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August 30, 1984

Dear John:

One of the peace initiatives undertaken by my Administration is the President's International Youth Exchange Initiative. I consider this program to be of great importance because exchanges of young people are an effective long-range means of ensuring mutual understanding among the next generation of world leaders.

One of the best ways to develop accurate perspectives on other nations and on ourselves is for more Americans to join temporarily a family and a community in another land. In the same way, we can hope that other nations will appreciate our country more if their future leaders have had the same chance to feel the warmth of the American family, the vitality of an American community and the diversity of our educational system.

Private sector cooperation is crucial to the success of this initiative -- both in the administration of the programs and in raising funds to help them expand. The entertainment community might be persuaded to do its part if you were to accept the challenge of organizing a fund-raising concert. I am sure that, given your concern for the world's young people and your vision of a future peaceful planet, you would be an inspiration to all of us. Your presence would greatly stimulate public interest in youth exchange.

I hope you will be able to help us with this important endeavor. Nancy and I send you our best wishes for every future success.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. John Denver
Windstar Productions
Post Office Box 1171
Weston, Connecticut 06883

RR/RDC/AVH/ech-8PMNA

DEAVER

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 28, 1984

MEMORANDUM TO SARA EMERY

FROM: GAIL LEDWIG

SUBJ: Attached Letter

Would you please have Mr. Darman approve the attached letter to be typed for the President's signature and send to Presidential Correspondence.

I would like to request that the letter be cc: Michael Deaver so we can send a copy to Charles Wick.

Thank you.



August 28, 1984

FOR GAIL LEDWIG

Here is a copy of Mr. Wick's memo to Mr. Deaver dated July 17 together with a copy of a draft letter from the President to John Denver.

Let me know if we can be of further help.


PAT SIEMIEN

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 27, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL K. DEEVER
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING 
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Letter to John Denver Re:
Fundraising Concert for the President's
International Youth Exchange Initiative

We have reviewed the proposal by USIA Director Charles Wick that the President write John Denver expressing his appreciation for Denver's plans to stage a fundraising concert for the President's International Youth Exchange Initiative, and have no legal objections to it. Similarly, we have no legal or other objections to the proposed letter for the President's signature.

Dear John:

One of the peace initiatives undertaken by my Administration is the President's International Youth Exchange Initiative. I consider this program to be of utmost importance to the goals of my Administration because it reflects my belief that exchanges of young people are an effective long-range means to ensure close relations and mutual understanding among the next generation of world leaders.

I am convinced that one of the best ways to develop more accurate perspectives on other nations and on ourselves is for more Americans to join, for a time, a family and a community in another land. In the same way, we cannot hope that other nations will appreciate our country unless more of their future leaders have had the same chance to feel the warmth of the American family, the vitality of an American community and the diversity of our educational system.

Private sector cooperation is crucial to the Initiative -- both in the administration of the programs and in raising funds to help these programs expand. The entertainment community might be persuaded to do its part if you were to accept the challenge of organizing a fund-raising concert. I am sure that, given your concern for the world's young people and your vision of a future peaceful planet, you would be an inspiration to all of us. Your presence would greatly stimulate public interest in youth exchange.

I hope you will be able to assist us in this important endeavor. Thank you for your support.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

JUL 17 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable
Michael K. Deaver
Deputy Chief of Staff
and Assistant to the President
The White House

FROM: Charles Z. Wick
Director

SUBJECT: John Denver Fund-Raising Concert for the
President's Council for International Youth Exchange

An important aspect of the President's International Youth Exchange Initiative is the involvement of the Private Sector. Coy Eklund, Retired Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, willingly assumed the awesome task of Chairing the President's Council for the purpose of raising ten million dollars to match the financial commitment of the United States Government to the President's Initiative.

To date, the Council has received pledges of \$4,186,000. Expectations of raising an additional 5 million dollars from the corporate world are slight.

Consequently, Henry Rogers, Chairman, Public Relations Committee, USIA, and Deborah Szekely, my Special Advisor for Private Sector Committees, have approached John Denver to enlist his assistance in raising monies for this project. Mr. Denver is willing to assume the task of organizing a concert of popular musical personalities with all royalties derived from this concert to be donated to the President's Council for International Youth Exchange.

