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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Soviet Delegation: Mr. Minoshin
Mr. Aldoshin

U.S. Delegation: Ambassador Marks
Mr. Thacher

TIME: February 25, 1969, 11:00 a.m.

Minoshin called on Ambassador Marks and said he shared Marks' hope that the Conference would produce fruitful results.

In response to Minoshin's inquiry as to the status of the Soviet observer delegation, Marks said it was his earnest hope and desire that the Soviet Delegation would have full opportunity both to meet informally with all delegations and to place their views formally before the committees and plenary of the Conference.

Stressing the importance of maintaining open lines of communication, Marks said he was hopeful that the Soviet Union will find much in this Conference to interest it.

Minoshin responded generally by laying emphasis on international cooperation as forming the basis for communications systems between developing "entities" (as interpreted by Aldoshin). In the Soviet view it is important to maintain the right for existence of regional systems in addition to a system of global scope. At a later point in the conversation, Minoshin affirmed Soviet support for the concept of a single global system, but he urged that the conditions of the global system not be such as to make it impossible or difficult to develop communications between systems (which presumably would be less than global).

Minoshin repeatedly stressed the need to maintain equality between states. (It became clear he did not mean equality of access or use of the system.) Asked by Marks if the Soviet Union favored the principle of one nation-one vote, Minoshin responded by noting that in the INTELSAT system the manager is COMSAT which has more than a 50 percent vote in decisions. He

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-2-

accepted Marks' point that the Intersputnik proposal includes the principle that each nation shares investment according to its use of the system. Minashin also acknowledged the accuracy of Marks' observation that the U.S. uses the INTELSAT system 53 percent and therefore should have a corresponding share of investment. But he maintained that the profit, which he later corrected to mean share in management, should be based on the principle of equality among States.

Responding to the criticism of U.S. domination, Marks pointed out that on the 18-member Board the U.S. must obtain at a minimum the additional support of 12.5 percent of the ownership for decisions taken. He asked if the Soviet Union seriously contemplated unweighted voting whereby a State without technical competence or financial contribution would have an equal voice in management decisions.

Minashin responded that Intersputnik starts on the basis of the principle of equality between States, the system of management can evolve with experience.

Marks commented that if the Soviet Union were to join INTELSAT, it would undoubtedly have a seat on the Board which would give it full opportunity to participate in the planning and policy decisions of the system. He again asked if the Soviets would want equal rights for lesser members. Minoshin agreed these were complex matters which should be handled by qualified experts but one must start, he asserted, on the basis of equality between States.

As time was running out, Ambassador Marks briefly outlined the U.S. proposal for an Assembly. Minashin agreed with the point that a group of this size would not be good for taking management decisions.

Minashin expressed his appreciation for what he considered to be a very useful preliminary exchange of views. At no time did he express any lack of satisfaction either as regards the treatment of his delegation at the Conference, or of the manner in which the Conference was proceeding. He was friendly throughout. (Aldoshin later commented that the chief of the Soviet Delegation, Talyzin, had been delayed for several days because of illness.)