

MEMORANDUM

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NOV 12 1969

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

INFORMATION

November 6, 1969



MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *HK*

SUBJECT: Soviet SALT Delegation Named: Technical Competence
Suggests Readiness to Address Concrete Problems

The six-man Soviet SALT delegation, whose names were given to ACDA by the Soviet Embassy yesterday, includes several military and technical experts. This may indicate that along with the propaganda noises that Moscow has begun to make about SALT, it may be prepared to examine the complex technical issues involved.

The delegation head is a Foreign Ministry professional, Semyonov, who has had no past disarmament experience but is a very intelligent and hard-working troubleshooting type. He has been their leading German expert and recently has handled Middle East questions as well.

The General Staff is represented by the senior deputy of the over-age Chief of Staff. This man has an engineering background and seems politically well connected.

In addition there are electronic experts and research specialists.

While one should never make too much of the composition of Soviet delegations in estimating their intentions -- these are of course politically determined and controlled -- it is at least of interest that the Soviet group looks technically very competent.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5
NLN 02-14/5 per 3.3(b)(1) ISCAP Gr. 7/31/2008

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By *JB* NARA, Date *9/11/2008*

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To Pres 4330
6-6

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Nov 6 1969

TO: Mr. Kissinger

FROM: Helmut Sonnenfeldt ✓

Attached at Tab A for signature is a brief memo to the President commenting on the Soviet SALT delegation.

The biographic sketches at Tab B are attached for your information

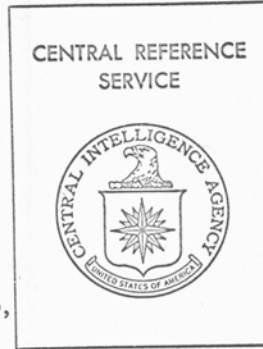
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USSR

Vladimir Semenovich SEMENOV

USSR Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

The senior Deputy Foreign Minister in terms of service, Semenov has specialized in Middle Eastern and Central European affairs since his appointment in 1955. Indicative of the increasing trust placed in him by Soviet leaders was his dispatch to Prague in April 1969, accompanied by Minister of Defense A. A. Grechko, for talks which eventually led to a more conservative realignment in the Czech government. The status of Semenov as a diplomatic trouble-shooter, similar to First Deputy Minister V. V. Kuznetsov, rather than simply an area specialist, was affirmed in May 1969, when Semenov revealed that he would henceforth be concerned with "general questions" of foreign policy. Semenov is a candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and the co-author of Istoriya Diplomatii (A History of Diplomacy).



The fifty-eight year old Semenov graduated from the Moscow Institute of History, Philosophy and Literature in 1937 and joined the foreign service two years later. He soon began to acquire expertise on German matters: he held a pre-war diplomatic post in Berlin, returned there in 1946 to serve first as a political advisor and then as High Commissioner of the Soviet Military Administration, attended numerous international conferences on European problems and eventually took up duties as chief of the Foreign Ministry's Central European Division in 1954. Although at that time one of the top policy advisors on German affairs, Semenov dates his involvement in Middle East policy from the mid-1950's. He has been closely associated with Arab-Soviet liaison since the Arab-Israeli war of June 1967.

Semenov is considered to be personable, urbane and witty. He is interested in art and classical music. He speaks English and German well.

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GROUP 1
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EXEMPT

MANDATORY REVIEW REQUEST

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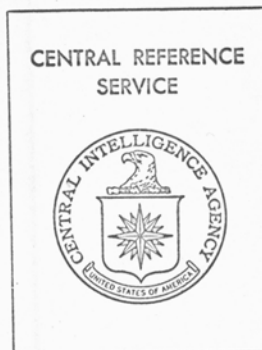
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