Mr. Denver will enthusiastically begin this task if he believes it is important to the President.

I have attached a draft letter to Mr. Denver for the President's signature.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter which is of utmost importance to the Administration and the United States Information Agency.

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

July 20, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL K. DEEVER

FROM: ROBERT M. KIMMITT *Boh*SUBJECT: *Bill*
ok follow thru
with RK
of CW
John Denver Fundraising Concert for the
President's Council for International
Youth Exchange

The President's initiative on international youth exchange is extremely important, and it is vital that we get all possible private sector financial support. Charlie Wick's suggestion of a concert by John Denver seems to be an excellent idea for enhancing this support.

The NSC Staff therefore approves the suggestion and is prepared to work with USIA to develop the details. Charlie's proposed letter from the President to John Denver seems satisfactory, but since we do not know the full details of previous exchanges between USIA and Denver, we prefer to discuss this first with USIA prior to reaching agreement on a full text. If you concur, we will contact USIA promptly to work this out.

Attachment

Tab A Memo fr Wick, July 17, 84, w/atch



JUL 17 1984

*Beel
I think this
is a good idea
I will write
7/7/84
me know*

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable
Michael K. Deaver
Deputy Chief of Staff
and Assistant to the President
The White House

FROM: Charles Z. Wick *[Signature]*
Director

SUBJECT: John Denver Fundraising Concert for the
President's Council for International
Youth Exchange

An important aspect of the President's International Youth Exchange Initiative is the involvement of the Private Sector. Coy Eklund, Retired Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Equitable Life Assurance Society willingly assumed the awesome task of chairing the President's Council for the purpose of raising ten million dollars to match the financial commitment of the United States Government to the President's Initiative.

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Consequently, Henry Rogers, Chairman, Public Relations Committee, USIA, and Deborah Szekely, my Special Advisor for Private Sector Committees, have approached John Denver to enlist his assistance in raising monies for this project. Mr. Denver is willing to assume the task of organizing a concert of popular musical personalities with all royalties derived from this concert to be donated to the President's Council for International Youth Exchange.

Mr. Denver will enthusiastically begin this task if he believes it is important to the President.

If you think it a good idea,
I have attached a draft letter to Mr. Denver for the President's signature. *Suggested*

Thank you for your assistance in this matter which is of utmost importance to the Administration and the United States Information Agency.

Dear John:

One of the peace initiatives undertaken by my Administration is the President's International Youth Exchange Initiative. I consider this program to be of utmost importance to the goals of my Administration because it reflects my belief that exchanges of young people are an effective long-range means to ensure close relations and mutual understanding among the next generation of world leaders.

I am convinced that one of the best ways to develop more accurate perspectives on other nations and on ourselves is for more Americans to join, for a time, a family and a community in another land. In the same way, we cannot hope that other nations will appreciate our country unless more of their future leaders have had the same chance to feel the warmth of the American family, the vitality of an American community and the diversity of our educational system.

Private sector cooperation is crucial to the Initiative -- both in the administration of the programs and in raising funds to help these programs expand. I understand you are amenable to organizing a concert to benefit the Initiative. I am sure that, given your

concern for the world's young people and your vision of a future peaceful planet, you would be an inspiration to all of us. Your presence would greatly stimulate public interest in youth exchange.

I hope you will be able to assist us in this important endeavor.
Thank you for your support.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan



JUL 30 1984

Bill

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable
James Baker
Edwin Meese
Michael K. Deaver
The White House

FROM: Charles Z. Wick *CZW*
Director

SUBJECT: Update on the progress of putting the Radio Marti
Program on the air

Following the passage of the Broadcasting to Cuba Act, VOA and USIA have been dedicated to putting together a program that could live up to the hopes of all who worked so hard to get the legislation through Congress. Despite the problems involved with starting such an ambitious project, we have made a great deal of progress since then. Following are the details of how far we have come and what remains ahead (see Tab A for index to attachments). A chronology of the Radio Marti Program progress to date is enclosed for your information at Appendix B. The status of expenditures under the budget for the Radio Marti Program is also enclosed at Appendix C.

