Memorandum from Abakumov to Comrade I. V. Stalin describing the reaction of the Labour Party delegation to their reception by Comrade Stalin, 14 October 1947

THE MINISTRY TOP SECRET

OF STATE SECURITY

October, 14, 1947 USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

No 3330/A

city of Moscow

to Comrade I.V. STALIN

I hereby report that the USSR MSS employee Comrade KONDRASHEV[[1]](#footnote-1), being the interpreter of the group of Labour deputies of the British parliament informed on the following reactions of the Labour delegates after they were received by Comrade STALIN:

“Members of British parliament were waiting to be received by Comrade STALIN with great impatience and said among themselves that they expect a lot from this meeting.

After the conversation with Comrade STALIN, ZILLIACUS said that the outcome of conversation had surpassed all their expectations.

ALLEN and THOMAS declared that, Comrade STALIN amazed them with his remarkable detailed knowledge of Great Britain’s current political and economic situation.

Labour [MPs] were very much impressed by Comrade STALIN’s statement that coordination of activities of the Communist Parties which took place at the meeting in Poland is not the renewal of Comintern activity. This was especially underlined by ALLEN, THOMAS and LEE.

LEE said that, in his opinion, one of Comrade STALIN’s ingenious qualities is that he always makes statements of great importance, which can’t be said about the so-called “big politicians of the West”.

When talking to me, THOMAS remarked that he was, above all, amazed how during the conversation with delegation, Comrade STALIN behaved the same as he does when he usually receives representatives of his own country. THOMAS said: “Above all, he remains himself, and this makes him great”.

The Labourites (sic) had disagreements regarding the conversation they had with Comrade MOLOTOV: whether they have the right to quote separate words and remarks, as well as the answers of Comrade TSALIN during the conversation.

Opinions among Labourites were divided as follows: LEE declared that, in his opinion, they have a just cause to use conversation materials in their speeches and in the press. All the others supported THOMAS, who said that, since there was no preliminary agreement they should avoid quoting Comrade STALIN’s answers and remarks,.

After the conversation with Comrade STALIN, the Labourites feel very inspired.

ZILLIACUS and some other Labourites said that, most likely, the British press will immediately respond to the message of their meeting with Comrade STALIN and will without fail mention the fact that they made a journey of more than a thousand miles to meet with him.

ZILLIACUS added that, BEVIN will obviously not be very happy to learn about this conversation”.

[Signature] ABAKUMOV.

Sent to:

Comrade Stalin.

Comrade Molotov.

[RSASPH, f. 558, inv. 11, file 286, pp. 65-66]

Keywords: inter-allied relations

1. Kondrashev, Sergey Aleksandrovich (1923–2007) - Soviet intelligence officer, Lieutenant-General, KGB. Deputy Head of the American Section of the Counter-intelligence Directorate of the MGB (1947–1951), Deputy Head of the First Section, subsequently the British Section of the First (Anglo-American) Section of the Information Committee of the First Main Directorate of the MGB (1951–1953), First Secretary in the Soviet Embassy in Great Britain (1953–1955), and handler of the Soviet agent, George Blake. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)