

Everett McKinley Dirksen  
Illinois

United States Senate  
Minority Leader

ROBO: KRUSHCHEV VISIT  
(AGAINST)  
8-12-59

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Dear .....

I noted with interest your comments expressing concern over the visit of the Soviet Prime Minister. Let me, however, put the situation in a slightly different frame.

This Congress will possibly have appropriated 40 billion dollars for defense, more than 3 billion for the mutual security program, 5 billion for the Veterans Administration to cover the residual damage of past wars, and 8 billion for interest on the public debt, most of which was accumulated in the war period. This totals 56 billion dollars or more for a single year.

This burden may continue so long as the fears and tensions which spring from cold war and Red aggression continue.

Our efforts thus far at the Summit conferences at Geneva through the interchange of notes has failed to ease the problem.

What then do we do? We can continue this ghastly burden on our people, or we can continue through fruitless high level diplomatic conferences, or we can make an effort through impressing the Prime Minister of the country most responsible for these fears and tensions with our strength, our determination, and our dedication to the cause of peace. With him lies a momentous decision, and in the interest of our future and the future of the world, his coming here would be justified even if it were nothing more than a gamble.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen