Letter from the Head of II European Section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, V. Pavlov, to Comrade Ponomarev[[1]](#footnote-1), 28 January 1952

28 Jan 52.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs II Еuropean Section

To Cde Ponomarev

Sending you a copy of the record of conversations between 1st Secretary of the Soviet Embassy in London, Cde Bruslov, and Ivor Montagu[[2]](#footnote-2) containing some information on the pace of preparations in Britain for the economic meeting in Moscow in April this year.

Head II Еuropean Section, V. Pavlov[[3]](#footnote-3)

Record of conversations on 11 & 17 Jan 52.

Robinson Joan[[4]](#footnote-4) – prof. Cambridge Univ, Soc. Democ. views

Walston H.D.[[5]](#footnote-5) – businessman, was Lab. Party candidate in ’51, defeated

Browne – Browne Montague’s[[6]](#footnote-6) Christian name unknown, is a representative of the firm Glassimettal, philanthropist and eccentric, sympathises with progressive movements.

Montagu and his friends want to bring Mortimer, well known to them, into the committee

[…] this would have its positive outcome – the possession of knowledge by the leadership of progressive organisations in Britain about the scope of work in preparation for the economic conference.

Prof Robinson attended meetings of the Economics conference in Prague and Copenhagen.

Robinson, Walston and Browne rec’d instructions at these conferences to conduct their work of preparation for the economic conference independently of the organisation of supporters for the peace movement in Britain. As a result of this Robinson, Walston and Browne carried out their work without informing the leadership of the committee of supporters of the peace movement in Britain and their friends.

There are grounds to suppose that the campaign in the *Daily Worker* for participation in the conference would not have brought positive results, in as much as we are interested in attracting people to participate in the conference with political beliefs different from those of readers of the *Daily Worker*. However, having a place, the full transfer of the matter of selecting the English participants in the conference into Robinson’s hands instils well-known fears of Browne and Walston in Montagu. Although he believes these three people to be decent, he does not exclude the possibility of disrupting the preparation work in the event that by the moment the conference is called the political situation is aggravated under the influence of some event arising.

[RSASPH, f.17, folder 137, f. 238]

Keywords: Economy

1. Ponomarev, Boris Nikolayevich (1905 – 1995) – Soviet politician, ideologist, historian. Head of the Department for Relations with Foreign Communist Parties of the Central Committe of the CPSU (1955-1957), Head of the International Departemnt of the Central Committee of the CPSU (1957-1986). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Montagu, Ivor Goldsmid Samuel (1904-1984) – British English filmmaker, screenwriter, producer, film critic, writer, Communist activist in the 1930s. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Pavlov, Vladimir Nikolaevich (1915-1993) – Soviet diplomat and interpreter. Advisor at the Embassy of the USSR in Great Britain (1947—1948). Head of the II European Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR(1949—1952 and in 195). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Robinson, Joan Violet (1903-1983) – British economist, from 1937 lecturer at the University of Cambridge, from 1958 a member of the British Academy. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Walston, Henry David Leonard George, Baron Walston (1912-1991) – British farmer, Agronomist, political figure, member of the Liberal Party, in the 1950s a member of the Labour Party. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Most likely refers to Sir Anthony Arthur Duncan Montague Browne (1923-2013) – British diplomat, Private secretary to the Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Sir Orme Sargent (1946-1949); Second Secretary in the British Embassy in Paris (1949 -1952), Private Secretary for Foreign Affairs to the Prime Minister, Wnston Churchill (1952-1955). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)