

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

File Leon Moore

10 December 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Mr. Papich advised me that the FBI thought that they might be able to make some operational use of Mr. Simkhaeff, referred to in the attached correspondence from Mr. Leon Moore, and asked whether this would counter anything we were doing.

I told him that we had had no information about the Simkhaeff-Mouraviov matter since the correspondence of November 1953, and as far as I knew there was no objection to their proceeding with Simkhaeff.

Allen W. Dulles

cc: Mr. Angleton ✓

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Executive Registry
4-911

375 Park Avenue
New York City 22

November 19, 1953

*Noted by DD/-
+ AD/CI*

Dear Allen:

Yesterday I met Mr. Simkhaeff, who, as you probably remember is a Hudson Bay Company man in New York and a friend of Mr. Mouraviou, President of Amtorg.

The Russians are still trying hard to increase their exports to this Country and Mouraviou discussed with Simkhaeff at several instances the possibility of handling Soviet furs export by Hudson Bay. In spite of most attractive offers Simkhaeff, on instructions of his principals, advised Mouraviou that due to bad relations between this Country and the Soviet Union, Hudson Bay cannot handle Soviet furs ~~from~~ here directly. However, Hudson Bay suggested to do it through their office in London and then try to re-export them as Hudson Bay shipments to New York. In this connection Mouraviou suggested Simkhaeff's trip to Moscow which is under consideration now.

The most interesting thing which I wanted to report to you is the following. As you know after Stalin's death his name practically disappeared from the pages of Soviet newspapers; but in the last month or so Stalin's name started to reappear more often again in the papers. It is not to be compared with the time when Stalin was alive and when his name was all over the newspapers. However, now it is mentioned considerably more often than a couple of months ago. This fact came up in the last conversation between Mouraviou and Simkhaeff.

"You know - said Mouraviou - we are heading again for different things; the line is changed again".
It is quite difficult for me to evaluate this statement. Frankly, I do not understand what is going on. Simkhaeff, who is quite cautious, promised me to try to develop this conversation in his next meeting with Mouraviou.

I have to be in Washington on Wednesday, November 25 for a luncheon date with some executives of the World Bank. As I still have the effect of radiation in my ears and cannot fly I could either:

- 1 - come by train Tuesday, November 24 in the evening and stay overnight at the Mayflower. In this case I could come to see you either Tuesday night or in the morning on Wednesday, the 25th, or
- 2 - come by early train on Wednesday, the 25th, go directly to my luncheon date in "La Salle de Bois", come to see you by 3 PM and take the train back to New York at 5 PM.

Please let me know what is more convenient for you.

Best regards.

Sincerely,
Moore

375 Park Avenue
New York City 22
April 23, 1953

Dear Allen:

Mr. Elia Simkhaeff, a British subject of Russian descent, who has been working for many years for a British fur organization, Lampson, Fraser and Huth, and whom I met several years ago as a bridge partner, called me today and told me the following:

He was visited by a certain Mouravirov, who has recently arrived in New York as head of Amtorg, the official Soviet trade organization. Several years ago he was a subordinate employee in the fur department of Amtorg, and, as a result of the Russian sales of furs in this Country, was in constant touch and on very friendly terms with Simkhaeff.

As head of Amtorg, Mouravirov approached Simkhaeff, on the basis of their past friendship, requesting him for help in contacting leading business and financial circles in New York. Mouravirov said that he had instructions from Moscow to make every effort to resume trade relations between the Soviet Union and the U.S., and to develop them to the highest possible level. He added that the Soviet Union was willing to sell goods of all kinds and wanted to make large purchases in the U.S. Mouravirov asked Simkhaeff to think the matter over, and to contact him within the next few days with suggestions for the promotion of Soviet-American trade relations.

I have been well impressed by Simkhaeff over the years. Although he is a British subject, he has lived in the U.S. for many years, and would, I believe, be disposed to act in the best interests of this Country. He emigrated from the Soviet Union during the early years of the Bolshevik revolution. I thought that his personal relations with Mouravirov might be of some use and decided to write to you about it. Please let me know if you think that I should have any further discussions with Simkhaeff. He does not know, of course, that am writing to you or that I know you personally.

Best regards.

Sincerely,


L. MOORE

P.S. Sam Anderson was in New York today and we had dinner together. I told him the above story thinking that it may be of interest to him in connection with East-West trade. Sam, however, thought that at this point the matter has more political significance than otherwise.

(over)

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New York City 22

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However, if you think that as this affair develops it would be wise to have the O.I.T. become better informed Mr. Anderson is at your disposal for further investigation.

Sh

P.S.S. While this letter was being typed Simkhaeff telephoned me that he saw Mouraviov again and has "many interesting things to tell me". I shall try to see him over the week-end and write you again.

P.S.S.S. As agreed, Count Faina will come to see you at 4PM on Thursday, April 30. Among other things he wants to talk about the danger of pre-election "deals" leading to the nationalization of big industrial enterprises; may be you will find it useful that he also see General Bedell Smith.

Sh

375 Park Avenue
New York City 22

April 27, 1953

File
Moore

Dear Allen:

Since I wrote you last, Simkhaeff came to see me on Saturday following his return visit to Mouraviov on Friday. The interesting points on his account of this visit are as follows:

1 - The regulation, in force since the last war, that Soviet officials, however high their position, cannot receive a foreigner alone, has evidently been abolished. Mouraviov came to see Simkhaeff alone, and received him alone in his office. While talking frankly with Simkhaeff he turned on a small radio, apparently in order to make it difficult for others in the surrounding rooms to overhear their conversation.

2 - When Simkhaeff entered Mouraviov's office he saw only a black-bordered picture of Stalin on the wall. He jokingly asked why there were no pictures of the new leaders. Mouraviov answered only that he will shortly take Stalin's picture off the wall. Such a statement, even as a joke, would have been completely unthinkable a few months ago. It indicates that a rapid decline of the Stalin myth is taking place. The tenor of the conversation seemed to point to the conclusion that Mouraviov did not know whose picture should hang on the wall, but was quite sure that he would soon be able to get rid of Stalin's.

At my request, during his next meeting with Mouraviov, Simkhaeff will try to find out what the party circles know about the position of Malenkov and the others. Mouraviov arrived from Moscow only about ten days ago and should be up to date on the situation there, since higher party circles are usually well-informed. I hope that because of their old friendship, Mouraviov will be frank with Simkhaeff. What we can learn in this way may show whether my theory on the subject is correct.

3 - Mouraviov told Simkhaeff that before leaving Moscow he had a long talk with Mikoyan, who is one of the "old guard" in the Politbureau and Minister for domestic and foreign trade. Mikoyan told him that things will change rapidly in Russia (referring to the general atmosphere and the peace offensive), and that he is confident that relations with the U.S. will greatly improve. He ordered Mouraviov to do his utmost to revive U.S.-Soviet trade relations. Mikoyan pointed out that Great Britain continues to carry on a very substantial trade with the Soviet Union, and expressed the hope that the solution

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of the Korean problem and other peaceful moves will bring about a change in the attitude of the U.S. government and of public opinion towards the Soviet Union. Mikoyan asked Mouraviow to concentrate all his efforts on the promotion of U.S.-Soviet trade.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



L. MOORE

P.S. Unfortunately I again have some trouble with my throat. The cancerous area appears to be quite small and in its initial stage, but starting on Monday, I have to undergo a series of treatments with some new and powerful machine. I still hope to be in Washington on the 30th, however, and hope that you will be able to see me for a short time.