Copy of the telegram from Molotov in Paris to Vyshinsky giving instructions on the Berlin question, dated 15 October 1948

№183

Cypher to Sochi

Top Priority

PARIS TO VYSHINSKII[[1]](#footnote-1)

Considering the change of №181, authority deems it necessary in connection to your №324 to give you the following directives[[2]](#footnote-2):

First. In all negotiations with regards to the Berlin question one should widely use the fact that the three governments are retreating from the negotiated decision made by the four governments in Moscow to introduce the German Mark of the Soviet zone in Berlin as a unique currency in circulation and, simultaneously, to lift the limitations in accordance with the directive of the commanders-in-chief.

One should use every opportunity to underline that it was this violation of the negotiated directive by the three governments which caused the current crisis surrounding the situation in Berlin.

You have not fully considered this new point.

Second. You are wrong to argue that the convening of the Council of Ministers meetings is a necessary condition for the resolution of the Berlin question. If the commanders-in-chief come to an agreement amongst themselves, then it would be enough for a resolution of the Berlin question at the present stage.

Confirm receipt. №360/ш № 40,41.

MOLOTOV

[RSASPH, f.17, inv. 167, fold. 74, p. 187]

Keywords: post-war Germany, great power relations

1. The text corresponds in full with the Resolution of the Central Committee of the All-Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of 15 October 1948 entitled, The issue of the Foreign Ministry (Minutes № 65, item 261 (special file) – RSASPH, f. 017, inv. 162, fold. 39, file 162, published in T*he USSR and the German Question, 1941–1949: Documents from the Archives of the Russian Federation* (Die UdSSR und die deutsche Frage, 1941–1949: Dokumente aus den russischen Archiven), 4 vols, Vol. IV: 18 June 1948 – 5 November 1949. (Department of Historical Documents of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Historical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Centre for Recent Historical Research in Potsdam: 2012), p. 262. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This is a response to a request made by Vyshinsky on 14 October 1948. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)