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3 September 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Report of Trip to [redacted] Regarding
Publication of Dr. Zhivago

1. I left Washington by air at 9:50 a.m., 25 August and arrived at [redacted] around noon. [redacted]

2. We met [redacted] in his office at 2 p.m. I had already briefed [redacted] on the background of the operation and on our primary objectives regarding [redacted]. [redacted] asked me to fill in [redacted] regarding our reasons for not wanting [redacted] to publish the book. After giving [redacted] a brief description of the book and the author, I emphasized the following:

a. The U.S. Government has been instrumental in making arrangements for the publication of PASTERNAK's Dr. Zhivago. It is felt that to have the greatest psychological impact upon Soviet readers the Russian edition of this book should be published in Europe and not in the United States. To accomplish this, the U.S. Government has made certain commitments to foreign governments.

b. Publication of the Russian edition of Dr. Zhivago in the U.S. would lessen the effectiveness of the book and would seriously harm relations of the U.S. with other governments involved in this operation.

c. The author, PASTERNAK, specifically requested that the book not be published in the United States for his personal safety and other reasons. We have made every effort to honor the author's petition.

d. If the book is published by [redacted] the Italian publisher, FELTRINELLI, who holds all publishing rights, could bring suit. Lawyers in the publishing business advise us that FELTRINELLI would have good grounds to bring suit against [redacted].

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e. We have reason to believe that [redacted] was given reproduction proofs in an unorthodox manner and that these proofs are in fact the property of the U.S. Government.

3. [redacted] asked [redacted] to assist us in preventing the publication of the book at least until after it was published in Europe. [redacted] appeared to be sympathetic to our request and said that he could see no reason why publication of the book by [redacted] could not be delayed. He suggested, however, that we take up the whole matter directly with [redacted] who [redacted] felt would be most willing to cooperate with us. [redacted] said that he would be glad to assist us in any other way after we had seen [redacted]

4. [redacted] asked [redacted] to be careful not to reveal the above information to [redacted] since we knew that [redacted] was a friend of [redacted] who we thought was responsible for giving [redacted] the unauthorized reproduction proofs.

5. After the meeting with [redacted], I called [redacted] to inform him of the results of the meeting. [redacted] said that he was pleased to hear that [redacted] would cooperate with us in delaying the publication of the book but he advised us not to see [redacted] since he was not cleared. [redacted] suggested that we tell [redacted] that we were not authorized to see [redacted] and ask if [redacted] would be willing to discuss the matter with [redacted]

6. On Tuesday morning [redacted] called up [redacted] and told him the situation. [redacted] said he would call [redacted] and ask him to come over to his office to discuss the matter. [redacted] was asked again to be careful on how much he revealed of our conversation with [redacted] said he would keep this in mind and suggested that [redacted] call him back at 2 p.m.

7. [redacted] telephoned [redacted] at 2 o'clock and was told that [redacted] was then in [redacted]'s office discussing the publication and the reproduction proofs. [redacted] asked that [redacted] and [redacted] (specified by name in front of [redacted]) to come up to his office immediately so that the whole thing could be straightened out then and there. [redacted] then stated that he felt there was no choice but to see [redacted] in the presence of [redacted] if we wanted to accomplish our mission.

8. After an introduction to [redacted] I proceeded to ask him several questions regarding the reproduction proofs in his possession. [redacted] stated that he had received the reproduction proofs from [redacted] and that [redacted] had not told him how or from [redacted]

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whom he had obtained the proofs. [redacted]

[redacted] said that he did not have a contract with [redacted] regarding the publication of the book. He said that he had planned eventually to sign a contract but felt that this was unnecessary at the present time. On the question of being sued, [redacted] stated that he had checked with a prominent law firm in New York and that he had been advised there was no possibility of suit. [redacted] added that he would be glad to show us the letters of reference. When told that we would like to see the letters, he called his secretary who brought them to [redacted] office for our perusal. Later we were given copies of these letters.

