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File Folder WORLD PEACE COUNCIL 4/1/82-8/15/82

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PRADOS

2937

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
179963	FOLDER	MEMOS, CABLES, NOTES	23	5/18/1982	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

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1982

Foreign Affairs Note



United States Department of State
Washington, D.C.

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL: INSTRUMENT OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY

April 1982

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In recent years, the WPC has expanded its activities while trying to broaden its appeal and sound less like a cold war propaganda vehicle. It has sought support in the Third World by posing as an independent body identifying with such causes as opposition to U.S. "aggression" in Vietnam, anticolonialism, and assistance to "liberation movements." In NATO countries, it has exploited fears of nuclear war by stimulating and/or sponsoring antinuclear rallies and advocating Soviet-supported disarmament policies.

The WPC and similar fronts periodically have faced internal problems because their Soviet affilia-

tion cannot always be reconciled with the desired image of independence and nonalignment. In 1949, following the expulsion of Yugoslavia from the Cominform, the WPC expelled its Yugoslav representatives. Similarly, the Sino-Soviet dispute led to the WPC's ostracism of China, which later became a major critic of all Soviet fronts. Nikita Khrushchev's revelations of Stalinist excesses at the 20th Soviet Communist Party Congress in February 1956 and the suppression of the Hungarian uprising by Soviet troops the following November cost the fronts considerable popular support. After the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968, Moscow, in order to restore discipline, replaced nearly all major Communist-front officials. Although opposition to Soviet control occasionally occurs within the WPC, the leaders are usually able to confine dissent to private meetings of commissions or subcommissions. Dissenting views seldom find their way into the large-scale WPC-sponsored public gatherings. When, for example, Soviet human rights activist Andre Sakharov sent a message in 1976 to a WPC-sponsored forum on disarmament in York, Great Britain, it was not read to delegates as Sakharov had requested. At meetings in 1977, non-Communist participants embarrassed WPC leaders by asking questions about human rights violations in the U.S.S.R., but none of this found its way into the official reports. More recently,

the December 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan apparently once again generated dissension within the WPC. Two months elapsed before the WPC issued a statement endorsing the Afghan invasion.

MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

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Historically, it has been the function of the fronts to mobilize those elements of society not normally reached by local, Moscow-linked Communist parties--for example, sympathizers not wishing to commit themselves entirely to party discipline and those interested only in particular issues or moved by certain emotional appeals. Lenin saw the potential of international mass organizations as a means to marshal public support for party directives. In the 1930s during the "popular front" period, Willi Munzenberg, a veteran Communist organizer working for the Comintern, spoke cynically of international front organizations as "innocents' clubs."

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The WPC claims to be funded by contributions from national peace committees, donations to its World Peace Fund, and special collections. The evidence, however, strongly suggests that the bulk of its expenses are met by the Soviet Union. In addition, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, and Cuba provide material and financial support to the WPC, usually in the form of airline service and hotel expenses.¹

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said in response to questioning that the WPC's accounts were not independently audited but rather were reviewed by the WPC itself. In addition, he reported that the financial statements submitted to ECOSOC represented only a fraction of his organization's actual income and expenditure. Chandra made these statements while avoiding committee questions regarding the source of WPC financial contributions. According to the ECOSOC Report (March 16, 1981), ECOSOC members concluded that the WPC "had received large-scale financial support from government sources, and had gone to great lengths to conceal that fact from the committee."

EXTENT OF SOVIET CONTROL

In June 1981, at a Kremlin ceremony, Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev presented Chandra, WPC president since 1977, with the Order of Lenin. Citing Chandra's service to the "ideals of peace, his selflessness in the bitter struggle against the forces of militarism and aggression," Brezhnev expressed gratification that the Soviet "peace program" for the 1980s met with "full understanding" from such an "authoritative movement as the movement of peace champions" (20th Century and Peace, August 1981). This act symbolizes the importance the Soviets attach to the WPC: The Order of Lenin is one of the most prestigious Soviet awards and is presented personally by Brezhnev only on rare occasions.

