



Department of State

Ed 51
TELEGRAM

41

UNCLASSIFIED 823

PAGE 01 STATE 169201

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ORIGIN EUR 20

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, P 04, RSC 01, USIA 12, SS 20, NSC 10,
D 02, PER 02, CPR 02, /080 R

DRAFTED BY: EUR/P: BALLEW
APPROVED BY: EUR: MR BEAUDRY
EUR: MR LEDDY

P 230004Z MAY 68
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 169201

FOLLOWING PORTION OF TRANSCRIPT WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING
4:30 PM, MAY 22 CONCERNING AMBASSADOR GRONOUSKI'S RESIGNATION:

QTE THE PRESIDENT HAS ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF JOHN A.
GRONOUSKI AS AMBASSADOR TO POLAND. AMBASSADOR GRONOUSKI WILL
BE RETURNING TO THIS COUNTRY SHORTLY, I THINK BEFORE
THE END OF THE MONTH.

THE PRESIDENT HAS A VERY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE EXCELLENT
SERVICE AMBASSADOR GRONOUSKI HAS RENDERED IN POLAND AND IN HIS
PREVIOUS FEDERAL ASSIGNMENTS.

Q. HOW LONG WAS HE THERE?

MR. CHRISTIAN: HE WAS APPOINTED SEPTEMBER 11, 1965, THAT IS WHEN
HE WAS COMMISSIONED.

Q. THAT IS A FAIRLY CRITICAL POST SINCE IT IS THE ONLY PLACE
WHERE WE TALK TO CHINA. IS THERE A SUCCESSOR?

MR. CHRISTIAN: NO, I DON'T HAVE ONE FOR YOU.

HIS FULL NAME IS JOHN AUSTIN GRONOUSKI. HE IS A NATIVE OF
DUNBAR, WISCONSIN, BORN OCTOBER 26, 1919. HE RECEIVED A BACHELOR'S
DEGREE AND A MASTER'S DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

UNCLASSIFIED



Department of State

TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 169201

AND ALSO A PHD. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN IN 1955.

HE WAS AN INSTRUCTOR IN ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE. HE WAS COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION IN WISCONSIN FROM 1960 TO 1963, AND POSTMASTER GENERAL FROM 1963 TO 1965. HE SERVED IN THE AIR FORCE DURING THE WAR IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER. HE HELD OTHER POSTS IN WISCONSIN IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.

Q: DID THEY GIVE A DATE WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED IN 1963, GEORGE?

MR. CHRISTIAN: AMBASSADOR GRONDUSKI TOOK HIS OATH AS POSTMASTER GENERAL ON NOVEMBER 3, 1968.

Q: WHY IS HE RESIGNING, GEORGE?

MR. CHRISTIAN: FOR PERSONAL REASONS.

Q: WHAT IS HE GOING TO DO NOW, DO YOU KNOW?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST FOR HIM TO MAKE ANY SUBSEQUENT ANNOUNCEMENTS THERE MAY BE ON IT. HE IS RESIGNING FOR PERSONAL REASONS.

Q: IS HE GOING INTO POLITICS FOR SOMEBODY?

MR. CHRISTIAN: LET'S LET HIM ANNOUNCE HIS PLANS.

Q: IT SEEMS TO COME RATHER SUDDENLY. WAS IT EXPECTED OR HAS IT BEEN BUILDING FOR SOME TIME?

MR. CHRISTIAN: IT HAS BEEN EXPECTED FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

Q: WASN'T HE HERE RECENTLY?

MR. CHRISTIAN: YES.

Q: DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN THAT WAS?

MR. CHRISTIAN: VERY RECENTLY.

Q: DID HE COME TO SERVE NOTICE OF HIS INTENTIONS?

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

TELEGRAM



UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 169201

MR. CHRISTIAN: MAX, I AM ASSUMING, SO I DON'T WANT TO GUESS.

Q. DID HE SEE THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE WAS HERE?

MR. CHRISTIAN: YES.

Q. IS THERE ANY RELATIONSHIP ON THAT AND THE TURNDOWN OF WARSAW FOR THE TALKS?

MR. CHRISTIAN: NONE WHATEVER.

Q. IS HE IN WARSAW?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I UNDERSTAND HE IS.

Q. WILL HE CONDUCT THE NEXT TALK WITH THE CHINESE ON MAY29?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN WARSAW WILL BE. I AM NOT SURE WHEN HE WILL BE RETURNING.

Q. IS HIS RESIGNATION RELATED TO MARCH 31?

MR. CHRISTIAN: NO.

WHERE CAN WE GET THIS INFORMATION ABOUT HIS FUTURE?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I WOULD ASSUME THAT HE WILL BE MAKING HIS OWN ANNOUNCEMENTS AS SOON AS HE KNOWS WE HAVE ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION.

Q. COULD WE ASK, WITHOUT REFERRING TO THE RESIGNATION, HOW IS MR. GRONDUSKI'S HEALTH? DO YOU HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THAT?

R. CHRISTIAN: I DON'T HAVE ANY PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE BUT HE LOOKS FINE. I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY PROBLEMS. I SAW HIM LAST WEEK AND HE LOOKED FINE.

Q. DIDN'T HE TELL YOU WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I THINK I WILL LEAVE IT UP TO HIM TO TELL

UNCLASSIFIED



Department of State

TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 169201

YOU WHAT HE IS GOING TO DO* UNQUOTE RUSK

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