9. Throughout most of the conversation [redacted] remained silent and listened to [redacted] replies to our questions. At one point in the conversation it appeared that [redacted] wanted to wash his hands of the whole matter and turn the reproduction proofs over to us. [redacted] however, pointed out that he had received the reproduction proofs from [redacted] and they might, therefore, be his property. He proposed that [redacted] delay publication until November 1 providing we agree to let him use the reproduction proofs at that time. [redacted] replied that he was in no position to grant this request since the reproduction proofs were U.S. Government property and had to be treated as such. [redacted] stated that this question would be [redacted] decided in Washington and that we would let [redacted] know the decision.

10. [redacted] then noted that it would be to our advantage to let [redacted] use the reproduction proofs since he could make photographs of the Russian edition when it appeared and publish the book in this way. He said he might also be able to buy a set of reproduction proofs from the foreign publisher when the book was published. [redacted] commented that these matters were outside his jurisdiction but expressed some surprise that [redacted] would engage in such publishing practices.

11. The meeting broke up with an understanding that [redacted] would not publish Dr. Zhivago until November 1 and that the question of the future disposition or use of the reproduction proofs would be resolved in the near future.

12. After the meeting [redacted] again telephoned [redacted] and informed him of the developments of the meeting. [redacted] observed that we had accomplished our primary objective but he felt that it would be a good idea before returning to Washington to make a comparison of the page proofs with the reproduction proofs which [redacted] held.

13. On the morning of the 27th, [redacted] called [redacted] again and asked if we could check the reproduction proofs against our page proofs. [redacted] indicated that we would like to do this

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to be sure that we were working from the same material. [redacted] agreed that it would be a good idea and asked us to come to his office at 2 p.m.

14. Shortly after arriving at [redacted] office, [redacted] appeared with the reproduction proofs. [redacted] asked that we begin the comparison without him and that he would join us in a short time. The comparison was made with a magnifying glass and the reproduction proofs showed beyond any doubt to have been made from the same type as the page proofs. When [redacted] arrived he made a comparison himself noting the exact similarity of hyphenation, punctuation and breaks in type. [redacted] commented that there was no doubt that the reproduction proofs and page proofs were from the same type and that to say this could be a coincidence would be like saying that "a monkey could write Hamlet."

15. After the comparison was made [redacted] said that he had a new proposal to make. He wanted us to grant him permission to use the reproduction proofs to publish Dr. Zhivago after November 1. If this could not be arranged, [redacted] suggested that [redacted] could obtain another manuscript of the book, which he said was available, and could publish the book from this manuscript. [redacted] commented that [redacted] would prefer not to take this course of action because it would cost about [redacted] to set the type and would take much longer. He stated, however, that if [redacted] was forced to publish the book from its own manuscript it would be necessary to make a public announcement of [redacted] intention to publish the book. [redacted] said that his announcement would have to be made as soon as possible, probably within the next two weeks, in order to insure that no other publisher printed the book in the U.S. [redacted] suggested that [redacted] might be preparing to publish the book.

16. When [redacted] was finished making his proposal, [redacted] spoke to [redacted] and pointed out that [redacted] proposal would in effect break the agreement made the previous day regarding a delay in any publication of the book until November 1. As to [redacted] using our reproduction proofs, [redacted] was again told that we were not authorized to give anyone permission to use this government property. [redacted] asked that this question be resolved as soon as possible in Washington and that he be informed of our decision within the next two weeks.

17. During the conversation I asked [redacted] if he had been in touch with [redacted] since our previous conversation. He said that he had and that [redacted] had stated that there had never been any intention of [redacted] actually publishing the book. Allegedly, they were only looking into the matter.

18. [redacted] stated that since [redacted] had received the reproduction proofs from [redacted] for legal reasons, they should be returned to him. He stated, however, that he would be glad to give us the reproduction proofs if he had a letter from [redacted] instructing him to do this.

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19. The meeting ended at 4 p.m. [redacted] again took me to the [redacted] Airport and I departed for Washington. I arrived at the National Airport at 9 p.m.

[redacted]
SR/2, [redacted]

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