Office space has been located at 400 6th Street, SW in Washington. A temporary control room has been installed that would allow us to operate until our permanent studios are completed early next year. The transmitter site at Marathon, Florida is fully operational and protected by a sophisticated security network. A temporary line has been installed to link our Washington studios with Marathon and a contract is about to be awarded for a permanent satellite link.

While our permanent offices will not be ready until this fall, a skeleton staff is able to operate in the incomplete space now. Final floor plans for the office space have been approved (see Appendix D) and a request for bids on the permanent studios and technical facilities is out.

Our original candidate for Director of the Radio Marti Program was on board as a consultant. However, we have readvertised the position and are receiving applications which we will evaluate over the coming weeks. A strong core of top managers is already in place, however, including Deputy Directors Saul Gefter, a senior USIA foreign service officer who has just completed a three-year tour at the American Interests Section in Havana; Dr. Humberto Medrano, a prominent Cuban journalist and broadcaster who edited the major daily newspaper in Havana until he was exiled by Fidel Castro after the revolution; and Research Director Dr. Ernesto Betancourt, a prominent Cuban-American business consultant with long experience as an advisor to a number of Latin American countries and hemispheric organizations, including the Organization of American States. Also on board are Personnel Director Bruce Boyd, Administrative Officer John Scott, Budget Officer Almeda Schrupp and Technical Support Director Robert Kent.

Dr. Betancourt organized a series of program review panels to assess the Cuban audience and advise us about the type of programming which will be most effective in reaching the people of contemporary Cuba. A research library of books is being assembled, and we are in the process of gathering a massive number of Cuban periodicals. Arrangements have been made for monitoring Cuban radio and television broadcasts at the Marathon site.

A more sophisticated monitoring arrangement awaits the acquisition of space for a news bureau in Miami.

Our biggest problems continue to be staffing and clearances. Despite many efforts to cut down the time involved in recruiting, interviewing and hiring, there is little that can be done to hasten the lengthy security clearance process. In fact, the sensitivity of the Radio Marti Program demands a full field investigation of every potential employee, a process which is now taking up to four months. The enclosed staffing chart (Appendix E) details the positions available in the Radio Marti Program and their status in the personnel hiring process.

For example, by March 1st, 1984, we had submitted 20 people for clearance. By April 1st an additional 30 candidates had been submitted. But, by the end of April only eight potential employees had successfully cleared through the full process. For more than a month, we have been focusing on this problem as a matter of the highest priority, and we have now obtained permission to bring certain people on duty under a 120 day temporary clearance, pending successful completion of the full field investigation.

Further, we have found it very difficult to identify candidates for employment who possess the language skills and area expertise required for the Radio Marti Program and who we feel are qualified to produce programs "in accordance with all Voice of America standards" as the Act requires. There is simply no organization in existence in the world comparable to the Radio Marti Program.

To accelerate the progress of the Radio Marti Program, last month we temporarily assigned two of the most talented managers from the Voice of America to work with the permanent Radio Marti Program staff. David Bartlett, VOA's Director of News and English Broadcasts, is a 15-year veteran of the news business, having served as a reporter, newspaper editor, television producer, and news director. Richard Araujo, the Senior Program Advisor to VOA's American Republics Division, is fluent in Spanish and has long experience in journalism and Latin American affairs. He is an expert on news and information programming for Spanish-speaking audiences.

We are confident that the Radio Marti Program soon will be able to begin regular broadcasts which, in the words of the Act, "provide news, commentary and other information about events in Cuba and elsewhere to promote the cause of freedom in Cuba" while at the same time reaching "all Voice of America standards." Because of the many variables involved, I do not feel I should name a precise day, but I am hopeful that the Radio Marti Program will be on the air by the end of Autumn.



February 14, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable
Michael K. Deaver
Deputy Chief of Staff and
Assistant to the President
The White House

file

FROM: Charles Z. Wick
Director

Wick

SUBJECT: **TV Placement of USIS Product in India and China**

I am pleased to report that the Central Government Television networks in both China and India, among dozens of other networks worldwide, are using stories each week from the USIA TV Service production, TV SATELLITE FILE.

Each week the seven to nine newsworthy short stories (1-3 minutes each) which comprise TV SATELLITE FILE are distributed to 35 foreign TV bureaus based in Washington and New York City, and made available to Visnews and UPI for subsequent (overseas only) distribution of items they select by satellite to their clients. China and India are among those with U.S. representation to whom we distribute through our USIS offices abroad.

