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ABSTRACT

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DISPATCH

TO Chief, SR
Chief, BK

701-24555

FROM Chief of Station

14-1

22 AUGUST 1961

SUBJECT KENNEDY/RADCAP/...
Clastonbury's meeting with Anatoliy Mikhailovich KLIMOV

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0966, 14 August 1961

1. Anatoliy Mikhailovich KLIMOV, RUS type in Helsinki, was met by Clastonbury on the occasion of the Consular Corps' visit to the Italian vessel, Montecuccoli, during its visit to Finland on 9 August 1961.

2. After the initial perfunctory greetings and introductions to various members of the crew, Clastonbury introduced himself to Klimov. Klimov requested that his cordial greetings be transmitted to his former colleague, Costello. Clastonbury promised to do so and then started to mingle with other members of the group aboard the vessel. Klimov definitely maneuvered himself into a position to be close to Clastonbury so as to engage him in conversation.

3. While touring the vessel Klimov remarked about the availability of the Helsinki women for the fine Italian members of the crew. Clastonbury let on as to this was in the true tradition of the sea and the Italian spirit. This led to a discussion regarding the increase in world population, to which Clastonbury mentioned the tremendous population of China. Klimov remarked that the Chinese were procreating at an unbelievable rate of some two hundred thousand per month. Clastonbury retorted that this was not unusual for a poor backward country that had few outlets for other types of recreation. Klimov then suggested that now the Chinese are able to avail themselves of the new peoples' recreation facilities, to which Clastonbury retorted that this was quite apparent since they are multiplying at the rate of two hundred thousand per month (Klimov's same figures).

4. Hurrying to visit the upper decks we came across some shell cases that were in need of polishing. Clastonbury pointed to them and remarked that someone would have himself a good job to perform. Klimov immediately started searching out Clastonbury's military experience, by pointedly asking if Clastonbury had served in the Navy. Clastonbury replied in the affirmative and asked where Klimov served. He replied in the Artillery and was quite aware of the work involved in polishing shell casings. Klimov then asked Clastonbury if he cared to join him for lunch. In view of the fact that a luncheon would probably be inevitable, and since it was lunch time and no meals were being served aboard ship, Clastonbury agreed to accept Klimov's invitation. Klimov first suggested a place where one could enjoy some crayfish (or as he stated it "crabs") Clastonbury requested that they not indulge in this since he had some but a few nights ago and they were too time-consuming. Klimov then suggested a Russian restaurant, Bellevue, which was supposed to be nearby. Clastonbury agreed; however, upon departing the vessel on the way to lunch, Klimov suggested that they walk in search of the restaurant since he had never been there. Clastonbury agreed but insisted that they ride in his car since he did not wish to leave it on the docks. Klimov agreed, then proceeded to get lost in some of Helsinki's downtown traffic. Unintentional as it was, it may have led Klimov to believe that Clastonbury was indeed a green newcomer to this area.

5. At the restaurant Klimov insisted that Clastonbury choose the course since he was not too familiar with Chinese food. Clastonbury obliged. Klimov also insisted that they have a martini, and then he ordered beer while Clastonbury ordered tea with his Chinese food. The waiter placed some chopsticks on the table, fumbling them, and with what he must have thought to be a clever remark, Klimov humorously stated to Clastonbury that "these are for barbarians". Clastonbury stated that he understood the CHINESE were now learning to eat with forks and suggested that Klimov's government might have a tremendous fork market in CHINA for their excess steel production. Klimov became rather embarrassed and stated that, after all, different customs are practiced in

Klimov agreed, they upon leaving the dock area suggested that they might want to buy the locking box for the Bellevue and suggested Chinese food at the Pan Kuan.

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different countries.

