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1	SR/CI 4
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*Info on time to process and issue Soviet Transit Visa*

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1. CLASTONBURY PHONED SOVIET CONSUL KARASEV WITH PURPORTED REQUEST FOR VISA ON BEHALF US BUSINESSMAN. KARASEV SAID HE COULD ISSUE TRANSIT VISA VALID FOR 24 HOURS WITHIN FIVE MINUTES OF APPLCATION FOR ANY STAY OVER 24 HOURS HE WOULD NEED ABOUT ONE WEEK PROCESS VISA AND HAVE INTOURIST GET LODGINGS. IMPLIED SCARCITY OF HOTEL SPACE WAS MAJOR FACTOR IN DELAY OF VISA ISSUANCE.

2. FINNISH TRAVEL AGENCY REP TOLD CLASTONBURY HE CAN MANAGE GET SOVIET TOURIST VISA FOR HIS CUSTOMERS IN FIVE DAYS "WITH SOME PUSHING ON HIS SIDE".

3. WE DID NOT DISCUSS AMBASSADORIAL INTERVENTION WITH KARASEV BUT BELIEVE IT MIGHT HAVE SOME EFFECT SHOULD OUR AMBASSADOR DIRECTLY

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for FOIA Review on JUN 1976

*DMS*

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IN 32639 PAGE 2

INTERCEDE WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR. HOWEVER LAST MAY VISA FOR PRIVATE TRAVEL OF EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY TOOK TWO WEEKS THOUGH OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW WAS INTERVENING WITH SOVIET FOREIGN OFFICE.

S E C R E T

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