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Conclusion of Khrushchev Visit

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CONCLUSION OF KRUSHCHEV VISIT

It is to be hoped that Mr. Khrushchev will carry back with him to Russia an accurate picture of the United States. If he now understands this nation, as it is, he will portray us not only as a powerful people but as a progressive and peaceful people. Most of all, he will see us and portray us as a people with a basic unity despite our great diversity and despite any apparent differences.

There is one way in which the President can make very clear that basic unity of the American people. The President can call into conference at Camp David or anywhere else, now that the Khrushchev visit has concluded, the leaders of the two parties in the Senate. He can discuss the significance of the Khrushchev conversations with the Majority Leader, Senator Johnson and the Minority Leader, Senator Dirksen and, if he wishes, with the leaders of the House as well. I believe it is most desirable that he do so not only because a consultation of this kind would be a demonstration of our national unity, but also because if there is to be progress towards peace beyond the President’s exchange of views with Prime Minister Khrushchev any actions to that end ultimately will require the advice and consent—the sanction of the Senate. Since that is the case, I most respectfully suggest that the party leaders ought to be consulted by the President as soon as possible.