USIS Beijing reports that CCTV was using the items in their prime time 7 p.m. nightly evening newscasts: "If all goes well, prospects are good for continued regular use of TV SATELLITE FILE." According to western journalists based in China, eighty percent of the Chinese population has access to television.

USIS New Delhi reports that a screening for the Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and other TV VIPs "was unanimously favorable" and that Indian TV (Doordarshan) would use all relevant TV SATELLITE FILE material. The Post considers the placement agreement an important step forward in relations with the Indian Ministry.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

JAB:

CHARLIE WICK CALLED RE THE APPOINTMENT
OF AN AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA. HE WANTS
TO URGE IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE
PERSONAL WAY THAT JOCK SHIRLEY BE
GIVEN EVERY POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION
FOR THAT POSITION. HE SAID THAT
SHIRLEY HAS SERVED THIS ADMINISTRATION
WELL AND DESERVES SOME RECOGNITION.

BH

11/17
8:45a..m

For Mike Deant

From JAB

**United States
Information
Agency**

Washington, D.C. 20547

Rec'd 11-16-83
Office of the Director



November 15, 1983

*7 hold with
for meeting*

Dear Mr. Deaver:

Director Wick called me from New York this morning and asked that I pass you the following message. He has contacted Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam to recommend strongly that Mr. John W. Shirley, former Counselor of USIA, be nominated as U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania. (See Tab A for letter to Deputy Secretary Dam.)

The Director also asked that I send to you copies of letters written in support of Mr. Shirley's candidacy for other ambassadorial positions which were subsequently filled. (See Tab B.) As these letters testify, the Director believes that Mr. Shirley has been an outstanding supporter of the Reagan Administration. He would like to do anything possible to ensure that Mr. Shirley is offered a position which will take advantage of his extraordinary skills as a professional diplomat and supporter of the President's foreign policy.

For your information, Mr. Wick instructed me to transmit identical letters to Mr. Baker and Mr. Meese.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Earle
Executive Assistant
to the Director

The Honorable
Michael K. Deaver
Deputy Chief of Staff
and Assistant to the President
The White House

United States
Information
Agency

Washington, D.C. 20547

Office of the Director



November 15, 1983

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Director Wick called your office early this morning from New York and left word with your secretary expressing his strong support for the nomination of John W. Shirley as United States Ambassador to Tanzania.

The Director also called me and asked that I send to you copies of letters he wrote in support of Mr. Shirley's candidacy for other ambassadorial positions which have subsequently been filled. (See Tab A)

During the last two and one-half years, Mr. Shirley served as USIA's Acting Director, Counselor, and Deputy Director ad interim. Director Wick asked me to underscore his belief that Mr. Shirley has made an unparalleled contribution to this Agency and the Reagan Administration. He believes that the President and the nation would be brilliantly served by the appointment of Mr. Shirley as United States Ambassador to Tanzania.

Mr. Wick will return to the office on Thursday, November 17. I know he will be interested in discussing this recommendation with you at that time.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Earle
Executive Assistant
to the Director

The Honorable
Kenneth W. Dam
Deputy Secretary
Department of State

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(1) AMBASSADORSHIP TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Letters from Charles Z. Wick to:

Under Secretary Lawrence Eagleburger
John S. Herrington
Deputy Secretary Kenneth Dam

Memorandum from Charles Z. Wick to:

Judge William Clark
Michael Deaver
James Baker

(2) AMBASSADORSHIP TO HUNGARY

Letters from Charles Z. Wick to:

Helene von Damm
George P. Shultz

Memorandum for Jim Baker/Mike Deaver from:

Dave Gergen

June 20, 1983

Dear Larry,

The memorandum on Jock Shirley which I left with Jim Baker and also sent to Judge Clark and Mike Deaver is enclosed. It speaks to Jock's qualifications to succeed Jack Matlock as our Ambassador to Czechoslovakia.

As I am sure you know, Jock was called by your senior personnel officer last Thursday to ask whether he would be willing to accept the job. I understand this indicates that the Department considers him a qualified candidate for the assignment. I would now like to ask you to support Jock when you meet to determine the Department's choice.

