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The Mission to Moscow Proposal of President Truman

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR J. SIMON THORNTON, GOVERNOR OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, STATES' RIGHTS CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE MISSION TO MOSCOW PROPOSAL
OF PRESIDENT TRUMAN, OCTOBER 10, 1948.

President Truman's statement that he had finally decided not to send Chief Justice Vinson on a mission to Moscow conclusively proves he is incompetent to handle our foreign relations, and that his incompetency endangers the peace of the world.

The President says he asked Secretary Marshall whether any useful purpose would be served in sending Vinson to make the Soviet leaders understand our views about the atomic bomb and other matters. When Marshall told him of the situation in Paris and that unilateral action by the United States might cause misunderstandings, he abandoned the effort.

Every newspaper reader and radio listener knew the situation in Paris. The United States through its representatives had advised the world of our position on the atomic bomb question. It is being considered daily in the United Nations. Other governments are following our lead. While we are asking them to follow us, Truman decided and was about to announce on last Tuesday that he was sending Vinson to the Kremlin, without consulting Britain, France and without consulting even the Republican leaders who have been cooperating in a bipartisan policy. If it were the atomic energy problem Mr. Truman wished discussed, why wouldn't he send Bernard Baruch who had presented our plan to the United Nations instead of sending Judge Vinson who has been busy on the Supreme Court and has had no connection with either the atomic energy problem or any other phase of our foreign relations?

For more than a month Ambassador Smith, together with the ambassadors of France and Britain have been conferring in Moscow with Stalin and Molotov. Smith has advised Stalin of the American views on all our relations. If he didn't do it properly, why not remove him and appoint Vinson as ambassador? We cannot and should not have two ambassadors in Moscow at the same time.

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All of last week Vishinsky was demanding that Marshall withdraw the Berlin question from the United Nations; that it could be discussed only by the governments directly. Had Truman carried out his plan to send a personal emissary to Moscow, the governments that have been induced to follow our lead would never know what Vinson was saying to Stalin in Moscow while neutrals were trying to settle our differences with Moscow in the United Nations.

It is another effort of the President to appeal to the followers of Henry Wallace who for ten days has been demanding that the United States send a representative to Stalin instead of presenting the problems to the United Nations. It will hurt us with other governments and will cripple the bi-partisan policy in the United States. It was hatched up by the political guard of the White House as a spectacular move to bolster the President's sagging campaign.

If the Democrats supporting the States' Rights Democratic movement needed any further confirmation of the incompetency of Truman and of the soundness of our course in the present campaign, this proposal to desert our associates in the United Nations and send another mission to Moscow furnishes it.

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