From a telegram by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, V.G. Dekanozov, to Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, I.V. Stalin, 1 October 1946

TOP SECRET

1st of October, 1946

Cipher Telegram

To Comrade STALIN

I forward to you a copy of the telegram to Sadchikov in Teheran on the issue of the oil concession, which I sent today as requested by Comrade Molotov:

“The Soviet Government considers the treaty with Iran on the Soviet-Iranian oil company an issue of big political and economic importance. According to the agreement reached on this issue on the 4th of April this year, which had envisaged a 7-month-term, starting from the 24th of March, for the treaty to be submitted for approval by the newly convened Majlis, you ought to make sure that the Iranian Government fulfills its obligations in due time. However, more than 6 months have passed since then, and not only have you not taken any steps to prevent violation of said term, but, as it transpired from you telegram of 16th of September, acting on your own initiative, you have promised Qavam to extend the term set for submitting the treaty for Majlis approval.

You had no right to make such declarations nor, more importantly, give the Iranian Government any ground for discussing the terms, or indeed any other change to the provisions of the Soviet-Iranian treaty, which must be strictly observed. You have made a serious mistake by this action. I point this out to you and demand that measures be taken to implement the agreement reached on the 4th of April and such unacceptable actions on your side be avoided in future.

Inform us of the delivery to Qavam of the note sent to you today and of the steps undertaken by you to fulfill the April agreement with Iran[[1]](#footnote-1).

Confirm receipt. Molotov”.

DEKANOZOV

[RSASPH, f. 17, inv. 167, file 72, pp. 95–96]

Keywords: Iran

1. It follows from this exchange that Stalin had decided to pin the blame for failing to secure ratification in the Iranian Majlis for the Soviet-Iranian oil concession on the People’s Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, even though in talks with Qavām he himself agreed the deal (Soviet troop withdrawals in exchange for ratification by the Majlis) that had allowed the Iranian side to break the agreement. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)