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KDB 10/22/2015

File Folder USSR (3/31/81-4/4/81)

FOIA

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Box Number 21

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174

| ID | Doc Type | Document Description | No of Pages | Doc Date | Restrictions |
|--------|----------|---|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| 169763 | CABLE | MOSCOW 4394 | 2 | 3/31/1981 | B1 |
| 169764 | MEMO | R. ALLEN TO SECRETARY OF STATE RE VASEV | 1 | 3/31/1981 | B1 |
| 169765 | MEMO | R. ALLEN VIA E. MEESE TO REAGAN RE VASEV | 1 | 3/17/1981 | B1 |
| 169766 | MEMO | W. ODOM AND R. PIPES TO R. ALLEN RE VASEV | 1 | 3/9/1981 | B1 |
| 169767 | MEMO | TO R. ALLEN RE SOVIETS | 1 | 3/31/1981 | B1 |
| | D | 9/12/2013 CREST NLR-748-21-9-5-0 | | | |
| 169768 | MEMO | BILL STEARMAN TO BUD NANCE RE COUNTERMEASURES | 1 | 4/3/1981 | B1 |
| 169769 | MEMO | A. HAIG TO REAGAN RE MEETING WITH DOBRYNIN | 2 | 4/3/1981 | B1 |

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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| 169770 | CABLE | MOSCOW 4631 | 5 | 4/4/1981 | B1 |
| 169771 | CABLE | MOSCOW 4633 | 2 | 4/4/1981 | B1 |
| 169772 | CABLE | MOSCOW 4639 | 2 | 4/4/1981 | B1 |

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 31, 1981

Supplemental Note for the
Secretary of State

This memorandum dates back two weeks, and was written before the current tensions in Poland.

It is not a recommendation for action, but requests your view on the matter.

Richard V. Allen

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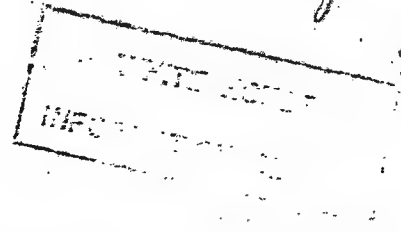
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AND TELEVISION PROGRAM TO "ABC NEWS' ISSUE AND ANSWERS."

cc: General
Admin
for RP
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ABC NEWS

ISSUES AND ANSWERS

Sunday, March 8, 1981

A half hour interview program produced
and broadcast over ABC-TV and ABC Radio

12:00 Noon - 12:30 PM, EST

[Handwritten scribbles]

GUEST:

✓ VLADILEN M. VASEV
Minister Counselor, Embassy of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

CORRESPONDENTS:

Bob Clark - ABC News

Sandor Vanocur - ABC News

PRODUCER:

Peggy Whedon

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RLS Reporting Associates, Inc.
850 Sligo Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
(301) 587-9235

MR. CLARK: Mr. Minister, welcome to ISSUES AND ANSWERS.

MR. VASEV Thank you.

MR. CLARK: There's been a chilling of relations between the United States and your country since the Reagan Administration took office bringing concern that a serious confrontation could be developing. Would you begin by giving us your personal view of President Reagan and the tougher line he's taking toward the Soviet Union, and what it all means in terms of Soviet American relations?

MR. VASEV: Mr. Clark, you are drawing me into -- into a situation when I can't speak personally about the President of the United States, the gentleman who is the leader of your country and as an accredited representative. I could only speak on my policies, on my country's policy, how these policies react or counter-react with the policy of this Administration.

What in particular would you like to hear from me?

MR. CLARK: Well let me put it this way. The President began a few days after his inauguration by accusing Soviet leaders of reserving the right, quote, "to commit any crime, to lie, or to cheat." He has warned since then of dire consequences if you invade Poland and accused you of collaboration in communist efforts to take over El Salvador. Many Americans share those views. And my question really is where does that leave detente?

MR. VASEV: Unfortunately that was said. We live in the 80s of the 20th Century. And if we continue to view each other with

outmoded categories then we are in for a lot of trouble. The Soviet Union and the United States must find a way to accommodate each other, live in peace, cooperate and not confront each other

Now that is not an easy task. Nobody is trying to present it. But in the opening remarks of your program you've noted the mentioning of the Congress which we had, the 26th Party Congress, which looked into the next five years of Soviet internal and external politics, plus had a glimpse of what we will be doing in the next five years. So it's a ten year span for the whole 60s.

Now it's a program which we will do our best to carry through. It's a program which we feel is in the best interests of the Soviet people. And if we wish to have it a successful program, we'll have to find ways of maintaining detente, maintaining cooperative relations with any country in the world that wishes to have that. It's not -- We're not asking for favors. We are just stating our position and would like to work with the present Administration, with all other countries who wish to have normal relations with us.

