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System provided the CIA with traffic
information on calls between the U.S. and
both Russia and China.

This information, a spokesman explained,
"was not furnished with respect to any
particular callers but rather on all calls. It
included only the names, telephone numbers
and locations of the parties involved and the
date, time and duration of any completed
calls. The information provided did not
disclose the content of any conversation."

WORLD TRAVELER: The delightful, if
irascible Helen Delich Bentley, who is
awaiting reappointment as chairwoman of
the Federal Maritime Commission, hasn't
spent much time on the job.

She has been too busy seeing the world. In
1974, for example, she took 36 trips to such
pleasure spots as Geneva, London, Paris,
San Francisco and her hometown of Reno.
Her airline bills cost the taxpayers more
than \$15,000.

Partly as a result of her constant
junketing, the cases before the Federal
Maritime Commission are backlogged four
years. Her fellow commissioners have
pleaded with her to attend to her duties,
but she has merely given them the brush-
off.

Two commissioners, Clarence Morse and
Ashton Barrett, were willing to go on the
record. They called Ms. Bentley a poor
administrator. "She's a square peg in a
round hole," said Morse.

They complained that she treated the
commission as her personal domain. For
instance, they said she usually ties up both
of the commission's available limousines on
personal errands. Her chauffeur has his own
office near here, they said.

A White House spokesman told us,
meanwhile, that she is the only person now
under consideration for the Maritime
Commission chairmanship.

Almanac

Today is Wednesday, June 18, the 169th
day of 1975 with 196 to follow.

On this day in history:

In 1812, the United States declared war on
Britain for the second time in its brief
history.

In 1815, Napoleon was defeated at the
Battle of Waterloo in Belgium.

film was "harsh."

B.F. Goodrich Explains PVC

To the Editor: Thank you for your coverage Wednesday,
May 28, of B.F. Goodrich Chemical Company's
announcement that we are continuing to supply polyvinyl
chloride (or PVC) compounds to the manufacturers of
plastic bottles.

We believe our "Geon" PVC materials are strong
candidates for packaging in both food - grade and non food -
grade applications, just as they are for literally thousands of
other uses from upholstery to floor covering to house siding
and piping.

We are concerned, though, that some readers may have
been misled by the reference in your story to the ongoing
investigation of the possible health hazard of inhaling high
levels of "raw" vinyl chloride gas over a long period of time
— in a manufacturing plant, for example.

Vinyl chloride is a monomer, which at room temperature,
is a gas. This vinyl chloride is used to make PVC resin which
has the form of a fine powder. The resin is diluted by
mixture with other materials to form a solid compound and
our experience indicates that there is no similar possibility
of hazard involved in the use of these compounds.

As our news release said: "We have been alert. . . (to)
proposed regulations. . . for PVC use in food - contact ap-
plications," according to Joseph J. Salva, BFG Chemical
product manager. "As a result. . . (we) supply bottle
compounds containing less than 1 part per million of
residual vinyl chloride monomer."

"We have been unable to detect vinyl chloride in the
packaged substances. . . (using analytical methods which
will detect vinyl chloride levels as low as 50 parts per
billion)."

Salva commented that the availability of PVC bottle
compounds with less than 1 part per million of residual vinyl
chloride monomer is "evidence of the dramatic progress
BFG Chemical has made in further improving the safety of
PVC materials for food packaging."

R.N. Rylands, Plant Manager

Dennis the Menace



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