Letter from the British Chargé d’Affaires in the USSR, F. Roberts, to the Head of the Second European Department of the Foreign Ministry of the USSR, K.V. Novikov, 17 April 1946[[1]](#footnote-1)

Dear Mr. Novikov,

[1.] As you may remember, in my letter to Mr Vyshinsky of 8 April I asked that the Soviet Ambassador to Teheran and other Soviet authorities be urgently informed of the fact that the Soviet Government does not object to Mr Foot and Brigadier Heath[[2]](#footnote-2), British MPs who are currently in Teheran, visiting Persian Azerbaijan and other Northern Persian regions. I told you about this request on 10 April and then on 12 April. In the latter case you told me that the issue has been handed over to the Soviet military authorities in Persia and that you are still awaiting their reply.

2. As I have just learnt, due to the fact that the Soviet Embassy in Teheran could not by 12 April deliver the authorisation that I have requested, Mr Foot and Brigadier Heath decided that their parliamentary duties do not allow them to wait any longer, and they are therefore planning to leave Teheran for the UK on 13 April[[3]](#footnote-3).

Yours sincerely,

Frank K. Roberts

[FPARF, f. 06, inv. 8, fold. 23, file 341, p. 21]

Keywords: Iran

1. It was received by post on 18 April. The text is translated from English. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. It appears thus in the original: in truth it was “Head”. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. In the press the unexpected departure of the British mission (linked to Associated Press information from 12 April) was bluntly attributed to refusal by the Soviet authorities: ‘The British parliamentary mission which had planned to leave Iran Wednesday [17 April], suddenly changed its plans . The two members, Michael Foot and Brig. Anthony H. Head, have not yet received Soviet permission to enter Azerbaizan.’ (Daily Illini. 12 April 1946). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)