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CA PRESS GUIDANCE (if asked only)

June 2, 1982

VISA REFUSALS OF JAPANESE APPLICANTS TO SSOD

Q. Have the 300 Japanese applicants been denied visas to attend the UN Special Session on Disarmament because they are advocates against the use of nuclear weapons as reported by the New York Times?

A. No. Hundreds of visas have been granted to Japanese applicants who are members of antinuclear organizations. Most of the 348 Japanese applicants who have been denied have been members of Gensuikyo, an organization closely affiliated with the World Peace Council. The World Peace Council is an organization with strong affiliations with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. We are denying visas in those cases as required under section 212(a)(28) of the Immigration and Nationality Act which prohibits the issuance of a visa to anyone who is a member of or affiliated with a proscribed organization. Both the World Peace Council and Gensuikyo are proscribed organizations.

As required by the McGovern amendment, the cases are now

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being referred to the Attorney General, who will consider on a case-by-case basis whether specific grounds of ineligibility will be waived and entry visas issued for members of proscribed organizations. So the process is not yet complete. The denials are not directed specifically toward Japan, but based on longstanding provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act. In addition, there have been administrative problems with processing so many applications in such a relatively short period of time.

Q. What is the basis for making the World Peace Council a proscribed organization?

A. The World Peace Council has long standing direct political and financial affiliation with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which forms the basis for determining the Council's status as a proscribed organization as defined under section 212 (a) (28) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. The World Peace Council's activities, policy line and financing suggest that it is an instrument of Soviet policy. U. S. immigration law recognizes the existence of such groups and directs the executive branch to restrict their entry into the U. S. A more detailed account of the Council's activities and affiliation with the Soviet Union is

outlined in an April 1982 Department of State publication entitled "World Peace Council: Instrument of Soviet Foreign Policy".

Q. How does the Department determine when an organization is proscribed?

A. Section 212 (a) (28) of the Immigration and Nationality Act defines organizations in which membership in or affiliation with constitutes grounds for ineligibility. They include both Communist Parties and other organizations affiliated with Communist Parties. If a question arises about an individual organization's possible Communist affiliation, it has to be resolved on the basis of the best evidence we can acquire.

Q. Does the Department have a list of such organizations?

A. As individual organizations are determined to be Communist or affiliated, this information is furnished to consular officers in order to avoid having to go through the fact-finding process repetitively. It is important to note, however, membership in an organization which is Communist-affiliated makes an alien ineligible to receive

a visa, even if we become aware of the Communist affiliation for the first time in considering the visa application.

Q. Can those persons denied visas appeal the decision?

A. If applicants believe that circumstances have changed or they have new information, they can request that the decision be reconsidered.

Q. When were the applications submitted to our posts in Japan and when were they denied?

A. I understand the applications were only received in the Department about ten days ago and as processing has gone forward denials have resulted in the course of the past week.

Q. Were not some of these people admitted to the last Special Session four years ago?

A. Perhaps. In any event it is necessary to go through the procedure I have described in reviewing the present applications.

Q. Does that mean they will be denied this time?

A. As I indicated the Attorney General makes his decision on a case-by case basis.

Drafted:CA/PA:JWebb:CA/REFritts
5/26/82 x26326
Doc. ID# 0716A

Clearances:

CA - REFritts
CA/VO - EKreuser
CA/VO - DMorris (substance)
CA/VO - CScully (substance)
EA/J - MVaeth
INR - WYoung (substance)
IO - FProvyen (substance)
P - DLowenfeld
L/CA - HCollums
HA - EAbrams(*substance*)
INFO - ALL GEOGRAPHIC PAOs
H - CThibodeau/JMontgomery
INS - VJervis

30
~~SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

July 13, 1982

TO: RICHARD PIPES
CAREY LORD
RICHARD LEVINE

FROM: KEN deGRAFFENREID

FYI.

Attachment

UNCLASSIFIED
WITH SECRET ATTACHMENT

DECLASSIFIED FROM PERSONAL
OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE (S)
SW 9/2/16

~~SECRET~~