

Subj.: Contacts with
Soviets

January 2, 1969

HAK;

Re the problem of contacts with the Soviet Embassy:

I suggest you talk with Haldeman about the problem, and suggest he raise it with RN. If Haldeman gets Nixon's approval that all such contacts be stopped, Haldeman could then personally call Ellsworth and Buchanan and order them to call a halt.

If Haldeman prefers, you can raise it directly with RN, but try the other approach first.

The points to make (to either man) are:

- Several members of the staff have been talking to members of the Soviet Embassy.
- These contacts cannot long go unnoticed. Word will soon spread around Washington.
- The Soviets are skilled at playing one man off against another, picking up more information than they give.
- It is time to put contacts with the Soviets in the proper channels. Otherwise, after January 20, there will be real chances for embarrassment, and cause for irritation on Rogers' part.
- The proper channels for all contacts with the Soviets are Secretary Rogers (or his designee) and yourself (or your designee).

LSE

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