

COPY

June 10, 1959

Dear Mr. Schapiro:

This is just a note to thank you for your recent letter concerning the International Horse Race held in Washington and requesting that I invite the Russians to participate again when I visit Moscow this summer.

I have long been in favor of the People-to-People Program, and I share your view that these exchanges are in our best interest. Although I do not yet know what conversations I may hold, since my schedule has not been determined, I will be glad to bring your request to the attention of the responsible officials who are charged with having to carry out negotiations in this field.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

S/RN jr. CSP

Richard Nixon

Mr. John D. Schapiro
313 East Baltimore Street
Baltimore 2, Maryland

Schapiro, John D.

folder
x - International Horse Race
x - Subject: Russian trip

REC:mrc

LAUREL RACE COURSE

Maryland State Fair, Inc.



LAUREL, MARYLAND

TELEPHONE PARKWAY 5-0400

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
313 EAST BALTIMORE STREET
BALTIMORE 2, MARYLAND
LEXINGTON 9-1900

July 10, 1959

CABLE ADDRESS LAURINT

Hon. Richard Nixon
Vice President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

*Given to PAM
for reply direct*

My dear Mr. Vice President:

Last year, the Russian Government, through the Minister of Agriculture, sent its two best horses to compete in the Invitational WASHINGTON D. C. INTERNATIONAL turf race at Laurel Race Course, Laurel, Maryland. They were Garnir, winner of the 1958 Russian Derby, and Zarya, runner-up in the same race. We are hopeful that the Russians again will send their best horses to compete in the eighth running on November 11 (Veteran's Day,) 1959

THE WASHINGTON D. C. INTERNATIONAL brings horses from the various racing centers of the world to meet the American champions at a mile and a half over the grass course at Laurel. During the first seven runnings of this event, inaugurated in 1952, equine champions from England, Ireland, France, West Germany, Sweden, Australia, Canada, Argentina, Venezuela and Chile have participated. Winning nations have been France (twice), England, Venezuela, Australia and the United States (twice).

For this race, the management of Laurel race Course offers a \$100,000 purse and pays the transportation costs by air of the foreign horses to this country and return, plus those of the trainer, jockey and groom. It also provides living expenses for the personnel during their stay here.

Our race is another manifestation in the field of sports, to supplement the People to People program so earnestly endorsed by you and President Eisenhower. We hope that your interest in the WASHINGTON D. C. INTERNATIONAL can bring this global racing classic to the attention of the proper people, and that Russia will send its best thoroughbred to compete again at Laurel Race Course next November 11th.

Sincerely

John D. Schapiro
John D. Schapiro
President

JDS/PAM

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313 EAST BALTIMORE STREET
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CABLE ADDRESS LAURINT

May 26, 1959

MAY 27 1959

MAY 28 1959

Mr. Richard Nixon
Vice President of
the United States
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Vice President:

The Laurel Race Course has, over the past seven years, held an annual "Washington D.C. International" Race on Veterans' Day, November 11... an event in which champion thoroughbreds and jockeys from all corners of the globe have competed against those of the United States. We feel that this "Olympics of Racing" has become more than just a sporting event; that it is, rather, another important link with people throughout the world.

Last year, for the first time, Russia received and accepted an invitation to enter this race. Two Russian horses were sent, accompanied by their jockeys and trainers. This marked a milestone, since it was the first time that Russian horses had ever raced outside the Soviet Union...and helped to promote, at least in a small way, better understanding and good will.

We would very much like to have the Russians participate in the "Washington D.C. International" Race again this year. Since it is our understanding that you will be visiting Russia this summer for talks with Mr. Krushchev, we wonder if it would be possible for you to convey such an invitation on behalf of the United States as part of the People-to-People program.

We have enclosed a folder which supplies a brief background on the "Washington D.C. International" Race.

It is our hope that this suggestion meets with your approval.

Very sincerely yours,

John D. Schapiro

JDS:PAM
Enc.