsibilities and duties to protect mankind against Moscow's still alive expansionism. Nobody should be blinded for that e.g. by Khrushchev's desire to "stabilize" the status quo in Central Europe. It is not difficult to see that this desire aims in fact a disruption of the Federal Republic from its allies.

If there is feared sometimes America might get tired of standing up for its ideals, it is most consoling to see that this American will is still alive and not ready to give way to a "realism" which confuses true detente on substantive ground with Khrushchev offering "coexistence". Again, I feel glad that Mr. Meany's editorial sees clearly through the surface appearances and speaks up so firmly.

Hoping very strongly there will be a soon opportunity to exchange views more thoroughly on those matters at stake I send my best regards to you.

Sincerely yours,

R. J. J.