Note from the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, I.V. Stalin, to the "Quartet" of the Politburo of the AUCP (b)[[1]](#footnote-1) of the USSR, dated 10 November 1945 [[2]](#footnote-2)

I consider the publication of Churchill’s speech with his praise of Russia and Stalin a mistake[[3]](#footnote-3). Churchill does all of this because he needs to soothe his bad conscience and camouflage his hostile attitude to the USSR, in particular the fact that Churchill and his pupils from the Labour Party are the organizers of a British-American-French bloc against the USSR...There are now many in our seats of authority who hurl themselves into infantile ecstasy when hearing praises of Churchill, Truman, Byrnes and, conversely, lose their heart after unfavorable references from these misters. In my consideration, these are dangerous attitudes, since they spawn in our ranks servility before foreign figures. Against this servility before foreigners we must fight tooth and nail. But if we continue to publish this kind of speeches, we will thereby implant servility and fawning. […]

Needless to say, Soviet leaders are not in need of praise from foreign leaders. Speaking personally, this praise only jars on me.

Stalin.

[RSASPH, f. 558, inv. 11, file 770, p. 5]

Keywords: Inter-allied relations, post-war USSR

1. AUCP (b) - All Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) [Russian acronym – VKP (b)] – Party of the Russian / Soviet Communists until its 19th Congress, 5 - 14 October 1951, when it changed name to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The group of four Politburo members: the People’s Commissar for Foreign Affairs V.M. Molotov, the People’s Commissar for Internal Affairs L.P. Beria, the Deputy Chairman of the Council of People’s Commissars G.M. Malenkov and the People’s Commissar for Foreign Trade A.I. Mikoyan. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Stalin sent this cable from Sochi during his first vacation after the war’s end. On 9 November, *Pravda*, following a personal instruction by Molotov, published excerpts from the recent speech by Churchill in the House of Commons. Churchill spoke about “the feeling of deep gratitude that we owe to the noble Soviet people” and expressed his “greatest admiration” for Stalin – “this truly great man, the father of his nation who ruled the destiny of his country in time of peace and the victorious defender of her in time of war.”(*Pravda*, 9 November, 1945). Publication of similar praise by Western leaders was a standard practice of Soviet wartime propaganda, but Stalin seized this opportunity to brace his lieutenants for a new, more combative attitude toward the Western Allies: Molotov’s response to this reprimand was predictable: “I consider it a mistake, because, even in our printed version it came through that the praise of Russia and Stalin served Churchill to camouflage his hostile anti-Soviet aims. In any case, this speech should not have been printed without your consent”. For a detailed analysis see: Vladimir O. Pechatnov.“The Allies are Pressing on you to Break your Will…” Foreign Policy Correspondence Between Stalin and Molotov And Other Politburo Members, September 1945 – December 1946. Translated by Vladislav M. Zubok. Working Paper No. 26 (Cold War International History Project) Washington, D.C. September 1999

   (available at: https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/ACFB29.PDF). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)