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Saturday, October 15, 1966

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Mr. President:

Earlier this evening Mr. Rostow sent the following cable to Ambassador Gronouski in Warsaw.

"The President asked me to get your recommendation as to the inclusion of the following sentence in a speech he will be making tomorrow morning our time.

"And, finally, I am hopeful that I can arrange to send to Poland a mission of businessmen, labor leaders and perhaps others to explore ways in which we can widen and enrich the ties between the people of Poland and the people of the United States."

Will this cause problems with the Polish Government? "

Herewith is Ambassador Gronouski's reply:

(Warsaw 937) October 15, 1966

1. Enthusiastically endorse inclusion of sentence in President's speech despite fact that in October 15 speech in Moscow Gomulka disparaged October 7 speech of President on grounds that U.S. Government cannot expect to improve relations with Eastern Europe so long as it continues its military actions in Viet-Nam.
2. While initial official government reaction may well be negative, impact of statement will be positive with broad segment of Poland's important second level leadership, and should serve, in conjunction with President's October 7 initiative and other moves now under consideration in State Department, to underline President's serious intent to follow through on his October 7 speech.
3. Even among the more intransigent top leadership, forthcoming statement should make positive impression. Therefore, while probability of quick acceptance of mission by Poles no better than 50-50, I can envision no problems with Polish Government that will be created by statement.
4. I suggest, however, that phrase " between the people of Poland and the people of the United States " be changed to " between Poland and the United States. " This restatement still does not contain " government to government " reference, and at the same time avoids people-government distinction about which Polish officials have always been touchy.

Gronouski

Mr. Rostow is in touch with Doug Cater about tomorrow's draft.

White House Situation Room

Samuel H. Rosen
Briefing Officer

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 1/30/95, State Dept. Guidelines
By jc, NARA, Date 6-21-01