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DO/P 3-6899

19 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: Discussion with Mr. Richard Davis,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of
State for European Affairs

1. I visited the Department today for discussions of the Cherepanov and Martin cases with Mr. Richard Davis. Also present was Mr. John Guthrie, Chief, SOV/EUR.

2. I first showed Davis and Guthrie a copy of the preliminary traces on the Soviet officers whose names appeared in the Cherepanov papers. They were particularly interested in learning the true name of Counselor of the Soviet Embassy Fomin. Both officers were cautioned that this was sensitive information and could not be used overtly. I also informed Davis that the University of Illinois Librarian Miller had just returned from his trip and that Mr. Joseph Bulik had left for Illinois to interview him.

3. With respect to the dinner at the home of the Soviet Consular Officer Begunkov attended by Mr. Thomas Fain in Moscow, I informed Davis that our records indicated that Begunkov was an intelligence officer. Davis said he suspected as much and that in his view the Soviet's principal interest in wining and dining Fain was to discover how we got the Cherepanov documents and why we returned them. Davis added that if he needed anything to convince him further of the mistake in returning these documents, the Fain-Begunkov dinner party offered final proof. Both Davis and Guthrie remarked that Ambassador Kohler would recognize the error and would insure that the error was not repeated.

4. Finally, on the Cherepanov matter, Dick Davis asked if we had any objection to his showing these papers to Ambassador Thompson. I said we had none and I mentioned that you were also interested in the Ambassador's seeing the papers. I asked that when the Department is finished with them they be returned to us.

5. On the Martin case, Davis was told that Drs. Renninger and White had a second meeting with Martin who alleged that he had been told by Soviet authorities

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that he must not tell Renninger and White his true name if they asked him. Davis was concerned that the two exchange professors might not conduct themselves with sufficient discretion and caution in this contact. I assured him that both had been instructed not to seek out Martin nor to invite him to their quarters. However, if Martin attempted to see them on the premises of the Institute, they were not to reject the contact. I added here that we would re-emphasize this in a letter to the Embassy after we had had the initial reaction from NSA, whom we have just informed of this, and also had a chance to read the Martin file. Davis then said that he had informed the Secretary of State of this meeting and that further correspondence on it would be handled in CIA channels.

6. Davis' last remark on this matter was an expression of mild concern that the press might get news of this chance meeting and cause all concerned considerable embarrassment if it became public knowledge. I said that whereas at some point there might be a reason for publicizing our knowledge of Martin's activities, we certainly agreed that at present it would be the worst possible thing to have happen.


David E. Murphy
Chief, SR Division

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