Politburo directive to the Soviet Ambassador to Iran, I. V. Sadchikov[[1]](#footnote-1), chastising him for deviating from instructions, dated 25 October 1951

Appendix

to item 614 (inv) pr. PB No 83

TEHERAN, AMBASSADOR OF THE USSR

1. From your conversations with Mosaddegh[[2]](#footnote-2) and his intermediaries, it is obvious that you take seriously and as genuine his proclaimed desire to come to an agreement with us regarding financial claims and improving relations with the Soviet Union. You probably failed to understand that Mosaddegh in sending you his intermediaries, such as Ipekchyan[[3]](#footnote-3), and advising you to accept his conditions and rapprochement with him, was simply using you in his game with the British and Americans to blackmail the Americans.

You were ensnared when you trusted Ipekchyan’s statement that it currently would be possible to settle financial claims with the Iranians within one week.

You were certainly wrong in promising to let Ipekchyan inform Mosaddegh on our opinion concerning his desire to speed up the agreement on financial issues.

Mosaddegh was ashamed to mention financial issues himself. You naively made a gross blunder, when you mentioned this issue in conversation with Mosaddegh. Your further conversation with Mosaddegh on this issue could give him the grounds to think that we are ready to come to terms with the Iranians and agree to transfer them $8 million despite the fact that their claim does not suit the state of affairs and does not give them the right to receive this amount.

You must act in conformity with the instructions you have on the settlement of mutual financial claims between the USSR and Iran. We oblige you henceforth to precisely follow the specified instructions and simultaneously consider all the mutual financial claims accordingly, as is specified in item 1 of the instructions for negotiations from 20 November 1950. You have no right to deviate from the instructions.

2. Regarding trade, you should recognise that we are ready to benevolently consider the offers to increase deliveries of sugar and other goods, and expect the Iranian party to also offer (to cover expanded Soviet shipments) the goods needed in the Soviet Union, for example, rice. You do not need goods like dried fruit.

Please confirm receipt.

[RSASPH f. 17, inv. 162, file 46, p. 196]

Keywords: Iran

1. Sadchikov, Ivan Vasiliyevich (1906-1989) - Soviet diplomat. Head of Middle East Department in People’s Commissariat for Foreign Affairs (1943-1945). Soviet ambassador to Yugoslavia (1945-1946), Soviet ambassador to Iran (1946-1953), Member of Foreign Ministry Central Office (1953-1959), Head of the Moscow Department of the International Labour Office (1959-1970). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Mosaddegh, Mohammad (1882–1967) - Prime Minister of Iran (1951-1953). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Fatali Ipekchyan – Deputy to the Majlis from Iranian Azerbaijan, several contemporaries considered him to be pro-Soviet on account of his trade links with the USSR. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)