

# Tito Blunt with Nixon on U.S. Position

By Jack Anderson

Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito claims he told President Nixon that the U.S. could easily have prevented Soviet gains in the Central European-Middle Eastern areas and that it's "late but not too late" to prevent the consolidation of these gains.

This astonishing admonition from a veteran Communist leader is contained in a confidential translation, obtained by this column, of Tito's conversations with neutral diplomats.

He told them he is worried about Soviet successes and fears a further disbalance of power in favor of Russia. "Nixon has to realize," said Tito, "that the Soviets try to get what never belonged to them and that the U.S. is expected to relinquish positions which already belong to them or their allies."

The Yugoslav leader said he spoke bluntly to Mr. Nixon about the deteriorating U.S. position in Central Europe and the Middle East. As he explained afterward to the diplomats: "They permit their closest ally in Europe (West Germany) to make irrevocable

concessions to the Soviets. They permit the U.S.S.R. to become the supreme power in parts of the Mediterranean."

Tito said he urged Mr. Nixon to counsel West Germany's Chancellor Willy Brandt to be "cautious and reserved" in his dealings with the Soviets. Tito expressed doubt that the Germans will ever obtain any real concessions from the Kremlin.

"If Bonn fails to get real Berlin concessions and still ratifies the treaty," he said, "Moscow would be the winner in the game—and for the next 100 years."

## Tito's Aim

The tough old Communist hastened to assure his listeners, according to the confidential translation, that he hadn't suddenly become soft on America.

"Of course, we are not pro-American," he said. "But we support a balance of power that would make it impossible for one superpower to gain total supremacy. For this would end either in a new war or in a division of the world into two distinctly separated spheres. One power could hold total supremacy in one part of

the world and the other power similar supremacy in the other. This would be even worse than the already undesirable division of the world into spheres of influence."

Tito made it clear that he didn't want his former comrades in the Kremlin to expand their influence into West Germany nor to establish themselves as the major power in the Mediterranean.

Apparently, he felt his advice had some effect on the American President. For the confidential document quotes Tito as saying:

"Nixon admitted that the U.S. had become engaged too deeply in Far Eastern problems, but that the U.S. is strong enough to take care of its interests in Asia and at the same time deal effectively with the problems of the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Central Europe. I believe Nixon's attitude toward the Soviet Union is getting tougher."

Footnote: A high U.S. official, who was present during most of the secret discussions between President Nixon and Marshal Tito, told this column that Tito had not engaged in tough talk about the Soviets.

Rather, it was the President who declared his determination to maintain U.S. power in the Mediterranean and Central Europe.

## White House Whispers

President Nixon carried on a warm personal correspondence with the late Charles de Gaulle. After the 1968 election, the President received two letters from de Gaulle stressing how both of them had overcome defeat to rise to leadership. The grand old Frenchman referred repeatedly to the "character" it had taken not to give up. He cited others who hadn't been deterred by defeat, including Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill and, of course, himself.

President Nixon is having second thoughts about Senator Strom Thurmond, who has been the administration's spokesman in the South. Thurmond couldn't even deliver his home state of South Carolina where he put his prestige on the line in behalf of Albert Watson for governor. Watson went down to defeat. Now the President is wondering if ol' Strom can even get himself reelected in 1972.

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