

February 24, 1959

Charles Douglas Jackson's Views on Eastern Europe

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Summary:

C.D. Jackson, in a personal letter to Allen Dulles, suggests reviving the concept of liberation of Eastern Europe.

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C. D. JACKSON
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~~PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Allen:

Herewith a couple of weekend thoughts:

* * *

I am very much afraid that the May 27th deadline on Berlin may find the world public intellectually unprepared and confused, and therefore an easy prey to the babel of voices which will be heard. Anything that can be done between now and then to lay some kind of solid platform should be all to the good.

It occurred to me that one of the elements of the Berlin situation least known and least understood outside the Foreign Ministries is our legal position.

Would it not be possible, on a crash basis, using an organization like Bonsal's Free Jurists, to organize several task forces of two or three lawyers each, not all Americans, to make a whirlwind trip of Europe, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and possibly the Near East, where meetings would be organized for them at which, in the language of the country, the legal position of the allies in Berlin would be clearly set forth, and then allow the meeting to go into a long question-and-answer period. I am sure Mr. Khrushchev would not like such a project, which makes it all the more attractive to me.

Admittedly this is not going to solve the problem all by itself, but it would start some thinking among serious people along a new line, and with good press pickup could be of considerable help.

* * *

On the assumption that the East German and East Berlin population wants the western allies, and particularly the U.S., to stay in Berlin (the flow of 3000 refugees a month would certainly confirm this assumption), how about organizing, for the early part of May, a series of slowdown strikes in East Germany as a demonstration against Khrushchev's proposal.

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Here is a trickier one.

We have just about run out of acts by which to give the Soviets pause. Even getting a third or a half of SAC in the air no longer has the bite it once had. But there is one thing that still haunts the Kremlin, and that is a general uprising in the Eastern European satellite belt.

Were we really smart in abandoning the policy of liberation and carefully never mentioning the word again?

But smart or not, shouldn't the word and the concept be very skillfully revived now? I know that we suffered a terrible setback in Hungary. But now our own backs are considerably closer to the wall, and will actually be right up against it if we pull out of Berlin without a counter-concession from the Russians which can be clearly understood by all as a big step forward, and not as a big step in retreat.

It seems to me that the re-infiltration behind the Iron Curtain of the concept of liberation would be the most powerful deterrent that we could exert short of World War III.

I fully appreciate that this has not only got to be carefully thought through, but even more, that if we embark on it we must be prepared to follow through if a showdown were to come, and this is tricky and risky business.

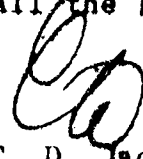
In RFE and RADIO LIBERATION you have two superb instruments through which the idea could be subtly conveyed. Conceivably this campaign could be supported by a speech by the Vice President, who might discuss liberation with sense and firmness. All diplomatic exchanges with the Soviets should include some reference to our dissatisfaction with the status of the satellite countries, even though the item was irrelevant to the main subject at hand. The Communists constantly use irrelevance as a drip method of making a point.

If the top echelon of Government could make up its mind on this, I am convinced that a powerful and effective counter-brush-fire can be lit between now and the end of May.

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"Liberation" is not an ugly word; it is a good word;
it is an American word; it is an unambiguous word.
It is the one word the Kremlin fears.

All the best,



C. D. Jackson

The Honorable Allen W. Dulles
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