Letter from the Chargé d’Affaires of the United Kingdom in the USSR, F. Roberts, to the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, A. Ya. Vyshinsky, 8 April 1946[[1]](#footnote-1)

URGENT.

April, 8th, 1946

Dear Mr. Vyshinsky,

In the House of Commons it was recently declared that my Government agreed with the suggestion that a delegation of two Parliament members should visit Persia for approximately two weeks in order to provide their colleagues with first-hand information on the situation over there. Members of delegation are Mr. Michael Foot[[2]](#footnote-2) (Labour) and Brigadier A.H. Head[[3]](#footnote-3) (Tory). The mission does not have any special competence and is not an official investigation mission on behalf of my government; the purpose of the trip is to learn about the situation in Persia and to report to the Parliament. The Parliament is interested in the well-being of Persia.

2. As I understand, Mr. Foot and Brigadier Head are still in Persia. My Government would greatly like them to visit the Persian Azerbaijan and other provinces of Northern Persia; therefore it will be grateful, if you are so kind as to urgently notify the Soviet Ambassador in Teheran[[4]](#footnote-4) and other Soviet authorities involved in the issue that the Soviet Government has no objections against the mission’s visit of these places in the near future[[5]](#footnote-5).

 Sincerely yours,

 Frank K. Roberts.

 Translated by /signature/ (Pastoev[[6]](#footnote-6)).

[FPARF, f. 069, inv. 8, fold. 23, file 341, p. 8]

Keywords: Iran

1. Received by post, the text is a translation from English. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Foot, Michael (1913 – 2010) – British journalist and politician (Labour), MP (1945 – 1955, 1960 – 1992), editor of the *Evening Standard* (1942 – 1945), columnist at the *Daily Herald* (1945 – 1948), editor of the *Tribune* (1948 – 1952, 1955 – 1960). During the war he published a range of articles in which he hailed Soviet military successes. See, for example: Foot M. ‘The Men – The Ships – The Will’ // Evening Standard. July 15, 1942. p. 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Head, Antony Henry (1906 – 1983) – British Brigadier and politician (Conservative), MP (1945 – 1950), Secretary of State for War (1951 – 1956). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Sadchikov, Ivan Vasilyevich (1906 – 1989) – Soviet diplomat. In charge of the Middle East Section of the People’s Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the USSR (1943 – 1945), Ambassador of the USSR to Yugoslavia (1945 – 1946), Ambassador of the USSR to Iran (1946 – 1953). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. At the same time in the Anglophone press – already by the 5 April, linked to a report by United Press from Tehran on the fourth of that month – information appeared that ‘the British parliamentary inquiry … has been refused permission to enter Soviet – occupied Azerbaijan and will leave Iran for Cairo on April 10.’ (The Stanford Daily. April 5, 1946.) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Pastoev, Vsevolod Vladimirovich – in charge of the Translation Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)