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Dear Tom,

Received your 5/10/75. Please read what follows carefully.
When the book was printed, the page numbered 18 (Archivist's pagination) of the 12/16/63 meeting (which begins on p.47, my pagination) of the Sightext edition accidentally appeared in two places, instead of just one. The first appearance (as page 20, my pagination) was the erroneous one. The second appearance, as page 65 (again, my pagination) is the correct one.

This is the page that starts with the Chairman saying:
"Well, I think Mr. Rankin ought to explore..." and ends with the phrase "...the reevaluation of the ruble..."

So that page (p.18, archivist's number, of the 12/16 session) appeared twice: erroneously as my page 20, and correctly as my page 65.

As you apparently know, a corrected page 20 (my pagination) was printed up, and sent out.

But in using and inserting this errata sheet (corrected page 20, my pagination) one is expected to remember to skip the one that is already there. Thus, the proper sequence is to go from the bottom of page 19 (my pagination), skip what is on the opposite side, and then go to the top of the corrected page 20, (my pagination), which starts: "...the integrity of the proceedings here.

If I understand the viewpoint behind the letter you composed, you do not seem to be aware that the page originally (and erroneously) numbered 20 (my pagination) and on which you find so many out of context juicy remarks, again appears exactly where it belongs, and in full context, as page 65 (my pagination).

Doesn't it do so in your copy? (If not, do let me know).

To answer your question directly, then....

- 1) I do not have any pages of the WC Exec. Session transcript, and only have what anybody else has---that which has been declassified;
- 2) The error you seem to have made was to confuse the internal pagination numbers, and the external ones which I added; ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
- 3) The above error (cited in (2)), may be the result of believing that

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the handwritten notation which appears on p.45 (my pagination) was either written by me or refers to my page numbers. Neither is the case. That is an exact reproduction of the page which came in on my microfilm, and the numbers mentioned there, pp.43-68, refer to internal page numbers (i.e., the Archivist's, not mine) of the December 5th meeting. The juicy page---~~XXXXX~~ your 65/20 ~~XXXXXX~~--- is my page 65 and comes from the December 16 meeting.

4) Furthermore, that page (with that handwriting---#45, my pagination) is the last page I was sent for the December 5 meeting. The very next page in the sighttext edition (labeled 46, my pagination, and containing the word "OUT") is all that I was sent for the 12/6 meeting. According to your 3/25/75 letter, that ~~XX~~ meeting is still withheld. The very next page (#47, my pagination) is the start of the 12/16 meeting. If you now go forward to internal page number 18 (my page 65), you will find the page which, when read out of context (on my original, and erroneous, page 20) appears to mysterious.

5) Regarding small pagination inconsistencies...

I have not looked into this, but I presume that they are accounted for by the process the archivist goes through in withholding pages, and using insert sheets. My pagination was continuous, and ran over the pages as they came in off a microfilm I ordered in March 1968.

If, after that time, the archivist declassifies something, that insert sheet (which now has become part of ~~the~~ pagination of the Sighttext edition) is then removed, and a clump of pages put there instead. (And in addition, in computing number-of-pages, one must remember to subtract page numbers, and then add one),

~~XX~~ If these inconsistencies are still troubling, I would be more than ~~XX~~ happy to make you a duplicate microfilm of the one that was sent me back in March, 1968, ^{by the Archivist,} and from which the Sighttext edition was printed. (I don't think the cost, even with the inflation, would be more than \$10-12 dollars; but you're welcome to it, if you like).

6) Re your comment,

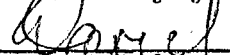
"...p. 65 was and is classified. How did you get hold of it? More importantly, do you have pages 44-64 and 66-68? Will you "declassify" them?

a. I "got hold of it" because it was p.18 of the 12/16 meeting which was declassified way back in March 1968, and that's why it appears in p.65 of the book.

b. Re the rest....I don't have anything that is classified, and can't "declassify" anything which I don't have.

Since I have taken the time (about 2 hours) to go through all this, would you mind sharing with me your thoughts on how you came up with your hypothesis, and why you would impute the behavior you apparently would, to me?

Sincerely yours,



David Lifton

Archives-West