MR. VANOCUR: Mr. Minister, that immediately opens up the question. Is the Soviet Union trying to pursue detente with Western Europe, and pursuing it to breaking off the alliance between the United States and the NATO countries?

MR. VASEV: No. I could tell you that we perfectly well see the role which the United States plays in world affairs. the importance of Soviet-American relations, I want to underline. So

I would say that it's a superficial notion that the Soviet Union could pursue detente with West European allies of the United States and have a confrontational attitude or relationship with the United States. But we'll try to work with every power who does not -- who does not look at the world today from a confrontational point of view. The world is sick and tired of an arms race, of tension, and the lesson of the 50s and 70s is that we should move along a more positive line than just being engaged in an unrestricted arms race.

MR. VANOCUR: Mr. Minister, pursuing that though, President Brezhnev adopted a French proposal about building zones of confidence. This comes out of the Helsinki Agreement, warning about troop maneuvers and so forth, talks about what is in effect a phrase from DeGaulle -- Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. Now is that not in pursuance of something like a nuclear-free zone?

MR. VASEV: No, it is not because nuclear-free zones in this particular picture do not enter. There are other proposals dealing with nuclear-free zones. But in this particular case of confidence-building measures envisaged by the Helsinki Accords, we really took up certain suggestions that this zone should be extended and it's a wise move on our part.

MR. VANOCUR: In terms of confidence-building measures what is going to be the reaction in Moscow to the latest announcement about a rather sizeable increase in the U.S. military budget?

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MR. VASEV: I would say that we will look into this most carefully. We don't consider this as a step towards peace. It's actually being -- The arms pile-up is clearly designated to influence the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union could not be influenced by, by threats. You can only cooperate with us.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Minister, in the view of Western leaders it is the Soviet Union in the last few years that has been engaged in an arms race. And you said a moment ago the world is sick and tired of an arms race. You, for instance, have been deploying medium-range missiles aimed at Western Europe at the rate of about one every five days. That's something that concerned Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher greatly when she was in this country last week.

Don't you have to examine yourselves and what you have been doing to build-up arms in the recent years?

MR. VASEV: Yes, we examine ourselves, our programs. To correct you on certain points, we have not increased our medium-range nuclear arsenals in Europe. We've replaced some of the more old weapons with new ones. But --

MR. CLARK: But if I may interrupt you, you're replacing old missiles that have single warheads with the new SS-20s that have triple warheads.

MR. VASEV: Yes. But how many weapons does the United States -- nuclear weapons have on European soil. I've seen some

* some figures like 7000. That's a formidable arsenal.

Now we have not increased our ground forces in Western -- in Europe. We have not -- We even reduced them quite recently now. And the answer which we get is a build-up of American forces around the world.

MR. CLARK: Well, let me ask this. President Brezhnev recently proposed a moratorium on middle-range nuclear missiles in Europe. That moratorium was discussed today by our Secretary of Defense, Mr. Weinberger, who said it would -- We couldn't enter into arms talks at this stage because a moratorium would freeze the Russians in a position of superiority. President Brezhnev offered back in 1979 to reduce the number of Soviet missiles targeted on Western Europe. Is that offer still open?

MR. VASEV: If you look carefully into the proposal made by President Brezhnev at the last Party Congress, just a few days ago, you'll find that the moratorium is a measure designed to open up talks between the Soviet Union and the United States on the one hand, the Warsaw Treaty countries and NATO countries on the other hand, in order to find a way, first, of limiting, and secondly, reducing nuclear armaments in Europe.

MR. CLARK: Is that offer of 1979 to reduce still open before we talk of a moratorium?

MR. VASEV: I would say that offer, as a matter of principle, stands. But it was accompanied by our asking the United States and we are still asking that, that for the time of the

negotiations there should be no actual increase in, in -- in preparing the introduction of new, new weapons, new medium-range weapons of American origin into -- into Europe. It is not a modernization. It's a false word people try to use, modernizing NATO nuclear forces. It's the introduction into the, at the door-steps of the Soviet Union completely new types of weapons. ||

MR. VANOCUR: But Mr. Minister, doesn't every discussion on this matter fall right to the ground if the Soviet Union intervenes militarily in Poland?

MR. VASEV: Now see I find that when people try to discuss Soviet-Polish relations in this manner it does service to nobody. The Soviet Union and Poland are two allied fraternal socialist countries. And that relationship is based precisely on this -- on these facts.

