

Nixon Seeks 'Influence' Agreement

By Drew Pearson
and Jack Anderson

Behind President Nixon's diplomatic sparring with the Russians is the secret aim of negotiating a non-interference pact which would keep the two superpowers out of each other's sphere of influence.

This is not unlike a proposal made by Joseph Stalin at Tehran to Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt that Russia have its sphere of influence in Eastern Europe and nearby Asia, the British have theirs in Western Europe and Africa, and the United States its sphere of influence in Latin America. Roosevelt turned this down.

President Nixon's current ideas would be along the line of a private understanding rather than a formal treaty, with the United States agreeing not to interfere with Soviet policy in Eastern Europe and Russia pledging not to meddle in Latin American affairs.

The President has taken pains, for example, not to interfere with Soviet moves in Czechoslovakia. He believes the Kremlin should be equally willing to keep its hands off Latin America.

The President believes, say insiders, that a private understanding on spheres of influence is the best way to avoid a nuclear confrontation between

the superpowers and to reduce tensions in the world.

He recognizes that it will take skillful diplomacy to reassure other nations that the United States and Russia aren't arbitrarily carving up the world into separate spheres. As the President views it, any Russian-American understanding would not interfere with the independence of other nations.

Note: Nixon's approach is the opposite of that of the Eisenhower Administration, which came into power full of bluster about "liberating" the countries behind the Iron Curtain. All the talk turned out to be empty, however, when the Soviets moved into Hungary in 1956.

Will C-5A Be OK?

Despite all the bad publicity and its cost overruns, the C-5A may turn out to be a pretty good airplane. This is the gist of a confidential memo to Secretary of Defense Mel Laird from Air Force Secretary Bob Seamans in which Seamans has defended the C-5A and has reported that its flight tests have been "encouraging."

"The information received from the aircraft flight test program," wrote Seamans, "has been encouraging. Four aircraft have accumulated over 230 flying hours. Based on this preliminary flight test data and wind tunnel analysis,

the aircraft is forecast to meet or exceed all of its performance guarantees. Its handling and flying qualities are reported to be excellent by the pilots who have flown the aircraft."

Seamans complained that the press had misrepresented the amount of the cost increase. In 1964, Seamans said, the Air Force estimated that 120 planes would cost \$3.1 billion—the figure widely quoted in the press.

Subsequently, the Air Force decided to increase the payload, which added \$350 million to the cost. Inflation added another \$500 million, and another \$840 million worth of spare parts and ground equipment was ordered.

The actual overrun was not the full \$2.1 billion that the press has reported, but only \$382 million, according to Seamans.

In any case, Seamans notified the Secretary of Defense that a management review of the C-5A program has been started.

Crime Crackdown

Attorney General John Mitchell is quietly forming special task forces in key cities to crack down on organized crime.

Like Elliot Ness's gangbusters in the roaring 20s, the new task forces will be armed with wiretaps, income tax re-

turns and every other legal weapon that can be used against the racket bosses.

The crackdown will be directed by Henry Petersen, chief of the Justice Department's organized crime section, who has been itching to go after the Mafia.

Under the Democrats he was restrained by Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who was opposed to the indiscriminate use of wiretaps.

Clark also felt that the Justice Department should concentrate on the less glamorous but more compelling problem of combating crime in the streets. While this is a problem for local police, he was convinced it would take all available Federal resources to whip the local forces into shape to meet the challenge.

Clark wanted to spend all the taxpayers' money he could lay his hand on to improve the standards, training and equipment of local police forces.

Mitchell, however, is looking for dramatic results which, he feels, will help bring back a law-and-order atmosphere in the country. He is supported by Deputy Attorney General Richard Kleindienst and Assistant Attorney General Will Wilson.

They have now unleashed Petersen, who is going ahead with the gang-busting drive he long has been urging.

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