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DISPATCH

(CPHA) 4559
22

Chief, SR

20 1-51901

Chief, SR

Chief of Station

1 March 1960

R.D. [redacted] / [redacted] 13
(A) [redacted] / 5 Status

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Comment per Para 1 below

22
(CPHA) 4223, 1 December 1959

1. By Para 3 of reference ⁰² we stated that we did not plan to push for a second Redcliffe trip for (A) unless some unique operational opportunity presents itself. Now, there is a possibility that this situation may come about ⁰² (A) has continued to express her interest to Grigoriy GOLUB in travelling across the USSR to Vladivostok on the Trans-Siberian Railroad, then through China stopping at Peking and Shanghai, and on to Hong Kong. Golub has been in favor of such a trip and has stated that it largely depended on her obtaining a Chinese visa. On the anniversary of the signing of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Treaty she paid a call to the Chinese Consulate. She told them of her plans in Finnish, and they replied that such a trip was quite possible and that arrangements could be made through Lonsaatta Oy, the local communist travel bureau. She then explained her situation in Helsinki as a Fulbright student. The Consul very politely told her that then she must understand that there may be some difficulty in her obtaining the visa as an American but that he would be willing to request permission. He also stated that she must understand that their two countries had no official relations and that she must also request permission from her own country. She answered that she realized all this but first was just interested in the possibilities of such a trip. After leaving the Consulate, she phoned Golub to tell him where she had been and that since she knew the Soviets and Chinese would be celebrating on that particular evening that she would be interested in hearing any comments the Chinese Consul might pass on to Golub. ⁰² Golub phoned (A) the next morning and told her that the topic did come up and that he had told the Chinese Consul that (A) had also been to the Soviet Consulate inquiring as to the possibilities of travelling across the Trans-Siberian Railway. Golub stated that he told the Chinese Consul that he ⁰² knew (A) personally and thought such a trip a good idea. The Chinese Consul responded that there might be a good chance for her to get the visa and that he doubted if a female student could do much harm in China. Lonsaatta Oy ⁰² told (A) that they could arrange such a trip as long as the visa was in order. We realize the legal and international difficulties from our side in requesting such a trip but would still under the circumstances like to have a Headquarters reading on the situation. We doubt if this is a route travelled very much and a pure observation mission might be definitely worth our while. ⁰² Since (A) has received an extension of her Fulbright grant until spring, she could make such a trip the end of May. An early reply would be appreciated.

2. Prior to Golub's departure ⁰² (20) from Helsinki he told (A) that if she agreed he would like to introduce her to what he termed the senior political officer in the Soviet Embassy, Viktor VLADIMIROV (listed as 2nd Secretary on the Dip. List). Golub explained that since he would be leaving Finland, he would like her to meet whom he considered to be the "most intelligent officer in the Soviet Embassy" and who would enjoy carrying on the conversational evenings. ⁰² (A) said that she had no objections as long as it did not interfere with her school work. A few days ago GOLUB arranged a luncheon for the three of them at the Restikartano Restaurant in Helsinki. ⁰² (A)'s initial impression of Vladimirov was that he was cold, businesslike, direct, and not a person with whom it would be easy to become friends. He asked her many questions about her school work and her scholarship to Finland. Prior to leaving Vladimirov stated that he would like to see her on 4 March. ⁰² (A) responded that she could not make any plans that far in advance due to the heavy load of her research project. Vladimirov replied that then he would call her between 0730 and 0800 March 4 to see if she would be free that evening. (A) said she could not promise but would see.

CP/PA

3. ⁰² In another occasion Golub said he would very much like to correspond with ⁰² [AK/5] but that it did not look too good for him as a Soviet diplomat to be writing to an American student abroad. He stated that he would therefore send all of his letters through the diplomatic pouch to her. He told her that when she wrote to him she should give her letters to Vladimirov who would in turn forward them on to Golub. ⁰² [AK/5] responded that she was not a good correspondent and that she could not understand why Golub could not use the open mails. Also, she told him she objected to giving personal letters to someone like Vladimirov as she was not accustomed to having her letters reserved. Golub responded that he could guarantee her that no one would open her letters. The matter was dropped.

4. Since writing our last dispatch on ⁰² [AK/5] and Golub, their relationship remained unchanged. There was still no suspicion or pressure placed on ⁰² [AK/5] by Golub. Their situation has remained extremely cordial, and not once has Golub made any romantic overtures. What ⁰² [AK/5]-Vladimirov contact will develop into is too early to tell, but ⁰² [AK/5] took an immediate dislike to the latter and has no desire to continue the meetings as frequently as with Golub. We will keep you informed on the progress and realize the significance of such a contact in relation to the proposed return trip.

William L. Costilla

1 March 1960

Distribution

- 3 - SR
- 2 - MF
- 2 - -1

Addendum:

⁰² [AK/5] has just contacted us with some added information concerning the trip to Vladivostok. On her last meeting with Golub she again brought up the trip and told him she was sorry he was leaving at this particular time as she might need his help in getting the necessary visa. Golub told her she should not worry about this because he had given her name, along with about 50 other people's names, to the new Soviet Consul, Ivan Sergeyev (9-1 (see 420), with instructions that if and when they applied for Soviet visas they could be approved immediately. "Besides," he added, "I will be on the Finnish desk in Moscow and responsible for the final approval of visa requests sent from the Soviet Embassy in Helsinki." He also said that he thought she would have no difficulty in getting approval to go to Vladivostok where she could get airplane connections to Peking. (This goes along with an earlier comment made by Viktor Zegal that he believed Vladivostok would be soon made an open city.)

10/17