From a telegram by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, I.V. Stalin, to the ‘Five’[[1]](#footnote-1) of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the All Union Communist Party (b), 30 September 1946[[2]](#footnote-2)

Cipher text

To Comrades MOLOTOV, ZHDANOV, BERIA, MIKOYAN and MALENKOV.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs made a serious mistake on the issue of the term of our oil concession implementation in Iran. The seven-month term will expire in October, while the elections have not been called yet; this said, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not seem to have taken any measures to get the concession implemented within the term stipulated by the agreement between the USSR and Iran of 24th of March 1946[[3]](#footnote-3). It is not clear who allowed Sadchikov to extend the seven-month term for another two months, and what the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is here.

Is there a guarantee that the term will not be extended for another seven months? There is a threat that, given Sadchikov’s strange behaviour on this issue and the lack of intervention from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the concession may get stuck. It is necessary that Molotov, and all the six in general, immediately get involved in this issue and demand that Qavam fulfil the agreement. The draft note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must be put together immediately overnight.

[…]

I. STALIN

[RSASPH, f. 17, inv. 167, file 72, p. 87]

Keywords: Iran

1. Inner circle of the Soviet Communist Party Politburo, closest to Stalin, which, in 1946 included Molotov, Zhdanov, Beria, Mikoyan and Malenkov. Membership of this circle changed over the years. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The telegram was written while Stalin was on holiday in Sochi (he stayed there in September-December 1946). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. On 24 March the reaching of the Soviet-Iranian accord and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Iran within six weeks was announced. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)