From the circular telegram by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the USSR to Soviet ambassadors on the results of the New York meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, 24 December 1946

[…]

On the treaty with Italy we managed to improve the economic part, in particular as far as reparations were concerned. On reparations, after a long struggle, we obtained a larger amount for Yugoslavia (125 million) than for Greece (105 million), as well as reparations for Albania (5 million), despite the dogged resistance of Byrnes and Bevin. This decision, of course, has serious political significance, especially in the present situation where the US and Great Britain have increased pressure on Yugoslavia and Albania, in particular on the issue of Greece. It should be noted that the demagogic game that our partners at the Paris conference played around the issues of reparations from Hungary and Bulgaria, and about the change of the Greco-Bulgarian border in favor of Greece, failed completely. Reparations from Bulgaria, instead of the 125 million accepted at the Paris conference, were reduced to 70 million (45 million for Greece and 25 million for Yugoslavia), and the frontiers of Bulgaria were confirmed without any changes, as they stood on 1 January 1941.

[…]

The Anglo-American bloc, which demonstrated its power at the Paris conference, by passing, sometimes by a two-thirds vote, the so-called recommendations aimed against the interests of Yugoslavia and Albania and ultimately and mainly against the Soviet Union, in the end could not hold its position and had to retreat under our pressure, by backing off on these recommendations altogether, and in part by modifying their content to such a degree that they became acceptable to us.

The preparation of peace treaties with Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Finland took more than a year and required intense fighting, but the result that was obtained was on our principled positions and defended our interests and the interests of friendly states.

[FPARF, f.3, inv. 63, file 251, pp. 142–143]

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