Note[[1]](#footnote-1) from Chairman of the Foreign Policy Commission of the Central Committee of the VKP (b), V. Grigorian, to V.M. Molotov, enclosing the translation of a letter from Chairman of the French Peace Council, Y. Farge, to Chairman of the Soviet Peace Council, N. Tikhonov, and the draft of Tikhonov’s response, 22–26 December 1951

To Comrade V.M. Molotov

I submit a translation from French of the letter by Yves Farge[[2]](#footnote-2), received on 22 December through the Soviet Peace Committee.

V. Grigorian, Chairman of the Foreign Policy Commission, Central Committee of the VKP (b)

December 22, 1951.

Translation from French

To Mr. Tikhonov[[3]](#footnote-3), Chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee

Dear friend,

I have just arrived in Paris and I want to thank you and all my friends from the Soviet Peace Committee for such a warm welcome. I will never forget the All-Union Peace Defenders Conference and the meetings I have had with all our friends.

I would like to touch upon the issue which we mentioned and which was recently specified in two letters that I have just received from London.

I would like to remind you that during the breakfast at Fadeyev’s[[4]](#footnote-4) we specifically discussed the economic conference in Moscow.

The letter that I have received from London states that a delegation including businessmen and bankers may visit Moscow. It [the delegation] is ready to depart immediately and it would be good to invite them to Moscow, Prague, Warsaw or Paris for a private discussion with Russian and Chinese delegates on the issues connected with our Economic Conference[[5]](#footnote-5).

According to available data, this group will consist of the most outstanding representatives of the City of London. The delegation would include heads of two big international trading houses, the head of one of the biggest companies for naval arms production and a *persona grata* from the British Treasury; Mr. Frank Fer, a committee-member of the British Chamber of Commerce, would be the head of the delegation[[6]](#footnote-6). The person who wrote to me added that it is necessary to take very seriously Mr. Eden’s statement in which he says that it is necessary to solve each issue separately if they want to come to a complete agreement.

In this regard, the offer to send such a delegation should be considered as a desire to resolve the first issue.

The decision made by the Initiative Committee in Copenhagen gave me an opportunity, while neglecting to answer the other items of the letter, to calm the authors regarding the issue that disturbed them most of all, namely the lack of political requirements should such a delegation be invited.

The persons who have written letters to me from London believe that this meeting is private and a preparation for the Economic Conference in Moscow, and should not receive any publicity.

Besides, as I have already told Fadeyev[[7]](#footnote-7) that Copenhagen could be a great meeting place for small delegations, such as this one, who want to establish connections with our Soviet and Chinese friends. But, apparently, this delegation of businessmen from the City of London would prefer to meet our friends in Moscow.

I transfer this proposition to you in case, as I believe, you consider it necessary to carry it out.

Please let me know about it, and then we could leave to London together with Mr. Chambeiron[[8]](#footnote-8) in order to prepare this first meeting.

Truly yours, Yves Farge

To Comrade Molotov

I submit Comrade Tikhonov’s draft answer to the letter from Yves Farge, and ask for your permission to send the attached telegram.

Upon reception of additional information, the Foreign Policy Commission will request suggestions, on the issue raised in Yves Farge’s letter, from the VKP (b) Central Committee.

V. Grigorian, Chairman of the Foreign Policy Commission.

26 December 1951

PARIS

TO PAVLOV, THE AMBASSADOR OF THE USSR

Please transfer to Yves Farge the following text of the letter by N.S. Tikhonov:

To Mr. Yves Farge, Chairman of the French Peace Council

Dear Friend!

I am extremely grateful for the letter I have received from you recently. The information in this letter is without doubt pertinent to the convening of the International Economic Conference[[9]](#footnote-9).

We believe that the organisation of preliminary meetings and negotiations among economic experts from different countries, on the issues connected with the International Economic Conference, will promote the conference’s success, and we are ready to promote such meetings.

As to the offer of the British business representatives that you informed us about, we ask you to specify who, besides Mr. Frank Fer, plans to join the British delegation; with what Soviet and Chinese representatives the delegation wishes to meet and what issues are they interested in. Do Mrs. D. Robinson and Mr. W. Braun, the British representatives in the Initiative Committee on the convening of the International Economic Conference, know about this initiative?

I would be very grateful if you could inform us on these issues, since this will enable us to quickly give a definitive answer to the suggestion of the British business representatives that you mentioned.

Best regards,

Nikolai Tikhonov

Please inform on execution.

GROMYKO

[RSASPH, f. 82, inv. 2, file 1404, pp. 96-100]

Keywords: Trade relations

1. Handwritten at the top of the document: ‘to Comrade Grigorian. The answer is necessary. 25.12.51. V. Molotov.’ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Farge, Yves (1899–1953) - French politician and political writer, an outstanding member of the international peace movement, the chairman of the French Peace Council (from 1950), member of the World Peace Council, winner of Stalin award “for consolidation of peace between the nations” of 1952. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Tikhonov, Nikolai Semenovich (1896–1979) – Soviet writer, Chair of Union of Soviet Writers (1944–1946), First Chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee (1949–1979). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Fadeyev, Alexander Alexandrovich (1901–1956) – Soviet writer, Chairman of the Union of Soviet Writers (1946-1954), a champion of Stalin. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The whole paragraph is marked off at the left with a pencil by V.M. Molotov. Some words and phrases in the text are also underlined, in particular: ‘…to depart immediately and it would be good to invite them to Moscow’ which points at the fact that V.M. Molotov supported this option. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The letter to which Farge is referring may have been sent with others to the Soviet organising committee before the Moscow Meeting. It could have been an attempt to select an alternative, pro-government delegation in place of the one prepared by D. Robinson and W. Brown. Thus, the report dated 2 July 1952, addressed to V.M. Molotov, denoted that the British committee preparing for the Moscow Meeting had dispatched a number of invitations, including those to Professor Allan and ‘to a certain Galusser’. See RSASPH, f. 82, inv. 2, file 1042, p. 36 which says: ‘The British Ministry of Foreign Affairs ‘has recommended’ that Allan not participate in the Moscow Conference, but has informed Galusser that he may and should take part in this conference. Galusser was invited as a representative of the British-Swiss bank, although he had never actually worked in that bank. Galusser was formerly an advisor to a Spanish company that was trading with Britain and headed by a Franco supporter. During his visit to France this January, Galusser presented himself as a British banker and closely acquainted himself with the progressive people of France, Yves Farge in particular. Comrade Ignatiev believes that Galusser is a ‘dummy’ of the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It has not been ruled out they are trying to include him in the British delegation at the International Economic Conference in Moscow with a destructive purpose. The information concerning Galusser is being specified”. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. А.А. Fadeev (1901-1956) – Soviet writer and public figure, in 1946-1954, General-Secretary and Chairman of the governing body of the Union of Writers USSR, Vice-President of the World Peace Council (1950 - 1956) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Chambeiron, Robert (1915–2014) – French diplomat, MP of Vosges (1945–1951, 1956–1985), worked in the French Ministry of Finance, member of the European Parliament from the Communist Party of France (1979–1989). He played an important role in organising the Moscow Economic Conference of 1952 (headed the Initiative Committee in 1951 and the Committee for Promotion of International Trade at the MEC) After the conference this body never convened. For more about the MEC, see Lipkin, M. A., *The Soviet Union and European Integration: mid-1940s–mid-1960s* (Moscow: Institute of General History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 2011) pp. 127-166. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. This refers to the MEC. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)