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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR

WALT W. ROSTOW

*Frantisek*

This memorandum follows our conversation regarding recent discussions I have had with a Mr. Pavlis, Cultural Attache of the Embassy of Czechoslovakia.

I have known Mr. Pavlis for about a year, and my relations with him are very cordial in that we both deal with the arts. I have been to the embassy, and often attend showings of Czech films at the Motion Picture Association of America. Mr. Pavlis has met several members of our Arts Council, and on one occasion attended a reception for the entire Council held at Roger Stevens' home in Georgetown.

At the time of the removal of the American citizen (whose name escapes me) from an airliner, diverted from its flight to land in Prague, I met Mr. Pavlis at the MPAA during a film showing, and took him aside to tell him how deeply disturbed I was. I assured him that I did not, and could not, speak for our government, but asserted that many of our officials were distressed. (I made no mention of the other cases, at that time and later, affecting National Security.) In that a Czech film, "The Shop on Main Street," had recently won the Academy Award for the best foreign film of the year, Mr. Pavlis said he, too, was distressed and at a loss for an explanation but he would speak to the Ambassador.

At a subsequent meeting, during a cocktail party I believe, Mr. Pavlis twice took me aside to discuss this matter, and seemed to be sounding me out, casually, as to how serious I thought the situation was and how it would affect mutual relations. Although not wishing to speak for the government, I said it appeared to be very serious and would not be lightly forgotten. I tended to emphasize that our cultural relations, up to that point, had been improving considerably but that this affair had cast a shadow over future dealings.

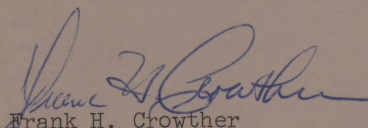
About two weeks ago, Mr. Pavlis called me, requesting that we have lunch. I was busy, and begged off for a time. He called me that same week suggesting another luncheon, and we met at the Jockey Club. After a drink and some pleasantries, Mr. Pavlis kept coming back, again and again, to this aforementioned incident. For the first part of the conversation, he was explaining how ruthless a character this man was who had been removed from the plane. I said I knew nothing about that and, even if it were true, the American public knew only that a naturalized citizen had been illegally removed from an international flight. He said that Ambassador Duda had discussed the situation with Secretary Rusk, and that it was still "viable." I pressed



Walt W. Rostow - 2

him on this point, but he backed away. His parting words were something to the effect that he hoped something could be done to reconcile this problem, "but, you know, it's up to Mr. Rusk, too." What he meant by the latter, I don't know.

This Friday, I have been invited to a Black Tie affair at the Czeck Embassy, which I plan to accept. If this matter comes up again, I would appreciate advice as to how you wish me to handle the situation.



Frank H. Crowther  
Special Assistant to Roger Stevens

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