



cc. Amb. *Rosen*
 per HWS
 8/14/67

Moscow, August 4, 1967

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from Amb. Thompson

The Honorable
 Dean Rusk
 Secretary of State
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Dean:

In my after-luncheon talk with Dobrynin I expressed surprise that while in the United States Kosygin had again indicated we were only interested in limiting ABMs and not offensive weapons. Dobrynin said you had also raised this with him and that he would take the matter up with Kosygin when he saw him toward the end of this month.

I said I thought the Soviet Government must misunderstand our purposes in raising this question and I was puzzled why. We were not trying to freeze an advantage and I was convinced that an agreement was in both our interests. I wondered if the Chinese Communist situation entered into the picture. Did the Soviets think for example that we did not want them to have a defense against a Chinese atomic attack? I thought we were both in the same boat on this and would be quite prepared to talk about it.

Dobrynin agreed with the last point but said he thought there probably was some misunderstanding. He said it was very difficult for a diplomat to hold his own in an argument on this question as opponents of an agreement could bring up all kinds of technical arguments and statements which a diplomat could not dispute. (He was clearly referring to their military and indicated there had been extended debate on the problem in the Soviet Government.) He went on to say that, speaking personally and asking not to be quoted, he thought it had been a mistake at Glassboro for the President to ask McNamara to make his presentation before so many people instead of privately to Kosygin. He thought the big audience had inhibited McNamara and said that his own private talk with him had been much more convincing. I pointed out also that McNamara had not been able to complete his expose as the luncheon had broken up before he had finished.

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I may get some more from him while we are both in the Crimea.

Sincerely,

Tommy

Llewellyn E. Thompson

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