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File Folder SOVIET ACTIVE MEASURES

FOIA

F09-021

Box Number 1

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15

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
81615	MEMO	FRITZ ERMARTH TO FRANK CARLUCCI RE SOVIET DISINFORMATION	2	8/10/1987	B1
81617	MEMO	CHARLES WICK TO FRANK CARLUCCI RE SOVIET DISINFORMATION R 4/15/2013 M430/1	2	7/15/1987	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

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B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

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**United States
Information
Agency**

Washington, D.C. 20547

Office of the Director



JUL 15 1987

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USIA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

81617

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable
Frank C. Carlucci
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
The White House

FROM: Charles Z. Wick *CZ*
Director

SUBJECT: Shultz-Shevardnadze Talks/Soviet
Disinformation

USIA suggests that the subject of Soviet disinformation be formally raised as an agenda item at any forthcoming talks between Secretary Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, and that selected US-USSR scientific and bio-medical exchanges be held in abeyance until Soviet disinformation is curtailed.

Despite US Government protests about Soviet disinformation, it has not decreased. Most pointedly, Soviet disinformation alleging that the USG created the AIDS virus continues to appear, both in Soviet-influenced publications worldwide and in the Soviet press. A recent appearance in the Soviet press was in the June 3 issue of the newspaper Soviet Youth. The Soviet campaign also shows signs of expanding to include disinformation about US efforts to find a treatment for the disease, as a recent article by their Cuban surrogates indicates. (Tab A documents recent instances of Soviet and Cuban disinformation on AIDS. Tab B contains statements by Soviet doctors that contradict the Soviet disinformation.)

During my June 5 meeting in Moscow with Novosti director Valentin Falin, I vigorously protested a disinformation story Novosti was circulating at the time that claimed the US had developed a so-called "ethnic weapon" that kills blacks but not whites. Falin responded with allegations about other imaginary US "ethnic weapons" that we had supposedly used in the past. This was the only discordant note in my meetings with top Soviet officials and shows, unfortunately, the way in which they deal with us on several levels at the same time, and persist in such obnoxious activities unless we take concrete action.

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Classified by: Charles Z. Wick
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Other recent Soviet disinformation charges are that the United States is developing other biological warfare weapons in addition to the "ethnic weapon," and that the USG was responsible for the Jonestown massacre in Guyana in 1978 and the 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olaf Palme (see Tab C).

The USG protested Soviet disinformation on AIDS formally at the eighth session of the US-USSR Joint Health Committee, held in Washington from April 14 to 16, and indicated that it would not be possible for the US and the USSR to collaborate in AIDS research as long as the disinformation campaign continues. (See Tab D for talking points prepared for that meeting.)

The United States Government objected to Soviet disinformation about the Jonestown massacre in an oral demarche on February 13 (see Tab E for memcon of meeting).

In light of continued Soviet disinformation on AIDS, USIA suggests that additional future scientific exchanges that the Soviets value highly also be curtailed until the Soviet disinformation campaign about AIDS ceases. If approved, this should be communicated by Secretary Shultz to Foreign Minister Shevardnadze at future talks. Even if the USG does not take such steps, we recommend that our concerns be raised by being included on the formal agenda of future, high-level US-Soviet talks. Suggested talking points are included in Tab F.

Future scientific and bio-medical exchanges that would be most advantageous to suspend would have to be determined in close cooperation with the Department of State and other concerned agencies. This could be done if the above approach is agreed to in principle.

I have included this same suggestion in a memorandum to Secretary of State Shultz.

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

Dear Charlie:

Thank you for your memorandum of July 15 with suggestions about how to respond to recent Soviet disinformation campaigns directed against the United States.

I completely agree with you that such scurrilous campaigns must be protested and, where appropriate, concrete action taken. As you have noted, this is just what Surgeon General Koop did when he told the Soviets at the April Health Cooperation meeting that the United States refused categorically to cooperate with them in combatting AIDS so long as they continued their despicable campaign. We have protested this and other campaigns alleging U.S. responsibility for the Jonestown massacre, the creation of an "ethnic weapon" of biological warfare and the Olaf Palme assassination. I have raised such issues myself with the Soviet leadership, and will continue to do so whenever and wherever I find it appropriate.

I do not, however, accept the notion that we should generally reduce our scientific exchanges until the disinformation campaign is curtailed. We are engaged in these activities not because they are valued by the Soviets, but because to do so is in our scientific and political interests. With this in mind, the President has on several occasions voiced his support for expanding not only cultural and people-to-people exchanges with the Soviets, but scientific exchanges as well. We look carefully at these exchanges to insure that they are of true scientific value to us, and that they bring us real benefits. We are not engaged in them as a favor to the Soviets.

We will continue to refuse to cooperate with the Soviets on AIDS as long as the disinformation campaign continues. We can also respond - and are responding - on a case-by-case basis to similar campaigns directly affecting exchange activities. The office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Research and Interdepartmental Affairs will continue to work closely with USIA in monitoring and combatting Soviet disinformation activities and will bring them to my attention as necessary.

The Honorable
Charles Z. Wick,
Director,
United States Information Agency.

Thanks again for your memo. As I wrote to you recently, I applaud your efforts to bring home to the Soviets our concern that these distasteful campaigns must end. The President and I will continue to do everything we can towards that same end.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

George P. Shultz

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON'

Cobb

August 12, 1987

Dear Charlie:

Many thanks for your timely and thought-provoking memorandum concerning the continuing Soviet disinformation campaigns viciously denigrating the United States. I am in complete agreement with your observation that this reprehensible campaign represents officially-sponsored Soviet government activities and must be rebuffed by a combination of protests and practical measures. Above all we must make clear to Soviet leaders that we draw political conclusions about them from activities of this sort.

As George noted to you we have told the Soviets that we will refuse to cooperate with them in combatting AIDS as long as these propaganda exercises continue. We understand that many in the Soviet scientific community would value this cooperation because of their growing concern about the disease. So we may have some leverage. While it may not be appropriate to curtail the entire range of S&T programs, certainly we should take a closer look at existing and planned levels of cooperation in the health and bio-medical fields. The Soviet scientific and political leadership must understand that continuing the scurrilous campaigns you noted, including but not limited to the one on AIDS, will impact on our assessment of the viability of these exchanges.

Both you and George should continue to raise our concerns with your counterparts in the strongest terms. Should these campaigns not abate we will discuss with the President the desirability of his raising our concerns in public remarks or future correspondence with the Kremlin. In the interim I would encourage you and your staff to insure that more attention is focused on these reprehensible Soviet actions and that we redouble our efforts to track and expose this propaganda. For example, we should assure that public fora, such as the upcoming Chautauqua conference, are furnished examples of these Soviet disinformation efforts and our replies.

Again, I do appreciate your bringing these concerns to my attention and your thoughtful recommendations. Until these campaigns are terminated we must continue to use every opportunity to express our revulsion.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank C. Carlucci". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Frank C. Carlucci

cc: Secretary of State
Director of Central Intelligence

Mr. Charles Z. Wick
Director
United States Information Agency
Washington, DC 20547