Cypher telegram from Molotov to Stalin on the proposed response to the British government regarding when to convene the next Council of Foreign Ministers meeting, dated 8 September 1948

Cypher

To comrade Stalin

Today, I received an answer from the British government with their consent to convene the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting on the issue of the former Italian colonies. The British have suggested the convening of the CFM in Paris and have requests regarding our proposals for the date. *In person, Comrade Zarubin was notified that the British considered convening the CFM unnecessary if the USSR had not changed its stance. The British response is clearly a maneuvre to avoid the uneasy situation, considering our request to convene the CFM meeting*[[1]](#footnote-1)*.*

The Americans and the French have not yet given any response, and are most likely delaying it on purpose, considering that on 14 September the one-year period to consider the question of Italian colonies by the CFM will expire, after which the issue will have to move to the jurisdiction of the UN General Assembly.

I propose to respond with our approval of Paris and call to convene the CFM meeting on 10 September.

Our response should be published in newspapers tomorrow.

I request to ratify.

Molotov

1 copy made for Comrade Malenkov.

1 copy made for 3 parts.

In accordance with Comrade Podtserob statement 3 copies printed, one of which is for Comrade Molotov, the second is for Comrade Podtserob.

Handwritten: 8 / IX.48

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1. Pencil inscription by hand, approximate translation. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)