Note from Comrade V.M. Molotov to Comrade I.V. Stalin concerning the Berlin question at the UN Security Council, dated 16 October 1948[[1]](#footnote-1)

Comrade Stalin

                                                                                  October 16, 1948

Instead of answering Bramuglia’s specific questions in the Security Council, Vyshinsky offered to send Bramuglia the primary documents that outline the USSR’s stance on the Berlin question. The presentation of these documents makes it difficult for our opponents to make statements that misconstrue the Soviet Union's position on the Berlin question in the Security Council, as well as in other cases.

Vyshinsky also considers it desirable for these documents to be published in the form of a book. I think both of these proposals are right.

Such documents are being produced and may be released as collection under the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, entitled "The Soviet Union and the Berlin question (Documents).”

As was assured today, such a compilation could be released as a book in English on 18 October. This book will be flown to Paris on 19 October, ahead of the Security Council meeting. At the same time, this book will be released in Russian, and a few days later - in French and German[[2]](#footnote-2).

Please approve these proposals.

                                                                                           Molotov

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[RPARF, f. 06, inv. 10. fold. 38. file 515, p. 7][[3]](#footnote-3)

Keywords: United Nations, great power relations, post-war Germany

1. A note at the top of the text: ‘Comrade Stalin agrees with Molotov. 16.X’ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The volume entitled ‘The Soviet Union and the Berlin Question’ published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, was distributed to delegates of the General Assembly of the United Nations in Paris on 19 October 1948. It became a reciprocal step in a ‘book war’ after the publication on 28 September of the American ‘White Book’, the British following with theirs on 11 October, containing selections of documents on the Berlin Question. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This document was published in the volume entitled, *The USSR and the German Question, 1941–1949: Documents from the Archives of the Russian Federation* (Die UdSSR und die deutsche Frage, 1941–1949: Dokumente aus den russischen Archiven), 4 vols, Vol. IV: 18 June 1948 – 5 November 1949, p. 263. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)