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TO : P - Mr. Taylor

DATE: 1/24/52

FROM : P - Joseph L. Healy *JLH*

SUBJECT:

In connection with the coming Presidential campaign, the President in a Press Conference might make some remark as to the manner in which elections are conducted in the U.S. where anyone can be a candidate and run on any platform he desires. Using the "Litvinov" stories which are now appearing as a basis of substantiation, the President might list certain key Russian officials now considered to be strong candidates to succeed Stalin, and who at one time could have had contact with U.S. officials or newspapermen, and "quote" them to the effect that if free elections were held in Russia or if they were in power one would abolish collectivization, another would make reforms along political, or religious lines, etc.

Coming from such a high source such an item might stand a good chance of receiving some notoriety in Russia. It might cause certain party members to be placed in the unenviable position of being forced to deny a specific reform, which would not be too well received by the mass of the Russian people, or in case they ultimately did succeed Stalin, having the people associate them with certain programs. As it would be impossible for the Soviet-type government to exist if such reforms were established, the new leaders would thus be unable to win wholehearted support. Careful consideration should be given to what man what program would be associated with, as maximum results would be achieved by associating the most unpalatable program with the person most likely to succeed Stalin.

Present reaction might be mutual distrust of each other arising within the Party.

P:JLHealy:ahs

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By CF

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