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In Douglas

I am sure you are inundated about what is going on inside the Soviet Union. I pass on, however, two snippets of information which were slightly surprising and certainly new to me.

1. General Cann, the French Commandant in Berlin, told me that Soviet junior officers who were in touch with his officers have frequently expressed regret at the Soviet Government's abandonment of their postwar conquests in Eastern Europe. They have sometimes done so in the presence of senior Soviet officers who General Cann deduces must share their juniors views.

2. Mr. Yuri Butchenko came to see me a couple of days ago. We had an interpreted conversation about the situation in the Soviet Union. I asked him how he saw the future. He said he was pessimistic: we should not exclude the rise of a "Soviet Hitler". All the objective circumstances were there - unemployment, inflation, shortage of consumer goods and 'national dishonour' (i.e. retreat from empire and humiliation of the armed forces).

I asked him where he thought the Hitler would come from. He did not expect him to be a General, perhaps a middle ranking officer - shades of Nasser.--

I think we have all been ^{speculating} about the possibility of a Bonapartist ~~core~~ but Butchenko's phrase a "Soviet Hitler" was a new thought to me so I pass it on. I am copying this letter to Charles Powell and Tom King.

In case,
Julian

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