Minutes of the meeting of the Russia Committee on Tuesday, 15 February 1949

I.

THE COMMITTEE first considered the Minutes of the last meeting of the 3rd February (RC/16/49).

MR. ROBERTS[[1]](#footnote-1) said that the Secretary of State had not approved the draft paper for the Defence Committee submitted on the basis of RC/3/49 and RC/4/49 on policy towards Russia and planning in connexion therewith. He felt that the rather far-reaching general objectives stated in that paper for anti-Soviet action on a wide front might not commend themselves to the Defence Committee, particularly in view of the uncertainty at present surrounding the Atlantic Pact, and might appear out of proportion with the comparatively minor recommendations made. We also felt that a committee set up to handle such a wide and intangible range of subjects might only spend a great deal of time and energy without achieving any concrete result. He would therefore prefer to concentrate in the first place on three primary objectives:

1. to take even more energetic steps to save Greece in collaboration with the United States Government. (In this connexion General Eisenhower’s temporary return to military responsibilities seemed to offer an admirable opportunity to achieve the necessary Anglo-American understanding);
2. to give discreet encouragement to Tito and so to maintain the Yugoslav-Soviet clash;
3. to detach Albania from the Orbit.

[…]

After discussion THE CHAIRMAN [Jebb][[2]](#footnote-2) said that so far as he could see objectives (a) and (b) were already being pursued; (c) also was no doubt already an objective but it was possible that special machinery would have to be set up if it was now going to be taken really seriously.

[TNA, FO 371/77623]

Keywords: Greece, Yugoslavia, NATO

1. Roberts, Sir Frank K. (1907 - 1998) - British diplomat. Minister in the British Embassy in Moscow (1945 - 1947); Principal Private Secretary to Foreign Secretary (1948 - 1949); Deputy High Commissioner to India (1949 - 1951). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Jebb, Sir H. M. Gladwyn (1900 - 1996) - British diplomat. Head of Economic and Reconstruction Department, Foreign Office (1942 - 1946); Assistant Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs - United Nations Affairs (1946 - 1948); Deputy Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs - Political (1949 - 1950); Permanent Representative to the United Nations Organisation, New York (1950 - 1954). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)