I want you to know that Jock has my fullest support at the White House. Indeed, I have spoken at length with Helene von Damm, Jim Baker, John Herrington and others to underscore to them my strong personal interest in assuring the appointment for him.

Jock has served with distinction as this Agency's Acting Director, Counselor and now as Deputy Director ad interim. He has over twenty-six years of experience in the Foreign Service and has risen to the rank of Career Minister. His Eastern European experience includes tours of duty in Yugoslavia and Poland. For four years he directed the Agency's work in that part of the world. He speaks Polish and Serbo-Croatian in addition to Hungarian, Italian, German and French. He lived in Czechoslovakia as a boy and knows the country well. With two Slavic languages already to his credit, he should experience little difficulty in learning Czech.

I believe that Jock's past record, combined with the fact that he has served the President with extraordinary skill and dedication, suggest that he is richly deserving of the assignment. I hope that he will have your enthusiastic support: he certainly has mine.

The Honorable
Lawrence Eagleburger
Under Secretary for Political
Affairs
Department of State

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick
Director

Enclosure: a/s
document 934b, page 8

June 20, 1983

Dear John,

The memorandum regarding Jock Shirley's candidacy to succeed Jack Matlock as our Ambassador in Prague is enclosed. I believe that it is self-explanatory with regard to his qualifications for the post.

Last Thursday Jock was called by the State Department's senior personnel officer to inquire whether he would accept the assignment if it were offered. As you know, this signifies that State has him on their "short list" for the job. If you now follow up Helene von Damm's memorandum and her conversations with Larry Eagleburger and Joan Clark, I believe that the issue can be favorably resolved.

I cannot emphasize too strongly my interest in this matter. Jock has served the Administration and me personally with extraordinary dedication as Acting Director, Counselor and now Deputy Director ad interim. He has consistently and vigorously supported all of our initiatives. From the beginning of the Administration and before, he has left no doubt with regard to his conservative convictions. As USIA's senior Foreign Service officer his appointment will be seen by his colleagues as an earnest of our determination to reward ability and loyal service to the President.

Since I understand Ken Dam's committee will be meeting as early as this week, we must move rapidly to inform State of White House support. If you get behind him his name should come to you as the Department's nominee. Combined with our interest already formally expressed by Helene, your support should be conclusive.

Let me reiterate to you that Jock Shirley has my fullest backing. I know that his talents, his long experience in the Foreign Service, and his unmatched background in Eastern European affairs combine to make him an extraordinarily strong candidate.

The Honorable
John S. Herrington
Assistant to the President
for Presidential Personnel
The White House

- 2 -

He would serve the President with distinction as his
Ambassador to Czechoslovakia.

With warm regards.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick
Director

Enclosure: a/s

document 934b, page 7

June 20, 1983

Dear Ken,

My memorandum to Jim Baker, Bill Clark and Mike Deaver regarding Jock Shirley's candidacy to succeed Jack Matlock as our Ambassador in Prague is enclosed. I believe that it fully describes his qualifications for the assignment.

Jock was called last Thursday by the Department's senior personnel officer to inquire whether he would accept the position if it were offered. I understand this means that the Department finds him a viable candidate and that his name will be among the few you will consider when you meet to determine whose name will be sent forward.

As you are perhaps aware, Helene von Damm sent a memorandum to the Department indicating White House interest in securing an ambassadorial assignment for Jock Shirley. I know that she followed up with Larry Eagleburger and Joan Clark. Last week I met with Jim Baker and others to make what I think was an extremely strong case in support of the assignment. Today, I spoke with John Herrington to ask him to be in touch with your office to reconfirm White House interest.

Jock Shirley has been in the Foreign Service for over twenty-six years. He has risen to the rank of Career Minister. In this Administration he served for six months as Acting Director, then became Counselor of the Agency, a position I created in recognition of his talents and energy. For the past month he has been serving as Deputy Director on an interim basis. He has had tours of duty in Yugoslavia and Poland and directed USIA's programs in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union for over four years. He speaks Polish and Serbo-Croatian in addition to Hungarian, Italian, German and French. As a boy he lived in Czechoslovakia and knows the country well. His knowledge of two Slavic languages, bolstered by his native linguistic ability, should make it relatively easy for him to acquire a knowledge of Czech.