6. Klimov then pointed out that Clastonbury's true name sounded Russian and asked if Clastonbury was Russian. Clastonbury replied no, he was not Russian, but an American of Jewish extraction. Klimov then stated that they were then sea gull (Lashman) since he too was a Ukrainian born in Poltava. Clastonbury let it be known that he was Peter the Great beat the Swedes. However, Clastonbury avoided indicating that he understood the Russian words used by Klimov. Klimov then proceeded to explain that sea gull meant people from the same region, and asked for an American version. Clastonbury stated that there was no such precise meaning in our country and that he were all Americans first then possibly with an identification from which state we were residing and that we had no nationality problems as did the Soviet Union. Klimov then agreed that the U.S. was a melting pot of most European elements.

7. Pointedly Klimov suggested that he and Clastonbury were of the same age. Clastonbury then stated that, no, Klimov was much older, although Clastonbury had many more gray hairs than he, pointing to his graying temples. Klimov then joint blank asked how old are you, to which Clastonbury stated thirty and how old are you? Klimov stated thirty-five, and appeared amazed or looked unbelievably at Clastonbury.

8. Klimov then returned to his wartime experience stating that he was only eighteen in 1944 when he spent three months on the Bulgarian front in the artillery and participated in the liberation of some of the Bulgarian Year's since. Clastonbury stated you did drink it then, to which Klimov remarked yes, since it was sort of a victory trophy. After a lull in the conversation, Klimov stated that he was reading the exchange of letters between Roosevelt and Stalin, and felt they were of significance to the present-day situation in Germany. When asked if he too had read this exchange of letters, Clastonbury stated that he had read an interesting book covering the same material entitled "Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin" by Yeis. Klimov appeared interested in the book and wanted to know if it contained the personal comments of the author, rather than a presentation of the facts. Clastonbury let it be known that the book was factual, but as in all books the author's comments were to be accepted. At this juncton Klimov stated that Berlin would be a test of our relationship. Clastonbury stated that he saw no reason for such a test. Klimov stated that all the troubles in Germany would be settled by a signing of the East German Peace Treaty. This would enable the Germans to solve their own question of unification which would come one way or another. Clastonbury suggested to Klimov that the Soviet Government was shirking its responsibilities in this situation by attempting to wash its hands of the German question. Clastonbury stated that the signing of the peace treaty was nothing else than placing the match in the East German hands with which they could ignite the "tinder box". Klimov protested that the tinder box had existed for many years and that their signing the peace treaty was "only signing a ~~XX~~ piece of paper" and not passing the match to the East Germans. Klimov then suggested that Clastonbury's government join hands with the Soviets and sign the treaty. Clastonbury replied that he did not believe that his government would ever sign such an agreement. Clastonbury suggested that the Soviet Government in lieu of signing the treaty pursue a course of honest negotiation to resolve the question. Klimov stated that Khrushchev in his speeches had indicated the Soviet Government's willingness to include the U.S. in negotiating the final version of the peace treaty with East Germany. Clastonbury suggested that Klimov attempt to let it be known to Khrushchev, although he understood that Klimov was in no such position as to be able to tell Khrushchev what to do, that Khrushchev stop engaging in public speeches and start negotiating if he really desires peace. Klimov stated that Khrushchev's speeches were indeed negotiation and asked Clastonbury what he thought negotiation should be. Clastonbury retorted that, as he understood it, negotiation took into account the viewpoint of both sides and was not a matter where a fait accompli was presented in a public speech with a request that the other side merely concur. Clastonbury pointed out that since the end of the war the United States had presented many proposals for the settlement of the German question and that time and time again it was Klimov's government that refused even to negotiate on the principles of those proposals. Clastonbury was surprised to see Khrushchev pull a solution out of his hat and expect another government to merely sign on the dotted line. Klimov did not counter any of these statements but suggested that the U.S. had

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signed a separate peace with the Japanese, and the United States was responsible for its consequences. Clastonbury reminded Klimov that the Soviet Government had been invited not only to sign the Japanese peace treaty, but also to participate in the early stages of the negotiations for such a treaty, which the Soviet Government refused. The consequences of the Japanese peace treaty had resulted in peaceful relations with a peace-loving country, and Clastonbury was surprised to see that it had taken the Soviet Government so long to start their negotiations with the peaceful Japanese Government. Clastonbury further suggested that the Japanese peace treaty was a result of a different set of circumstances than those prevailing in a divided Germany. Klimov's illogical counter to this issue was that the Germans from time immemorial were a war-like nation. Clastonbury suggested that Klimov knew better and that at this time Germany was incapable of any aggressive action, and if they were so aggressive, why was the Soviet Government at all not upon signing a peace treaty with the best Germans? Klimov could only remark that they would sign the peace treaty.

