Telegram from Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, V.M. Molotov, to Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, I.V. Stalin, 5 December 1946

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SOCHI, TO DRUZHKOV.

[…]

Discussion on the issue of choosing the location for the permanent headquarters of UNO is becoming rather acute.

The delegation of the USA together with the majority of the South American satellites plus Australia, Canada, China and Philippines want the UNO headquarters to be placed in San Francisco. The Arab countries are also likely to vote for San Francisco for anti-Semitic reasons.

The British delegation, however, objects to San Francisco, but under the influence of the Americans it is not actively opposed and is ready to move from New York to Philadelphia.

The suggestion for Europe is not met with support.

Judging by the mood among the Assembly delegates, approximately 26-28 delegations will vote for San Francisco together with the Americans. Britain may collect, possibly, some16-18 voices for Philadelphia. We may collect the other 8, maximum 10 voices for New York.

In order to not remain in an obvious minority and to overcome the American bloc in favour of San Francisco, we will try to unite with Britain in order to stay at the US East Atlantic coast. As a last resort, we may give up on New York and agree for the UNO headquarters to be in Philadelphia which is a two hours’ journey by train from New York, but we should object to San Francisco.

If there are other instructions, please inform of them.

New York. 05.12.46. MOLOTOV.

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