

9/12/71

Dear Js,

Two thoughts I want to note for consideration when I return to TIGER, from reading Stephen Rosenfeld's Khrushchev obit in today's POST. Rosenfeld, if I remember correctly was expelled from the Soviet Union on charges of anti-Sovietism. If true, he has surely mellowed since, especially with regard to Kh.

The Kh declaration of "true communism" as a 20-year goal in 1961 may have been a contributing factor on his decision to place missiles in Cuba when Che and Raul went to Moscow in June 62 to report plans for another US invasion. Without this goal, in my view, Kh had, from his view, more than enough reason for his subsequent actions. But I wonder if this fond dream, to be the Russians who made communism a reality - an impossibility without world peace - may not have been an added cause.

Then also it seemed to me that while external considerations were not identical, is there not a kind of similarity in purposes between Kh's "peaceful co-existence" move to the west, first enunciated to the dolt Nixon, then touring v-p, and the later Mao move? Kitchens and pingpong are not the same, but can they not be similar as non-military, non-diplomatic approaches.

In each case the initiative was not with this country, and in each case it was with a country that could less afford (in one sense, its) the enormous military expenditures, and in each case after it had developed a meaningful possibility of defense that this country had sought to render impossible beginning with old big-hearted Bernie Baruch, who regarded decency in diplomacy as the equivalent of the accepted crookedness of the stock market?

As it later turned out, the official US position is that at the time he made the pitch to Nixon, Kh did not have rocket parity. The Chinese certainly now do not. But these things take time and any capacity if a kind of restraint.

With both countries, their moves came after they developed the thermonuclear capacity and a means of delivery.

This requires no response. I want to make the note and this serves that purpose. But if you have any comment, it might later be helpful and now interesting. I've not thought it through. That will come with TIGER-riding.