I could say that those who profess certain objections to, for instance as you voiced a few moments ago, that the Soviet Union is trying to develop relations of detente with some of the allies of the United States, while having difficult relations at this moment with the United States, on the one hand. And on the other hand, they seem to claim certain rights to I would say to meddle into Soviet-Polish relations. That will not work.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Minister, if I may here just quote Secretary Weinberger, who also said today about Poland. "The Soviets have a very, very large military presence on each side of Poland and in Poland and that your current military activity appears

designed to intimidate the Polish people from any further movement toward the liberties that they are seeking." 12

Would you agree with that?

MR. VASEV: If there is any intimidation it is done by statements like that. We've never said anything about the use of forces by the Soviet Union with regard to our friend and ally. It's the Americans are shouting their heads off in recent days.

MR. VANOCUR: But haven't the East Germans the the Czechoslovak propaganda organs made those threats going back to December?

MR. VASEV: I challenge you to produce -- Not a single threatening word was ever used and that's the statement of fact.

MR. CLARK: We're going to take a short break here. We'll be back in just a moment with more ISSUES AND ANSWERS.

(Announcements.)

MR. CLARK: Our guest is Minister Counsellor Vasev of the Soviet Embassy in Washington. And with me is ABC News Chief Diplomatic Correspondent, Sandor Vanocur.

MR. VANOCUR: Mr. Vasev, explain something to me.

MR. VASEV: Yes, yes.

MR. VANOCUR: You're appearing here. A colleague of yours appeared on Face the Nation last week. You were on cable television about a month ago. Mr. Zamjatin, who is very close to President Brezhnev holds news conferences. Now I haven't seen this since the days of Mikojan coming here, then Khrushchev, Ambassador Menshikov, and then Dobrynin coming here. Is the

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Soviet Union engaged in conducting a peace offensive, or is this the result, as some people in Washington feel, of the Administration's tough line of El Salvador, International Code of Conduct, and your reaction to it?

MR. VASEV: No. All Soviet diplomats are understanding instructions to explain the policy of the Soviet Union in any conceivable way. Now we never shied invitations to speak and I could speak from my experience on these matters.

Now there is an additional thing which enters this this --- the picture at this moment. We just had our Party Congress. Important decisions taken for years to come. And we thought it -- I think it personally it's wise to try to explain what it is all about. And my colleagues as well. Mr. Zamjatin, for instance, was speaking as the Chief Press Officer of the Congress, so his position was clearcut, as coming from Moscow.

MR. VANOCUR: See what I think the American people would like to know flowing from the Party Congress and all the talk about peace that President Brezhnev made is the true purpose of the Soviet Union in the world. Does it want the equality that a great nation and a great power has? Or does it want -- And I want to read something from Ambassador Charles Bolen, who is a very acute student of the Soviet Union. He wrote in his memoirs in 1973. "I don't think we can look forward to a tranquil world so long as the Soviet Union operates in its present form. The only hope and this is a fairly thin one, is that at some point the

Soviet Union would begin to act like a country instead of a cause."

MR. VASEV: I would say this is a very sad statement. If really distinguished American diplomats means that then we are in for a hard time. Really the Soviet Union wants peace, wants peaceful and cooperative relations with the outside world, the United States including. And really we want to do this on a basis of equality. But we have certain ideology conceptions of how the world develops. The United States has as well.

There is a basis for our relationship which is called peaceful coexistence of countries with different social systems and it was our old line, and we continue to abide by it.

MR. [REDACTED] there is great concern in this country [REDACTED] the Reagan Administration [REDACTED] is your country's complicity in fomenting revolution in El Salvador [REDACTED] to first answer that charge?

[REDACTED] groundless charge. [REDACTED] party congress quite clearly saying that we are against the export of revolution. And if we are [REDACTED] Korean revolution?

[REDACTED] but financing [REDACTED] arms [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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MD. STANTON [REDACTED] if I may, just quote for a

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acknowledge this or recognize, appreciate, or have special concerns about foreign penetration into this hemisphere?

MR. VASEV: We live now in 1981. I don't know whether there is any need for the Soviet Union to either confirm or not confirm certain doctrines of more than a hundred years old.

MR. CLARK: But Mr. Minister, you certainly, your country has exercised a special concern in Afghanistan. Do you grant us any such special interest in our own front yard, or back yard?

MR. VASEV: We have no need and no desire to carve the world between the United States and the Soviet Union. It would be against everything which you profess you stand for and we profess we stand for.

MR. VANOCUR: Mr. Minister, the Soviet Union has needs, recognized needs by itself and by its adversaries for security. That's not arguable. The question arises, I think, in the minds of many Americans, how far can the United States and its allies go to satisfying the Soviet Union's need for security without creating insecurity on our part?

