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W.A. Harris pp 9, 100

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Conversation.

Shuttle Bombing

June 10, 1944
The Kremlin

Present: The American Ambassador, Mr. Harriman
Marshal Stalin
Mr. Molotov

Mr. Edward Page, Second Secretary of
Embassy
Mr. Pavlov, Secretary to Mr. Molotov

over 500
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Subject: Shuttle Bombing Bases

I said that my impression was that the American Military Officers had very close relations with the Soviet Air Force and that real mutual confidence existed between the two services. The Marshal heartily agreed. I said that the American Air Force was very grateful for the shuttle bombing bases which had been put at its disposal and remarked that everything was going smoothly. The Marshal stated that this was but a small service and the least the Russians could do. With respect to the intimacy of the relations which existed between the American and Russian air personnel, the Marshal said that these were military people and they knew how to get along with each other. I said that our young flyers were very pleased at the reception they had received at the bases and that they would return home to America with great satisfaction from Poltava, which was now in many respects an American city. These flyers were the best of our young men and would be influential in American opinion. In response to my statement that the American Army was a civilian army, the Marshal replied that all real armies were citizen armies.

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