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COMMITTEE OF POLITICAL ADVISERS

KHRUSHCHEV'S VISIT TO BULGARIA

Note by the United States Delegation

According to a recent report from our Legation in Sofia, Khrushchev will stay one week, will tour the country, will bring economic and agricultural experts and will probably discuss NATO activities and economic questions.

2. Our Legation believes the primary reason for the visit is the Bulgarian internal situation (and related Bloc ideological problems), and calls attention to the following points:

- (1) Bulgaria's difficult economic situation requires new Soviet assistance, which Moscow has apparently refused thus far;
- (2) As indicated at the recent Bulgarian ideological conference (attended by Secretary Ilichev of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party), the Bulgarian Communist Party was not unanimous on the need for further anti-cult efforts;
- (3) Certain elements in the Bulgarian Communist Party may be attempting to ease out Stalinist elements such as the Deputy Premier and former Interior Minister Tsankov; and
- (4) Khrushchev's visit can provide a much needed psychological bolstering of the régime during a difficult period.

3. Our Legation believes the above four points, if discussed probably will not be publicized, with the possible exception of any new Soviet economic assistance. Publicity probably will concentrate on fraternal platitudes and fulminations against NATO activities, particularly in Greece and Turkey.

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4. Our Moscow Embassy has commented that Foreign Minister Gromyko will accompany Khrushchev to Bulgaria. The Embassy thinks it noteworthy that the Soviet announcement of Khrushchev's trip and subsequent past references to it all speak of a visit by a party-government delegation headed by Khrushchev. The past practice in connection with such trips has been to give Khrushchev top billing.

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