Documents submitted to V.M. Molotov

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

7.04. (1952) [[1]](#footnote-1) For the benefit of Comrade Grigorian[[2]](#footnote-2)

Short Summary

Vyshinsky Presents the report of the Soviet embassy in India for 1951. In the report, it states that among all the opposition parties participating in parliamentary elections the Communist Party has achieved the greatest success. The main objective of the Communist Party at the elections was not winning Parliamentary seats, but the creation of a united people's democratic front. However[[3]](#footnote-3), this was not achieved. The main reason for failure in that regard is that the Communist Party was engaged in a long discussion about the new program draft and was late to join the election campaign. Reactionary-communal parties and the socialist party suffered a big defeat in the elections. The Socialist Party’s defeat is so shattering that it cannot recover from it, having a most severe crisis among its members.

India's domestic economic situation in 1951 was characterized by hunger in some parts of the country. Food shortages were estimated to be at a rate of 5-6 million tons. Despite this, in India there has been a decline of arable land for food crops and a rapid growth of land for commercial crops, in which above all the British and American monopolists are interested. In 1951 the main branches of India’s industry have increased output by 5-7 % in comparison to 1950 mainly by using previously underused capacities. In 1951, India’s foreign trade ended in a deficit of about 2 billion rupees (in comparison to 177 million in 1950). At present Indian-US trade is approximately equal to Indian-British trade.

The report notes that in 1951 America’s foreign policy regarding India took a major shift towards strengthening America’s penetration into India. The report underlines that after the war the US and Britain apparently reached an agreement among themselves, according to which Britain recognized China, Japan and the Philippines as America’s sphere of influence and was obliged to support the US’s policy concerning these countries, while the US recognized India, Burma, Malaya, Ceylon and other British possessions in the Pacific as Britain’s sphere of influence and pledged not to carry out any economic expansion in these countries. Americans implemented this agreement more or less loyally until they were driven out of China and until the British Parliament ratified the peace treaty with Japan. Now that the USA’s need for British support regarding China and Japan has largely diminished, constraints on the US to capture the Indian economy at the expense of replacing British influence in India and other British possessions in South East Asia have disappeared. Proceeding from the fact that in Britain there are circles which are strongly disturbed by the American policy in India, the embassy suggests to strengthen Soviet propaganda on America’s expansion in India. This Soviet propaganda trend will exacerbate British-American contradictions. With regard to the People’s Republic of China, the Indian government tries to avoid tensions, but uses its best efforts to stop China’s growing influence in India and countries in South East Asia. With regards to the USSR, the Indian government strives to maintain outwardly normal relations, but at the same time takes measures to prevent the expansion and strengthening of the Soviet Union’s influence in India[[4]](#footnote-4).

Sent to all the members of the Group of Eight.

[RSASPH, f. 82, inv. 2, fold. 1042, p. 113]

Keywords: India

1. This information goes into the summary report under the sequential number 4 for 7.04.1952. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Crossed out in V.M. Molotov’s handwriting. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The word ‘however’ [*odnako*] has been inserted in V.M.Molotov’s handwriting as part of the correction of the text. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The increased attention paid by the USSR to India in 1952 is also referred to in another summary report for 13.04.1952. Ignatiyev (Information Committee) reported that ‘in government circles in Pakistan the meeting of Radhakrishnan [Indian Ambassador to the USSR – Ed.] with I.V. Stalin is being connected with the International Economic Conference and is being assessed as the Indian Government striving to show that it shares the view of the Soviet Union in respect to strengthening relations between the USSR and Asian countries by means of establishing close trading and economic links between them. Indian diplomatic representatives in Karachi deem this meeting to be a sign of great respect and honour shown to India from the Soviet side and consider that this event will enable India and the Soviet Union to draw closer in the future.’ [RSASPH, f.82. inv.2. f.1042. p. 159]. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)