

46
sent back
via wire
CAP 80078

January 3, 1968

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM WALT ROSTOW

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

from
Walt Rostow

would or would
not grant him
a visa.

SUBJECT: Visa for Vladimir Dedijer

For a number of years Vladimir Dedijer of Yugoslavia has been coming to the United States as a professional scholar. MIT invited him to come again this January to lecture on: "The Peasant and the Twentieth Century Revolution." Dedijer has promised our Consul in Zagreb that he will refrain from activities unconnected with his scholarly work.

Now MIT has second thoughts, and Jerry Weisner called me this morning to find out whether we might take MIT off the hook by ~~refusing the visa~~. The problem is Dedijer's recent actions as Co-Chairman of Bertrand Russell's "Tribunal." Dedijer went so far as to send a telegram to the National Liberation Front calling the U.S. Administration "the worst crooks in history, more cruel than Hitler."

Although Dedijer was suspended from the Yugoslav Communist Party in 1954 -- along with Djilas -- he will still need a waiver of ineligibility as a Communist, which the Secretary of State must request from the Attorney General. (Practically speaking, all Eastern Europeans must come in on waivers.)

Ambassador Elbrick thinks, on balance, that we should let Dedijer in. He is a recognized historian. His views on Vietnam are discredited, and hardly big news. The Administration might get some credit in the academic community for being broad-minded -- although a few right-wingers might, of course, be outraged. If we grant the visa, we could justify it on the basis of freedom of information and scholarly activity.

MIT could solve the problem by withdrawing the invitation in light of Dedijer's shameless political agitation. MIT is not ~~enthusiastic about doing this~~, and would understandably prefer any refusal to come from the U.S. Government.

I have talked with Secretary Rusk, and he is seized with the problem. If you have any guidance in the meantime, I can pass it on.

1/4/68
Jim Jones telephoned Mr Rostow
- "I wouldn't let him in.
we have an over-siggle
here now."
Mr Rostow notified Ben Read
& Nat Davis.

inclined to
do this

Walt Rostow

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By com/jc, NARA, Date 5-10-07