Extract from Cabinet conclusions recording the Foreign Secretary’s view on recent developments in Soviet-Yugoslav relations, dated 1 July 1948

SECRET

[…]

 *The Foreign Secretary* said that, if there were no reconciliation between Moscow and the Communist leaders in Yugoslavia, it seemed likely that Yugoslavia and Bulgaria might move towards the establishment of a Balkan Federation. It had been the aim of the Soviet Government to secure control of Greece by supporting the Communists in that country and to turn the Turkish flank by that means. Marshal Tito, on the other hand, had favoured the alternative course of securing an outlet to the south through the establishment of a Balkan Federation. These differences between the Soviet Government and the Communist leaders in Yugoslavia and Bulgaria were, however, differences of method, not of ultimate aim; and they would not ease our problem of preventing Greece from being detached from the Western Powers.

[…]

[TNA, CAB 128/13/6]

Keywords: Yugoslavia, the Balkans, post-war Eastern Europe