From the diary of the Deputy Head of the Press Department of the USSR, K.E. Zinchenko, to the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, 9 October 1944

Secret

From Kremlin Mr Churchill went to the English Embassy, where he stayed for 1.5 hours. Judging by some remarks, this time was used to record his conversation with Comrade I.V. Stalin and to draw up a telegram to London.

After the conversation with Comrades I.V. Stalin and V.M. Molotov Mr Churchill said, en route to the dacha that he was satisfied with the conversation with Marshal Stalin. “Together with Marshal Stalin, - said Churchill, - we can move the world a hundred years ahead. We have enough power for that, and we really can move the world a hundred years ahead”.

Then, a bit later, Mr Churchill said: “It is nice and pleasant to do business with Stalin. He is a resolute man and does not like to hesitate. He either says yes immediately, or, after some consideration, says no, but he always gives a definite answer. Molotov is also a good man.” A little bit later, as if emerging from deep thought, Churchill started saying that it’s already 33 years that he’s been fighting against the Germans[[1]](#footnote-1). This fight started during the last world war and continues to this day. “I have always struggled against the Germans and supported the French,” said Churchill. “I did not think well of the Russians at all times, but now we are friends, and our friendship is a great thing! Yes, a great thing”, continued Churchill.

He then seemed to become oblivious to the surroundings and remained silent for the rest of the journey.

K. Zinchenko

[FPA RF, f. 06, inv. 6, fold. 22, file 226, p. 16]

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1. The idea that the period since 1914 was kind of a "Thirty Years War" against German hegemony was one of Churchill’s own favourite ideas: he mentioned it in letters to Stalin in 1944 (on 20 February and 19 December), and then developed it in his memoirs (Churchill WSC The Second World War Vol 1. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1948. P. xiii). Historians, however, believe that it often obscures rather than clarifies the actual events (Reynolds D. From World War to Cold War: Churchill, Roosevelt, and the International History of the 1940s Oxford, 2006. p. 26). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)