USSR

Nikolay Vasil'yevich OGARKOV

First Deputy Chief of the General Staff,
Soviet Armed Forces

Colonel General Ogarkov, a fast-rising military careerist with patronage at the highest levels of the Soviet defense hierarchy, assumed his present post in the summer of 1968. One of three first deputy chiefs of the General Staff, Ogarkov is believed to be in charge of General Affairs and would be a logical representative for Chief of Staff M. V. Zakharov at the Arms Limitation Talks. Named to his previous position as Commander of the Volga Military District in late 1965, Ogarkov attained candidate membership in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) a scant four months later, an achievement which placed him on equal footing with such then prominent commanders as Marshals Budenny, Yeremenko, Rokossovskiy and Timoshenko. There are indications that Ogarkov's career was aided by former Minister of Defense Rodion Malinovskiy, who oversaw the former's work when both were stationed in the Soviet Far East during the early 1950's. The continuing prestige which Ogarkov enjoys among Soviet leaders was attested to by his presence on a high-level military delegation to Prague, headed by Defense Minister Grechko, and the military's political specialist Yepishev, in May 1968 prior to the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.



Ogarkov is a trained military engineer and apparently saw no actual combat during World War II. He graduated from the Military Engineering Academy in 1941 and held responsible positions in army engineering units until 1946. Ogarkov followed Malinovskiy to Moscow in 1957 and took up studies at the Academy of the General Staff. He graduated in 1959 and by 1961 he had become Chief of Staff of the Belorussian Military District, a sizeable promotion.

Ogarkov was born in 1917. He is a deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet. He has held the rank of Colonel General since late 1967.

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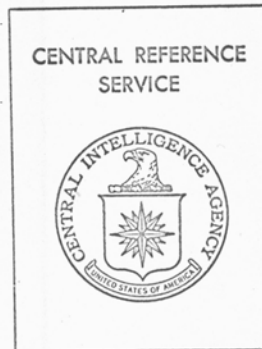
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USSR

Georgiy Markovich KORNIYENKO

Chief, United States of America Division,
USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

Ambassador Korniyenko has been dealing with US officials since his tour at the Soviet Embassy in Washington as counselor (1960-1965). In his present position, which he has held since early 1966, he has generally been firm but restrained in presenting the Soviet viewpoint. Early in his Washington tour, Korniyenko was characterized by a US political scientist as well trained and alert, but not brilliant. In Washington, he also served as Charge d'Affaires during the absence of the Soviet Ambassador and was described, during 1962, as the Soviet Embassy's best informed man on disarmament. While Soviet Ambassador A. F. Dobrynin was on home leave in late 1968 and early 1969, Korniyenko was rumored as a possible replacement.



Little is known of Korniyenko's early life, and nothing to explain his rise from Foreign Ministry employee in 1947 to counselor in Washington in 1960. He was born on 13 February 1925 in Kherson, Ukrainian SSR. By his own statement, Korniyenko served in the Red Army from 1943 to 1947. He appeared in 1964 as an advisor to the Soviet delegation to the 1964 Geneva Conference on Asia and in 1959 as an advisor to the Soviet delegation to the UN General Assembly. In his present capacity, he was present at conferences between Soviet Premier A. N. Kosygin and the following: then Governor Romney (December 1967), former Defense Secretary McNamara (November 1968) and Senators Gore and Pell (November 1968).

The short, now stocky Korniyenko apparently has high blood pressure and a possible heart condition, either of which may have been responsible for his sick leave in summer 1967 and early 1968. His fair English (1960) has apparently improved measureably. He has a wife, Lenyana Nikolayevna, and at least two children: Aleksandr, now 16, and Andrey, who was born in Washington on 3 December 1961.

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USSR

Petr Stepanovich PLESHAKOV

USSR Deputy Minister of the Radio Industry

Pleshakov, a specialist in aeronautical applications of radio engineering, has held his present post since at least August 1966. The Ministry of the Radio Industry supervises the production of electronic systems and end-equipment in the radio-technical field, about seventy percent of which probably flows into military uses. From at least mid-1965 until 1966 Pleshakov was a USSR Deputy Minister of Electronic Technology.

CENTRAL REFERENCE
SERVICE



Little is known of Pleshakov's background or his specific fields of competence. He was born in Tambov Oblast', RSFSR, on 13 June 1922. In July 1967 he went to France to negotiate with French engineers on mutual cooperation in aeronautical matters.

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