The Honorable
Kenneth Dam
Deputy Secretary of State
Department of State

I hope you will agree that Jock Shirley's experience in the Foreign Service, combined with decades of specialization in Eastern European affairs would enable him to serve the President in Prague with skill and distinction. I hope that you will give him your support.

With warm regards.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick
Director

Enclosure: a/s

6/16/83: Sent to

Clark

Deaver

USIA

June 15, 1983

& handdel'd by
CZW to J. Baker
today.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Honorable
Judge William P. Clark
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
The White House

FROM:

Charles Z. Wick
Director

SUBJECT:

Jock Shirley

I would like to follow up on our conversation with regard to Jock Shirley and to reiterate to you in this more formal way my strong hope that he will be chosen to succeed Jack Matlock as our Ambassador to Czechoslovakia.

Jock Shirley is a Career Minister in the Senior Foreign Service and is currently serving as my Deputy Director on an interim basis. He is a veteran of more than twenty six years in USIA's Foreign Service. At the change of Administration, he was named Acting Director of USIA by the White House because of his experience, talent and commitment to the achievement of the Administration's objectives. Five months later, when I took over as Director, I created for him the position of Counselor of the Agency. In that capacity, as the senior career officer at USIA, he has been an invaluable adviser on policy and management, and has been thoughtful, loyal and energetic in implementing the President's policies.

Jock's extensive overseas experience includes assignments in Yugoslavia, Italy, India and Poland. From December, 1945, until August, 1946, he lived in Prague with his father. During the Nixon and Ford Administrations he was in charge of all of USIA's activities in Europe, an assignment in which he distinguished himself. From 1977 until shortly before the election, he was Counselor for Public Affairs at our Embassy in Rome. I am told that the Carter policy which in effect lifted the USG "veto" against Communist Party entry into the Italian government was reversed due largely to Jock Shirley's persistent efforts.

Jock Shirley's qualifications to be Ambassador in Prague are beyond question. Indeed, I am convinced that he would be prudent, and most of all tough, in the pursuit of American interests in Czechoslovakia. His background in Eastern European affairs is extensive. By an accident of fate, he spent the war years in pre-communist Hungary where he attended

four years of secondary school. As a result, he is virtually bilingual in Hungarian. At the same time he is also proficient in German, French, Italian, Polish and Serbo-Croatian. His knowledge of two Slavic languages, buttressed by his natural linguistic ability, should make it easy for him to acquire a fluency in Czech. Jock Shirley has long specialized in communist affairs, both in directing USIA's information and propaganda efforts aimed at the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe from Washington and during his service in Yugoslavia and Poland. I am convinced that his blend of knowledge of East European history, politics and languages qualify him to render exceptional service.

As you know, Jock's appointment as Ambassador to Czechoslovakia is of great importance to me as Director of USIA. First, I believe it proper that his exceptional contributions to this administration and his outstanding prior service be recognized. At the same time, I want USIA's Foreign Service to know that ability, hard work and loyalty are rewarded and that these rewards are not limited to State Department Foreign Service officers.

In closing, I want to emphasize that Jock is also one of the most gracious and competent people I have met during my tenure in Washington. I believe that his deep commitment to the policies of the Reagan Administration coupled with his exceptional ability and long experience in the Foreign Service merit his appointment as Ambassador to Czechoslovakia. He has my full backing. I hope that you will also support him.

Attachment: Curriculum Vitae

May 6, 1983

Dear Helene:

I would like to follow up on our conversation with regard to Jock Shirley's potential as an Ambassador.

Subsequent to our talk, I discussed his situation with State. They strongly believe that his chances would be greatly enhanced if the White House formally endorsed him for a significant Ambassadorial assignment. A letter from the White House to George Shultz would be the appropriate channel, according to State.

You know that this question is of great importance to me as the Director of USIA. First, I believe it proper that Jock's exceptional contribution to this Administration and outstanding prior service be recognized. At the same time, I want the USIA Foreign Service to know that hard work and loyalty are rewarded with the ultimate appointment and that these rewards are not limited to State Department Foreign Service officers.

