Telegram from the correspondent of TASU[[1]](#footnote-1) in London concerning the results of negotiations between the British ministers and Clayton[[2]](#footnote-2), 28 June 1947[[3]](#footnote-3)

Top secret

London, June, 28 (TASU = Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union). The correspondent of TASU in London informs: Gavshon, the correspondent of Associated Press agency[[4]](#footnote-4) told me that during the meetings between the British ministers and Clayton, taking place for the last three days, they came to an arrangement on the following items: 1) The Marshall Plan should be considered a ‘reconstruction plan’ instead of assistance to Europe - it should not be the continuation of UNRRA[[5]](#footnote-5), 2) such reconstruction may be carried out by the creation of a number of function committees - on coal, steel, transport, agriculture, etc. These committees will operate under the direction of the main committee. The various European countries will be represented in the committees, 3) Britain and the US agree that any organisation created for carrying out of the plan should be apart from the United Nations Organization. That is because Germany is not a member of the United Nations, 4) Britain and the US consider Germany of major importance to Europe’s economy and should be central to any plan for the continent’s restoration.

Since the American and the British governments haven’t changed their views regarding certain German issues since the Moscow conference, Britain and the USA will resolutely resist the USSR’s demands for reparations from the current produce. According to Gavshon, Americans say that the Economic Commission for Europe “may act later, but not to supervise the plan fulfillment”.

This information obtained by Gavshon is based off of conversations he had with Porter[[6]](#footnote-6), the head of American economic mission in Europe, and with Williams [[7]](#footnote-7) , the chief of the prime minister department of information.

Most of Gavshon’s information has also been corroborated by “New York Herald Tribune” correspondents John Cabot, Arnold Smith, and Ned Russell.

Gavshon is the author of the message in autumn of 1946 which revealed the British-American agreement on weapons standardization.

Gavshon declared that he will publish the corresponding materials when the Paris conference will begin its work.

June, 28, 1947

Sent to:

Comrades Bogomolov,

Zarubin,

Golunsky[[8]](#footnote-8) and Kozyrev[[9]](#footnote-9).

[FPARF, f. 06, inv. 9, file 231, fold. 19, pp. 5-6]

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

1. TASU / TASS (in Russian) – Telegraphic Agency of the Soviet Union; Central news agency of the Soviet Union, with correspondence throughout the world. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Clayton, William Lockhart (1880–1966) - American entrepreneur and active supporter of free trade policy. Held a number of public service appointments after the election of F D Roosevelt as President of the USA. Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs (1946–1947). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This information, which reached top Soviet leadership was instrumental in augmenting Soviet suspicions about hidden motives behind the Marshall plan, especially regarding Germany. See: Pechatnov, Vladimir O., The Soviet Union and the World, 1944-1953 in *The Cambridge History of the Cold War,* ed. by Arne O. Westad and Melvin P. Leffler. Vol.1. (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 2010), p.104-105. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Gavshon, Arthur Leslie (1916–1995) - South African and British journalist and publicist. AP employee (1947–1970, 1971–1976). Interviewed six British prime ministers. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration was set up in Washington in 1943 and became an integral part of the United Nations in 1945. The USA acted as initiator, but the organisation had representatives from 44 countries. After the implementation of the Marshall, it lost the majority of its former functions and largely ceased operating in 1947. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Porter, Paul R. (1902–2002) - American economist and self-taught statesman. Director of the Shipbuilding Stabilisation Committee in the War Production Committee (1941–1945), Deputy and the Head of Mission for Economic Affairs at the US Embassy in London (1947–1949), Head of the US delegation to the Economic Commission for Europe (1947–1949). Head of Mission on economic cooperation in Greece (1949–1950). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Williams, Sir Edward John (1890–1963) - British Labour politician. Minister of Information (1945–1946). High Commissioner of the United Kingdom in Australia (1946–1952). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Golunsky, Sergey Aleksandrovich (1895-1962) - Soviet diplomat and international lawyer. Head of the Treaties Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry (1945-1952), member of the International Court of Justice (1952-1953). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Kozyrev, Semyon Pavlovich (1907-1991) - Soviet diplomat. Counsellor in the Soviet Embassy to the French Committee of National Liberation in Algiers (1943-1944), Soviet ambassador to France (1944-1945), head of the 1st European Directorate in the Soviet Foreign Ministry (1945-1949), Soviet Ambassador to Egypt (1950-1953). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)