Telegram from the Chairman Council of the People's Commissars, I.V. Stalin, to the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, V.M. Molotov, dated 26 September 1945

Top Secret

NOT IN ORDER

SPECIAL

I am passing on Comrade Stalin’s telegram:

"I consider it the pinnacle of arrogance for the British and the Americans, who consider themselves our allies, to not have wanted to listen to us - as is proper – on the issue of the Control Council in Japan. One of the Allies - the Soviet Union - declares itself dissatisfied with the situation in Japan, while the people who call themselves our allies refuse to discuss our statements. This suggests that they lack a basic sense of respect for their ally. Should Byrnes and Bevin not be given a hint, that under such circumstances, we will be forced to withdraw our men from Japan, since we cannot take any responsibility for the United States’ and Great Britain’s policy in Japan.

We have information that the Americans have laid their hands on Japan’s gold reserves - which by one estimate are worth two billion dollars - and took the British on as their partner. We need to hint to them, making it clear that we know there is a reason that the Americans and the British oppose the Allied Council’s organizations in Japan and do not want us anywhere near affairs concerning Japan, despite the fact that the British themselves had recently offered to organize Control Council in Japan.

When do you think the ministerial meeting should finish?"

Please confirm receipt.

VYSHINSKY

[RSASPH, f.558, inv.11, file 770, pp.59-60]

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