8. At the conclusion of the meal Klimov insisted on paying the bill which he did, and clumsily presented the bill indicating that this was no personal luncheon. Klimov then suggested that they adjourn to Isberg's for some coffee, to which Clastonbury agreed. Over some coffee Klimov then posed the question to what sports Clastonbury was going to engage in during his stay in Helsinki. Clastonbury flippantly remarked "drinking". Klimov then seriously asked what type of drinks Clastonbury enjoyed. Clastonbury then stated he appreciated Finnish hockenurva. Klimov stated that although he too liked hockenurva, he naturally preferred good Russian vodka. He also recommended some champagne from the Tsar's cellars in the Crimea, to which Clastonbury replied that the Tsar must have known how to make good champagne; however, it was without a doubt that the French made the best champagne and other wines in the world. Klimov halfheartedly agreed but insisted that the Soviet wines from Armenia and Moldavia were excellent wines. With regard to Moldavia, Klimov obliquely hinted that he had been stationed in Makhinov where he and his wife grew to like the Moldavian wine. He recalled that Costello preferred Georgian brandy to that from Armenia which he himself enjoyed; Klimov then suggested that upon his return from the Soviet Union, after his leave, he would bring back some champagne and Armenian cognac for Clastonbury to try. Klimov then stated that they could drink to the signing of the peace treaty with Soviet champagne. Clastonbury stated he would never drink to the peace treaty at which point Klimov suggested that they merely drink to friendship and peace, while Clastonbury suggested they merely drink it. Clastonbury then asked him when he was going on leave. Klimov indicated it would probably be after the tourist season in October. He also stated that he would bring his 5-6 year old daughter back to Finland at that time. Klimov then presented a picture of his daughter. Clastonbury remarked how pretty she was and hoped that she was doing well in school. Klimov stated that she was not in school but visiting with her grandparents in Moscow. Klimov then asked if Clastonbury had any children, to which Clastonbury stated that he had two fine sons. Clastonbury also stated that since he had arrived he had some difficulty in obtaining a maid and asked Klimov if he had a maid. Klimov replied that he had none and that he and his wife lived alone.

9. Occasionally during the conversation Klimov injected some Russian, German and French words, to which Clastonbury made no reaction. It was undoubtedly a crude ploy to test Clastonbury's language capabilities. Clastonbury did let it be known that he was studying Finnish and asked how Klimov was coming along in the language. Klimov replied that Finnish was too difficult for him to grasp and that he had given up studying it after a few months, but admitted to knowing some of the basic words to manage in daily life.

10. Upon leaving the coffee house Clastonbury volunteered to drive Klimov back to the Soviet Embassy. Klimov accepted but upon arriving at the Embassy Klimov rejected Clastonbury's proposal to drive right up to the door of the Embassy and requested to be let out across the street. As Clastonbury drove away after the cordial thank you for the meal and the company he noted in his rear view mirror that Klimov started to walk back from where they had just been and not towards the Embassy.

11. Clastonbury's assessment of Klimov at this time is that although he may be a knowledgeable RIS type he was extremely crude in attempting to elicit the basic PRQ Part 1 information on Clastonbury that will eventually appear in

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the biographic register. Clastobury found Klimov rather dull, unimaginative, undiplomatic, and deserving of some of the probably biting and at times flippancy remarks of Clastobury. Klimov is undoubtedly a concealed and hardworking leg-man operative. Clastobury will admittedly have to reciprocate with another luncheon which he hopes to have as brief and as painless as possible. All future contact with Klimov will be kept to the barest minimum so as not to involve the Station's time and effort on what now appears to be a useless target.

Walter R. Clastobury
WALTER R. CLASTOBURY

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