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DISPATCH

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Chief, WE

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STATION INFORMATION - HELSINKI/COAST/15/LOUTBOARD
Soviet Cultural Offensive in Helsinki

For Information

2-6-2

3 May 1959

- A. OSMA 1871, 21 April 1959
- B. OSMA 623, March 23, 1959

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1. As a follow-up to Reference A, which briefly mentioned the Soviet attempts at "cultural cultivation" of various young Finnish Foreign Office personnel, we would like to comment on similar actions regarding younger members of the Western Diplomatic and Consular Corps in Helsinki. Recently, within about the last two months, Soviet Embassy officials here, particularly Grigoriy Ye. GOLUB⁺ and V. F. CHALKOVSKI⁺, have been making an effort to invite younger members of the Western embassies to lunch or to view Soviet movies playing at local movie houses. For instance, GOLUB has invited Howard B. Singleton of the Canadian Legation to lunch with him and later he was seen having lunch with Aydin Yegen of the Turkish Embassy. There was also another Soviet, Makeyev⁺, at these two luncheons acting as interpreter. (We believe this is Nikolay Makeyev, the TRUD representative here.) (Coincidentally, Costille was just interrupted by a phone call from Golub inviting him to lunch today.) Chalkovski has invited Kjell Guldberg of the Norwegian Embassy, Willem Koozorp of the Dutch Embassy and Herbert Lassar of the West German Legation to a showing of the Soviet film "The Idiot." Golub had invited Costille to the same showing but Costille was unable to go. At a later lunch Golub asked Costille to be sure he saw "The Idiot" so the next time they had lunch they could discuss it. It is interesting to note that all of the above westerners are between the ages of 28-33 and all bachelors. The engagements are strictly non-political and usually cultural topics are discussed. The general opinion is that both of the Soviets, Golub and Chalkovski, are very sociable and friendly. They pick up all checks and make sure that their guest is well wined and dined.

2. We are not certain of the value of all this information but felt it was worth reporting as this cultural courting of the younger Western Embassy people seems to have definitely increased in the last two months and has been a favorite topic of discussion at recent Western Embassy functions.

3. In this same context, we are attaching a copy of Embassy Despatch 623 concerning Communist Emphasis on Youth Activities in Finland, which also discusses the Soviet Embassy's courting of various Finnish youth organizations. Since the Despatch also discusses the Vienna Youth Festival, it may be of interest to the LOUTBOARD desk.

William L. Costille

May 6, 1959

Distribution

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