Let me underline what I have said to you in the past: Jock Shirley is USIA's senior Foreign Service Officer recognized by Congress as "Career Minister." At the beginning of this Administration he was specifically chosen by the transition team to be Acting Director, not so much because of his seniority as for his excellence and conservative views. He has performed magnificently in that capacity. Once I was confirmed, I created for him the job of Counselor of Agency, the senior career position at USIA which equates roughly with the Under Secretary for Political Affairs at State. In the two years since he assumed his new responsibilities, Jock has been of inestimable help to me in carrying forward the President's mandate.

The Honorable
Helene von Damm
Assistant to the President
for Presidential Personnel
The White House

In closing, I want to emphasize that Jock is also one of the most gracious and competent people I have met during my tenure in Washington. I believe that his deep commitment to the policies of the Reagan Administration, coupled with his exceptional ability and long experience in the Foreign Service, merit his early appointment to a substantial Ambassadorial post. He has my full backing. I hope that the White House will also support him and communicate that support to George Shultz.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Wick

October 13, 1982

Dear George:

I am writing to propose to you the appointment of USIA Career Minister Jock Shirley as Ambassador to Hungary.

I have been an enthusiastic supporter of Jock's candidacy since the early days of the Administration. I gather from earlier talks with Larry Eagleburger that with our current Ambassador, Harry Bergold, now approaching his third anniversary in Budapest, the time may be ripe to name Jock to the post. Al Haig supported Jock's candidacy, and I know that Larry will attest to Jock's superb qualifications.

Jock Shirley has served with distinction in USIA's Foreign Service for over twenty five years. At the change of Administration, he was named Acting Director of ICA by the White House because of his experience, talent and commitment to the achievement of the Administration's objectives. Five months later, when I took over as Director, I created for him the position of Counselor of the Agency. In that capacity, as the senior career officer at USIA, he has been an invaluable adviser on policy and management, and has been thoughtful, loyal and energetic in implementing the President's policies.

Years of service in Eastern European posts and in Washington directing USIA's operations in Western and Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union have given Jock Shirley an unexcelled grasp of the political realities of the area.

His extraordinary qualifications for Budapest result from his having been trapped, along with his father, by World War II in Hungary. Because of his residence and schooling there, his lifelong professional involvement with the area, his knowledge of Hungary and Hungarians, and his complete command of the Hungarian language, he is without a doubt splendidly qualified for the assignment.

I regard Jock as the quintessential diplomat. He has exquisite manners and great tact in handling sensitive matters and is unfailingly gracious. He combines these qualities with total competence and unyielding candor.

The Honorable
George P. Shultz
Secretary of State

In my view, there is no person in or out of Government who can better serve our country in Budapest.

I urge you to join me in supporting Jock Shirley's appointment and look forward to discussing with you the steps that should be taken to begin the nomination process. You can be sure that I will give him my fullest backing at the White House.

With warm regards.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick
Director

Eyes Only
CZW

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 8, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM BAKER
MIKE DEEVER

FROM: DAVE GERGEN *DF*
SUBJECT: Ambassador to Hungary

I want to put in a strong word for Jock Shirley of USIA, who for many years has wanted to be ambassador to Hungary and is now apparently locked in a hot competition for the job. I don't know much about the alternative(s), but I can say:

-- Jock is extremely capable, well versed in both the substance and politics of Europe.

-- He has also been extraordinarily helpful to this administration as the chief of staff at the USIA (and Charlie Wick is now supporting him for this new post).

-- He is not only one of the most admired career officers at the agency but he has also become known as one of the few Tory career officers -- something that has held back his career in some previous Democratic administrations. This administration, in my view, ought to be advancing people like that -- plus, his appointment as an ambassador would be a good morale boost for the rest of the career corps.

-- Jock's own personal background, having spent several years in Budapest, qualifies him especially for this post. His competition, I would bet, is probably equally well qualified for positions in other countries.

As you know there are many occasions when friendship plays a large part in deciding whether to recommend someone for a post. In this case, I am happy to say that it goes far beyond friendship -- this is a man who would be a superb representative of the U.S. and of this administration in Eastern Europe.

cc: Helen Von Damm
Bud McFarlane

bcc: Charles Wick ✓