Cabinet conclusions concerning the Soviet proposal for a Five-Power peace pact, 28 April 1953

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The Prime Minister drew attention to a newspaper report of the reply sent by the Soviet Foreign Minister to a proposal, made by the Congress of the Peoples for Peace, for the conclusion of a peace pact between the Soviet Union, the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Communist China[[1]](#footnote-1). M. Molotov had said that the Soviet Government approved this proposal: being convinced that there was no dispute or unsettled issue which could not be settled peaceably on the basis of mutual agreement between the countries concerned, they were ready to cooperate with the Governments of other States in strengthening world peace and security.

The Prime Minister said that, if there was to be any such meeting of Great Powers, he would prefer that it should be limited to the Soviet Union, the United States and the United Kingdom, who could take up the discussion at the point at which it had been left at the end of the Potsdam Conference in 1945. It was in any event unlikely that the United States Government would be willing to be represented at any such meeting which included representatives of Communist China.

In discussion it was pointed out that proposals for a Five-Power peace pact had formed part of Communist propaganda for some time past; and that M. Molotov had done no more than endorse a proposal to this end submitted by the Congress of the Peoples for Peace, which was a Communist-controlled organisation. More significance could have been attached to his statement if it had been made of his own initiative, in an official offer to other Governments concerned.

The Cabinet agreed that it would be premature to draw any conclusions from this announcement, and that it would be unnecessary for the Government to volunteer any public statement about it at this stage.

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1. The Congress of People for Peace took place at the initiative of the World Peace Council in Vienna on 12-19 December 1952. Apart from demanding the end of military action in various regions of the world – including Korea, Malaya, Cambodia, Vietnam and others – the Congress adopted an appeal calling on the governments of the five greatest powers to adopt the so called “Pact of Peace”. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)