

RECORD OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE FOREIGN  
AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY AND THE SOVIET  
AMBASSADOR HELD AT THE FOREIGN AND  
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY,  
18 JUNE, 1969, AT 4.00 p.m.

ED IN  
YN. 15

20 JUN 1969

ENS 10/8

Copy on EN 2/31

Present:

The Rt. Hon. Michael Stewart, H.E. Mr. M.N. Smirnovsky  
M.P.

Mr. J.A.N. Graham

Mr. Y.I. Pavlov

Mr. C.S.R. Giffard

Mr. Smirnovsky, who had called at his own request, said that he wished to present a statement made by the Government of the U.S.S.R. on 13 June about Sino-Soviet relations. This was a long statement and he proposed to select the salient points in introducing it, and to leave copies of the Russian text, with an unofficial English translation. The Soviet statement recalled their earlier position, in which they had urged the Chinese Government to take urgent practical measures to normalise the situation on the frontier. They had suggested a meeting, and the Chinese had agreed to hold talks, and to avoid the use of force. But the Chinese had also advanced claims to no less than 1.5 million kilometres (the Ambassador said miles, but the document says kilometres) of Soviet territory; they had introduced new complications and repeated their objections to the "unequal treaties".

2. The Russians had had no choice but to deal with the Chinese case in detail, pointing out that the border was

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