Memorandum from Izakov[[1]](#footnote-1) to Comrade V.M. Molotov concerning the views of the British delegation to the forthcoming Council of Foreign Ministers, 30 November 1947

TO COMRADE V.M. MOLOTOV

In our conversation, Reuters agency observer Sylvain Mangeot said the following regarding the position of the British delegation:

1. The British delegation members realise that Marshall and his colleagues came to London with the aim of preparing for Germany’s partition and registering Western Germany as an independent state with its own special government. The British delegation members also realises that such events would mean the end of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

2. However, according to Mangeot, the British delegation believes that realisation of such plans would now put the Soviet Union in a favourable situation. Therefore, the British delegation does not agree with such "extremist" plans.

3. In the opinion of the English, this Council of Foreign Ministers session will end with a series of agreements on minor issues, for example, on some smaller issues of the Austrian State Treaty; the Council of Foreign Ministers may continue to operate and may convene later for the following session. In the British Ministry for Foreign Affairs they believe that the London session will run overtime, “till after Christmas”.

4. Throughout the session the British delegation will object to an all-Germany government being formed, although not as categorically as the French delegation. “On this issue we occupy a middle-ground position between the American and French delegations”, - said Mangeot. He further mentioned that, according to the British delegation, creation of an all-Germany government would be unfavourable for Britain and the USA, as would the prolongation of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

5. Not everything is smooth between the American and British delegations. The English have complaints against the Americans on some issues. Evidence of behind the scene conflict between the British and the Americans can be seen particularly the drawn out negotiations in Washington regarding the expenses for the maintenance of two-zone administration.

 [Signature] /B. Izakov/

November, 30, 1947

Copies are sent to:

Comrades Vyshinsky,

Sokolovsky,

Zarubin,

Smirnov.

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1. Izakov, Boris (1903-1988), Soviet journalist and writer. International commentator for the Pravda newspaper (1946-1969). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)