

From: Alusna Moscow (R. Adm. Maples)

Date: 4 March 1946

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Action CNO.

## (Kennan's Message)

Attention invited to Embassy telegram 511 February 22 9 post meridian to Sec State. Consider this document in essential remarkably clear and sound presentation of basic elements of problem of relations USSR and USA and to world. While addressed to those charged with external relations recommend study by Navy Department because believe problem transcends diplomacy alone. Soviet Armed Forces are being used and will undoubtedly continue to be used as active instruments in execution of Soviet planning effort not short that necessary for conduct major war. Believe best approach to problem would be formation of high level committee containing at proper security levels representatives of all agencies of government plus representatives of major cultural scientific and economic organizations of US to study and make recommendations to President. Such committee drawing its conclusions and recommendations from study of all available information should furnish necessary authority to insure that actions flowing from its estimates and decisions would be realistic best possible and reasonable certain support majority American people.

Still it must be borne in mind that power is relative and depending upon degree of demobilization in Europe and extent that US retains military and political potential a condition of unbalance that may arise at any time which it is believed Soviet leaders would not hesitate to exploit with armed might. Furthermore believe all agencies of our government should be cognizant of features and manifestations of Soviet organism in order insure their moral, mental, and physical, political and economic policies. While of opinion Russia anxious avoid major conflict and urgently in need of long period reconstruction and development before ready for total war. (Stalin stated in public speech that it would take 15 or more years of intensive development of military and industrial potential before security USSR assure.)

Believe this primarily due to inability of people reared in democratic tradition to remotely understand utter ruthlessness and complete unscrupulousness of Soviet ruling clique. Its breath must be literally felt on back of neck before really appreciated. Thoroughly convinced problem of dealing with USSR is not only extremely complex but also most important one facing America and world today and requires preparation for any or all eventualities. Alusna Moscow during past 2 and 1/2 years

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had opportunity read many governmental papers dealing with Russian relations and recommendations re US policy towards USSR. While impressed by their intellectual scope and logical conclusions feels with increasing assurance that nearly all originating in US plus such efforts towards implementation as have been undertaken have not been products of that genuine conviction which generates positive action. In other words, wishful thinking still potent force in conduct of our relations with USSR.

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