British Prime Minister Winston Churchill’s message to the USSR People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, V.M. Molotov, dated 2 May 1944

Personal and Top Secret.

Your message of April 29 about Romania[[1]](#footnote-1) shown clearly that you have gt hold of a mare’s nest. The Ambassador is being sent instructions to give you a full explanation.

Let me make it clear at the outset that in all this Romanian business we are trying to work with you and Stalin. In spite of the demand for indemnities we have accepted as an agreement between us your terms of surrender as offered to Romania with the amendments we suggested.

There have been physical difficulties about agents and about wireless communications, all of which are being explained to you in detail by the Ambassador. What I am astounded at is that you should have imagined for one moment that we are in any intrigue with the Romanian Government or anybody in Romania, or that we have any evil interest in Romania to the detriment of your operations and of the common cause, or that we have any secrets with Romania to which we will not make you partners at any moment. The fact that you should harbour these thoughts shows how difficult it is working together, even when the greatest combined military operations in the world are impending[[2]](#footnote-2). I must remind you that I send all this correspondence as it flows out to the President and the State Department of the United States.

I have already said we consider you our leaders in Romanian policy on the basis of the surrender terms we have arranged, subject to the comment about indemnities. Of course if you do not believe a single word we say it really would be better to leave things to run out as they will. But considering the tremendous business we have in hand together, I trust that you will consider carefully your answer before you send it[[3]](#footnote-3).

[CHAR 20/164/30]

Keywords: Inter-allied relations, Romania

1. In this letter, Molotov informed Churchill that the Soviet side discovered the presence of British paratroopers in Romania (officially as POWs), who have a radio station at their disposal and are in touch with British representatives in Cairo. Molotov hinted at Moscow's suspicions about possible British-brokered talks between the government of Ion Antonescu and a group of Romanian emigrants headed by I. Maniu and B. Știrbey. From Molotov to Prime Minister, 29.4.44 // (CHAR 20/164/12-13.). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A hint of the forthcoming ‘Operation Overlord’. Molotov undoubtedly took into account the imminent opening of the second front by the United States and the United Kingdom, remarking, among other things, to the Yugoslav representatives during a visit to Moscow in April 1944: "At present, the situation at the fronts in the struggle against Germany is such that the Allies will be more active, and it is important for to maintain good relations with them during this period”. (Otnosheniya Rossii (SSSR) s Yugoslaviyey 1941 – 1945 gg. Dokumenty i materialy. M., 1998. p. 239). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For a Russian translation of Churchill's message, see: АVP RF. F. 06. Op. 6. P. 1. D. 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)