British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Anthony Eden’s telegram to British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, dated 29 October 1943.

MOST IMMEDIATE

MOST SECRET

Following personal for the Prime Minister from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

There have been many signs during our Conference that the members of the Soviet Government are sincere in their desire to establish relations with ourselves and the United States on a footing of permanent friendship. They have met us on a number of points both large and small in regard to which we foresaw difficulties. M. Stalin last night was at pains to show understanding of our problems and so far there have been no unsatisfactory afterthoughts. Mr. Molotov has shown that spirit on many occasions, notably as chairman of our Conference to-day when we had our final session on military matters. Though he was obviously disappointed at the outcome of what I had told him and Stalin last night[[1]](#footnote-1), and at our failure wholly to endorse in a manner satisfactory to him the Soviet proposals about Turkey and Sweden[[2]](#footnote-2), he conducted our business with an evident desire to avoid embarrassment to either country. As an indication of goodwill I received a message from him to-night that our imprisoned sailors have been pardoned[[3]](#footnote-3).

2. Russian representatives have given many other signs of an intention to open a new chapter. Your gesture in respect of convoys has made a deep impression[[4]](#footnote-4). For the first time for many years, Molotov and a number of his colleagues came to dinner at this Embassy tonight. Mikoyan[[5]](#footnote-5) whose task it is to keep these people fed, was especially eloquent in his tributes to your personal share in the sailing of these convoys. […]

[CHAR 20/122]

Keywords: Inter-allied relations

1. Relates to the probability of delaying the operation "Overlord" for the sake of success in Italy. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Soviet proposal on measures "to reduce the time period" of war discussed at the Moscow conference, namely the second front; an appeal by the three Powers to Turkey regarding its immediate entry into the war; a proposal on behalf of the three Powers to Sweden for air bases on its territory (Moskovskaya konferentsiya. p. 90). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. In July 1943, two British sailors belonging to the British staff in the Northern USSR were sentenced to 2 years for a drunken brawl in a public place and insulting Soviet officials. In light of the successes of the Moscow Conference and warming of Soviet-British relations, the Soviet authorities pardoned the sentenced sailors. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. In a response to Stalin's letter, dated 1 October, Churchill spoke of Britain’s readiness to resume sending convoys in November 1943. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Mikoyan, Anastas Ivanovich (1895 - 1978) - Soviet statesman and Party leader, People’s Commissar for Foreign Trade (1938 – 1949, from 1946 - Minister), deputy chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR (1937 – 1955, from 1946 - Council of Ministers). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)