Directive for the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, V.M. Molotov, to discuss the Control Council for Japanese affairs at the London session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, [undated, September 1945][[1]](#footnote-1)

Concerning the Control Council for Japan.

It is necessary to bring up immediately the issue of the organization of the Control Council on Japan to the Council of Ministers.

The American suggestion on an organization with an advisory commission is aimed at postponing the issue of the Control Council for an uncertain period and thus, will let MacArthur[[2]](#footnote-2) decide on his own all the issues concerning Japan, both military and civil.

Thus it is necessary to reject the American suggestion. It would be reasonable to base the discussion not on the American, but on the British project once presented by Kerr. This project is better than the American one because it does not postpone the issue of the Control Council and makes a timid attempt to somewhat reduce the unlimited rights of MacArthur. We believe it is necessary to remove the unlimited rights of MacArthur and the position of sole Supreme Commander of four main countries who, as we know, does what he wants, and does not even report to us about his orders. Thus, here is our suggestion: to demand the creation of a Control Council comprising of four main countries, and not to object to the fifth country - Australia, if Britain insists on it. Chairmanship in the Control Council should be transferred to MacArthur so that the position of sole Supreme Commander in Chief of the allies is liquidated and so that henceforth MacArthur speaks on behalf of the Control Council.

The task of the Control Council is the development of Allied policy regarding Japan, both in military and all other issues. The task of the Control Council Chairman is conducting activities aimed at carrying out of the policy developed by Control Council.

Not to object to the British suggestion of Allied garrisons in Tokyo. Also not to object to the British suggestion on granting them an air base and a port, on the condition that we are also granted an air base and a port. Also, do not object to the organisation of an Advisory Committee. The Control Council should be located in Tokyo.

The main motive behind our suggestion on the elimination of the position of sole Supreme Commander in Chief: during a purely military period and while the Japanese army and fleet had not yet been disarmed, the position of a sole Supreme Commander in Chief was not objectionable, but upon expiration of such a period, it is purely political, financial and economic issues that now arise, so it would be reasonable to replace the position of a sole Supreme Commander in Chief with a Control Council.

We believe that the issue of the organisation of a Control Council for Japan is urgent, so it is necessary to raise it at this session of the Council of Ministers.

[no signature, no date]

[FPARF, f. 0431/I, inv. 1, fold. 1, file 1, pp. 28–29]

Keywords: Japan, inter-allied relations

1. The document bears a handwritten inscription: ‘Directive from Moscow’. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. MacArthur, Douglas (1880 – 1964) – U.S. General, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area (1942 – 1945), Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in Japan (1945 – 1948), Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command during Korean War (1950 – 1953). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)