MR. VASEV: It's possible. We could find a lot of ways to really satisfy, as you would say, and I would say, legitimate security needs. Needs which should be pursued I would say in trying to find out on a cooperative basis and not on a confrontational basis. As soon as you start -- we start to confront each other and -- then we are blocking our, our willpower to try to

really understand each other's position.

MR. VANOCUR: Do you see the Soviet Union now, your government, in a confrontational status with the United States as of today?

MR. VASEV: From time to time, yes, unfortunately. We are being confronted, let us say, on the non-problem of Soviet arms into El Salvador. We are confronted, I would say, from time to time, on the non-problem of Soviet-Polish relations. We are confronted from time to time on various issues which we really think are not -- should not be confrontational.

MR. CLARK: Well couldn't you help defuse the situation in El Salvador and avoid any confrontation by putting the word out to other communist bloc countries to stop sending arms to any countries that end up in El Salvador?

MR. VASEV: See, you are trying to subscribe to the Soviet Union a part in international affairs which it does not want to play. We are not mentors of our friends. And you seem to be wishing us to admonish them, instruct them, teach them. If you have problem with our friends, ask them.

MR. CLARK: Well do you have any --

MR. VASEV: Don't try to make them look as not sovereign and independent countries.

MR. CLARK: Well I take it that you have some concern about building confrontation in the world or you wouldn't be here today. Do you have any suggestions as to how the danger of

confrontation can be muted?

MR. VASEV: Yes. Have respect for other countries and half of your problems will be solved.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Minister, thank you very much for being with us today.

MR. VASEV: Thank you.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Tanet *gn*

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March 24, 1981

Mr. Allen,

This is now ready for your
signature. Please sign at
Tab A.

20

Kay

NOTE:

gn

Make sure
the back-up goes
with this.

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TO ALLEN

FROM ODOM

DOCDATE 09 MAR 81

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09 MAR 81

KEYWORDS: USSR

EL SALVADOR

VASEV, VLADILLEN

SUBJECT: VASEV REMARKS RE USSR & EL SALVADOR ON ISSUES & ANSWERS

ACTION: FWD TO PRES FOR DECISION DUE: 12 MAR 81 STATUS X FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

ALLEN

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| RP | 3/13 | Concur to Odom | 3/13 | |
| Pipes | 3/13 | Redo | 3/14 | |
| KA | 3/13 | Jul res for decision | 3/16 | WO RP FO, PIC |
| These | 3/18 | fwd to Pres for decision | | |
| DISPATCH | 3/31 | Pres appr recon | | |
| | C | RVA appr memo to Sec State | | |

AW. 3/31

WO RP FO, PIC
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|-----------|--|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 169768 | MEMO BILL STEARMAN TO BUD NANCE RE COUNTERMEASURES | 1 | 4/3/1981 | B1 |

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF C-1 (ED ENCLOSURES)
FROM STEARMAN 10/22/01 CDS

RECEIVED 03 APR 81 18

TO NANCE

DOCDATE 03 APR 81

KEYWORDS: USSR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST RUSSIA

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

DUE:

STATUS IX FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

ALLEN

PIPES

SCHWEITZER

COMMENTS

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

(M /)

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

C4107 noted by Nance, + RvA w/ comment In, CF, TD
Lo, BH

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE

PA @dsm

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|-----------|---|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 169769 | MEMO A. HAIG TO REAGAN RE MEETING WITH DOBRYNIN | 2 | 4/3/1981 | B1 |

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

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|-----------|---|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 169770 | CABLE MOSCOW 4631 | 5 | 4/4/1981 | B1 |

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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|-----------|---|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 169771 | CABLE MOSCOW 4633 | 2 | 4/4/1981 | B1 |

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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|-----------|---|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 169772 | CABLE MOSCOW 4639 | 2 | 4/4/1981 | B1 |

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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|--------------|-----------|--------|---------------|
| JANET COLSON | <u>JL</u> | 3/1043 | |
| BUD NANCE | <u>JL</u> | 4/0900 | |
| DICK ALLEN | <u>DL</u> | 6/0700 | |
| IRENE DERUS | <u>JL</u> | | |
| JANET COLSON | <u>JL</u> | | |
| BUD NANCE | <u>DL</u> | | |
| KAY | <u>JL</u> | | |
| CY TO VP | <u>JL</u> | | SHOW CC _____ |
| CY TO MEESE | <u>JL</u> | | SHOW CC _____ |
| CY TO BAKER | <u>JL</u> | | SHOW CC _____ |
| CY TO DEAVER | <u>JL</u> | | SHOW CC _____ |
| CY TO BRADY | <u>JL</u> | | SHOW CC _____ |

When give
this back to
me -
4/13/30