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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Conditions for the Summit Conference, 1958 March 21
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]


Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, transcribed, United States Senator J. Allen Frear reports again to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Frear.

Senator Frear: Thank you, Mr. Kelly. Although major congressional attention continues to focus on ways and means to combat the economic recession, various members of the Senate and House, in conjunction with leading officials of the executive branch of the government, are also carefully observing the continued efforts by the Kremlin to bring about another summit conference between the heads of state of the United States, Soviet Union, and perhaps other major powers as well. So far, our government is resisting Red proposals for a summit meeting until Soviet leaders agree on a specific agenda for the discussions. Generally speaking, the United States is concerned, less a summit conference be held that would result in serving only the propaganda interests of the Communists. We have insisted that the Reds agree first to meetings on a lower level of government in order to establish a basis upon which the leaders could properly meet and expect to reach agreements on such issues of disarmament and the status of Red satellites. There are some efforts being put forth by various groups here in the United States and abroad to arrange a summit conference as quickly as possible. Some of these proponents of such a meeting would even be very happy to see the Russian leaders come to Washington, forgetting what the significance of such recognition would mean to the millions of oppressed people behind the Iron Curtain. Undoubtedly the continued production and testing of nuclear weapons has raised fears in the minds of many, but the world is rushing toward a catastrophe in the form of an atomic war, and that unless the leaders of the great powers meet together and stop the arms race, our civilization will be destroyed. Obviously, such a grim eventuality is theoretically possible. But at the moment, the Kremlin appears hopeful of achieving major objectives through other means. One of these is the new “Glad Hand” approach evident on the part of the major Russian leaders and some of Russia’s ambassadors as well. For instance, the new Russian envoy here in Washington successfully entertained a group of visiting ladies from Ohio the other day for tea. And according to press reports, gave a convincing demonstration of charm and affability. The good ladies were tremendously impressed, but it is hoped that they did not forget the fact
that past events in such tragic places as Hungary have proven beyond any measure of doubt that the outward pleasantries of Communist leaders usually conceal a quite different attitude. You will recall the last summit conference held in Geneva in 1955. Despite its fanfare and hope for success, the conference achieved virtually nothing except to afford the Russians added ammunition for their propaganda machines. Another summit conference this year might well bring the same results, and for that reason, I am glad to note that our government is taking every possible precautionary step before expressing any willingness to sit down with the Russian dictators. To the charges that the United States is selfishly resisting opportunities for peaceful discussions, it can be bluntly and factually pointed out that this country has on its side a record of endless negotiations in behalf of peaceful settlement of world problems. The Soviet Union, in grim contrast, must face the brutal reflection of its repression in Hungary and the lesser known but probably equal cruelty in other once-free nations which it now controls. Therefore, the United States, despite its present domestic problems, is not going to lessen its attention to international events and particularly the issue of a summit meeting. I hope we shall insist strongly and positively on a definite agenda of problems to be discussed before giving any further serious attention to another such international conference.

Mr. Kelly: Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation’s capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in his regular report to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Senator Frear will be heard again next week at this same time, speaking from the Senate Office Building in Washington.

[End 05:37]