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# GAIN FOR U. S. SEEN

## Publication Is Viewed by President as Step for Better Relations

By TOM WICKER  
Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28—President Kennedy said today that the publication in the Soviet Union of his two-hour interview with the editor of Izvestia was "a marked step forward in American-Soviet understanding."

Mr. Kennedy said he hoped publication of the interview "will lead to further intensification of free communication between our two countries at all levels."

It was evident that the White House was pleased by the results of what had been a five-month effort to place some of the President's views before the Russian people. The interview, as published, took up a third of Izvestia's front page and all of the second page.

[In Moscow, observers said the President's remarks would give the Soviet people new information and stimulate independent thinking.]

### Millions Reached

Because it is the official Government newspaper, Izvestia reaches millions of Soviet

readers.

Pierre Salinger, the White House press secretary, said that "any time an American President can get his views over to the Soviet people as precisely as the President was able to do, I think it's a step forward."

White House satisfaction, official sources said, was hardly marred by the one substantive change Izvestia made in the text of the President's interview with Aleksei I. Adzhubei, its editor.

The newspaper did not alter or delete any of Mr. Kennedy's comments, but it made—what were believed to be internal political reasons—one change in a statement by Mr. Adzhubei.

### Administration Blamed

Commenting upon the aftermath of Premier Khrushchev's visit to the United States in 1959, Mr. Adzhubei said: "But unfortunately the results of that trip were not completely satisfactory." The approved text carried that sentence.

As Izvestia published it, however, it read: "But the positive results of that trip were wrecked and brought to nothing by the well-known actions of the then American Administration."

This was an allusion to the celebrated "U-2 incident," when an American reconnaissance plane was shot down over the Soviet Union. This took place a few months after Mr. Khrushchev's visit here and led to his cancellation of a return visit by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Mr. Khrushchev also used the incident to cut short a summit

Continued on Page 19, Column 4

## Kennedy Calls Izvestia Interview Advance in U.S.-Soviet Relations

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4 into Russian as faithfully as possible.

meeting between the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France in Paris in 1960.

Mr. Kennedy's view of the single textual change was reported to be that Mr. Adzhubei's original sentence was ambiguous enough to have been interpreted by Mr. Khrushchev's internal critics as placing the responsibility upon him for the unsatisfactory results of his trip to the United States.

Such East-West contacts long have been an issue in Soviet politics, with Mr. Khrushchev and Mr. Adzhubei, his son-in-law, among their leading advocates.

White House sources said that since no change had been made in the President's comments Mr. Kennedy believed the one revision did not diminish the success of the interview.

Publication in Izvestia today of the text spread under a seven-column headline—the maximum—was the result of a lengthy and involved process. It began with high-speed shorthand and included the transposition of the text from English to Russian and back to English again.

What Soviet readers got was a Russian text of an English transcript of a dialogue in both languages.

What readers in the United States have is an English transcript of the Russian text.

During the interview, Mr. Adzhubei's questions and comments in Russian and Mr. Kennedy's replies in English were translated by Georgi Bolshikov, the editor of the English-language Soviet magazine USSR. Alexander Akalovsky, a State Department interpreter, was present to check on Mr. Bolshikov's interpreting.

Working from Mr. Kennedy's English and Mr. Bolshikov's translation of Mr. Adzhubei's Russian, Jack Romagna, the White House shorthand reporter, took down a verbatim record of the whole conversation.

Mr. Romagna then rendered a typed English text from his notes.

The next day, Sunday, the two Russians and Mr. Akalovsky put in a twelve-hour day at the Soviet mission in New York. First, they translated Mr. Romagna's English text

Mr. Akalovsky then took the Russian text, as if it were an original document, and rendered it into English—a version differing somewhat from Mr. Romagna's primary text, but as close as it could be made to the meaning of the original. This was done to surmount the difficulty of putting some English phrases and meanings into Russian.

As Mr. Kennedy answered each question, Mr. Adzhubei launched into counterdiscussion, faithfully reflecting the general outlines of Soviet policy. In general, Mr. Kennedy then would rebut these comments.

At no time did the tone of the exchanges become acrimonious, although Mr. Adzhubei's debating style of interview led him to contradict and dispute several of the President's statements and at one point to urge him to admit a "mistake."

The interview was a pioneering venture into international communications for an American President.

Such opportunities to reach the West are nothing new to Mr. Khrushchev, although United States newspaper men interviewing him have stuck mostly to the American practice of asking questions rather than debating.

The Soviet Premier seems to have no set rules for such interviews. Sometimes, but not always, he has required the submission of questions in advance. On one such occasion, the American columnist doing the interview did not stick to the advance questions and said later, "They didn't quibble."

In recent years, these interviews have been cleared substantially as written by the Soviet censorship and reprinted accurately in Soviet publications. Censorship on outgoing dispatches no longer prevails.

One American newspaper man was asked to let Mr. Khrushchev go over what he had written and did so. Another had to agree only to let the Premier check direct quotations.

In another case, Soviet authorities insisted on the right to publish an "official" version of an interview and required the American editor in question to put the article into the third person without direct quotation.