Note from Comrade Arkadiev*[[1]](#footnote-1)* to Comrade V. M. Molotov, remarks on Bevin’s suggestions, 30 April 1947

Handwritten [*From Comrade Arkadiev*]

To Comrade V.M. Molotov.

REMARKS ON BEVIN’S SUGGESTIONS

1. The proposal for the necessity of a coordinated four-year plan should be rejected.

At present, it is impossible to foresee the whole system of economic interdependence, rate of economic restoration and development of the countries for the next 4 years and, thus, surpluses and export of their goods. Coordination is impossible without this.

Besides this, the rate of economic restoration and development of European countries depends on the amount of assistance (which is absolutely unclear).

Without knowing the amount of assistance, we cannot know the growth rates of European economic resources.

 2) Why does Mr. Bevin thinks that the US will agree to provide assistance in the form of industrial equipment and coal. What allows him to assume this?

3) Why should the Steering Committee consist of representatives of the 3 main countries and 4 other countries. What [are these] other countries?

4) It is better to conduct consultations concerning Germany not through the zone commanders, but through the Control Council, where we have the right of "veto" and, accordingly, more possibilities to limit this or that consultation[[2]](#footnote-2). The motivation may be as follows: assistance to Germany should be for the whole of Germany, instead of certain zones. All of Germany may only be represented by the Control Council.

5) It is necessary to oppose Bevin’s suggestion that the subcommittee will consist of a small number of members from the countries that are most directly interested in each individual case.

If this suggestion is accepted, this would mean that in our absence, someone, instead of us, will make decisions on issues that concern us; the main countries should be presented in all the committees, while others may be brought in for a particular committee.

 [Signature] (G. Arkadiev).

30.04.47.

To Comrade V.M. Molotov

I’d like to present you one more consideration, which, to my mind, may be used (in one or the other form) as an argument against the Bevin-Bidault[[3]](#footnote-3) suggestion on Europe’s compulsory economic balances for receiving assistance.

[Signature] (G. Arkadiev).

30.04.47.

The economic situation of the European countries is already known well enough. It is known that most European countries suffered massive damage which was already appreciably considered by the Social subcommittee of Economic Social Council on the ruined regions[[4]](#footnote-4). Thus, according to available data, in just 13 European countries (the United Kingdom, the USSR, France, Belgium, Albania, Luxembourg, Denmark, the Netherlands, Yugoslavia, Norway and Poland) the total amount of damaged caused is calculated to be in the region of 300 billion dollars. It is obvious that, as compensation for such damage, which has greatly undermined Europe’s production capacity, any external assistance will be only a partial contribution towards Europe’s economic restoration.

The assistance (especially the equipment, railway rolling stock, sea and river transport) may, however, at least partially, restore the production units of European countries, to increase the amount of commodity output of the European countries and thus to activate external commercial relations between the countries. To render assistance, there is no need to urgently constitute comprehensive and not very realistic balances of distribution and redistribution of the scarce commodity resources of European countries. The economic needs of European countries are absolutely clear. Any assistance would address these need only to a certain extent and may be rendered by sincere desire on the basis of requests for aid from individual countries, who know their needs and resources. These requests could be gathered together by the Assistance Committee. It is important to specify the amounts and conditions of assistance, so that they are acceptable for European countries and do not influence their political and economic independence.

 [Signature] (G. Arkadiev)

30.04.47

[FPARF, inv. 9, fold. 18, file 213, pp. 15-16]

Keywords: post-war Western Europe, post-war Eastern Europe, inter-allied relations

1. Arkadiev, Georgy Petrovich (1905–1993) - Soviet diplomat. Secretary General of the International Reparations Commission, Deputy Head of the Economic Department of the People’s Commissariat for Foreign Affairs (from 1946 Ministry of Foreign Affairs) of the USSR (1947–1949), Deputy Political Counselor of the Soviet Military Administration in Germany (1947–1949), Counselor in the USSR Diplomatic Mission in the GDR (1949–1951), Head of the Fourth European Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1951–1952), Head of the USA Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1952–1953), USSR Permanent Representative to International Organisations in Vienna (1968–1975). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. It should be noted that the Allied Control Council (Ger. Alliierter Kontrollrat) after the amalgamation of the American and British Zones of Occupation ceased to exert any decisive influence on the governance of Germany. A crisis in the activities of the Allied Control Council developed at the beginning of 1948 when the Soviet side found out about preparations being made for a separate monetary reform in the German Western Occupied Zones. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Bidault, Georges (1899 - 1983) - French politician. French foreign minister (1944 - 1946, 1947 - 1948, 1953 - 1954), French Prime Minister (1946, 1949 - 1950), French defense minister (1951 - 1952). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. A temporary subcommittee for the economic development and reconstruction of devastated areas was set up on 21 June 1946 under the aegis of the Commission for Economics and Employment. It consisted of two working groups: the first for Europe and Africa, and the second for Asia and the Far East. Initially, this subcommittee encompassed 20 countries, including Great Britain, the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR. See E / RES / 6 (II) Temporary Sub-Commission on the Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas // United Nations Digital Repository <http://repository.un.org/handle/11176/206316>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)