Telegram of the President of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, I.V. Stalin, to Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, V.M. Molotov, 9 November 1946

To comrade MOLOTOV

1. I agree with your offer to organise inspections and controls of arms reduction and to prohibit the military use of nuclear energy. But controls on the prohibition of nuclear energy use should be separated from control of arms reduction. They should be separated from each other since controls of prohibition of nuclear energy use may and should be permanent whereas control over arms reduction, in my opinion, should not be permanent (after reduction of arms and a statement that the arms are reduced control is no longer necessary and is not favourable for us).

It is also necessary to keep in mind that reduction should concern not only the land armies, but also the navy and aviation. Without it reduction of armies is a self-deception. In the past, the British government has made specific proposals on arms reduction in the League of Nations. You should get these documents and use them as material.

I think that it would be better for us not to make a special suggestion on control and inspection, but to accept the Americans’ suggestion as an addition to our basic suggestion and then to qualify the whole suggestion as a Russian-American one. Please consider this issue and act at your discretion.

2. I agree with your suggestion on the veto. I think the instruction on veto use is for internal use, as it follows from your suggestion. In speeches it is necessary to underline that there is no abuse of the veto on our part.

DRUZHKOV.

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[RSASPH, f. 17, inv. 167, file 72, p. 167]

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