Note from the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, V.M. Molotov, to the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, I.V. Stalin, dated 14 December 1945

Copy

Cipher.

To Comrade STALIN

Since the meeting of the three should begin on 15 December, please give me your instructions on the following issues.

First. I believe that if Byrnes and Bevin will not agree to the inclusion of both our issues (withdrawal of American troops from China and withdrawal of British troops from Greece) to the agenda, the Soviet delegation should insist that the issue of withdrawal of allied armies from Iran be removed from the agenda.

Second. Although we did not to object leaving the item about the transfer of control over Manchuria to the National Government of China in the agenda, it seems reasonable to raise the issue on the removal of this item at the final approval of the agenda. Motives to be presented: we have an agreement with China on this issue[[1]](#footnote-1); all the issues concerning this agreement are resolved by us in coordination with China and we have no disagreements with China on this issue.

MOLOTOV.

14th December, 1945

[FPARF, f. 0430, inv. 2, fold. 1, file 1, p. 30]

Keywords: China, Greece, inter-allied relations

1. The Treaty of Friendship and Alliance signed on 14 August 1945 in Moscow by Molotov and the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Shih-chieh. It was accompanied by a range of additional agreements (on Port Arthur, on Port Dalian, etc.), but also by an exchange of notes according to which the USSR recognised Chinese sovereignty over the three north-eastern provinces of Manchuria and China declared its agreement to recognise the independence of Outer Mongolia in the event the supporters of independence won the referendum. The referendum was held on 20 October 1945; the independence of the Mongolian People’s Republic was recognised by China on 5 January 1946. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)