Documents submitted to V.M. Molotov

02.02. [1952] to Comrade Vyshinsky[[1]](#footnote-1)

Short Summary

Zorin Presented the communique of the conference of Ministers of Finance of the British Commonwealth that took place this year from 15 January until 21 January. The content of the Communique reveals that the monopolistic bourgeoisie of Britain attempts to take more resolute action for the restoration of the economic situation of the British Empire which had worsened lately. The British ruling circles, who are now apparently convinced of the impossibility of breaking the USA’s tough policy, have concluded that it is necessary to make essential changes in their economic policy. The communiqué mentions that measures will be taken which “will provide the stability of the pound of sterling necessary for its future role of widely used international currency”. The first measure of this kind is the decision of the British people to reduce imports from the dollar zone by 500 million pounds sterling per year. According to the press, cotton imports from the USA have almost completely stopped. The purchase of American coal has been reduced.

Further the British government plans serious measures on increasing the export of goods to international markets. This is why a reduction of consumer goods sales is planned in the domestic market.

At the same time the British government strengthened its attack on the standard of life of the British working class. The British government has already started mass firing of the state employees, new restrictions on foodstuffs and consumer goods imports to Britain (foodstuffs imports are being reduced by 170 million pounds sterling per year).

Under present conditions the British government will probably take action to strengthen commercial relations with the USSR and the countries of national democracy. In this respect Butler's statement[[2]](#footnote-2) about the import - in the current year - of 5.5 million tons of rough grain crops for cattle forage is important.

Comrade Zorin believes that it would be expedient to publish in the Soviet press a number of articles on the conference of Ministers of Finance of the British Commonwealth[[3]](#footnote-3) due to importance of the issues discussed at the conference and since this conference was not noticed enough in the Soviet press.

Sent to Comrade Stalin and other comrades from the Group of Eight, as well as to Comrades Vyshinsky, Zverev[[4]](#footnote-4) and Kumykin[[5]](#footnote-5).

[RSASPH, f. 82, inv. 2, fold. 1042, p. 32]

Keywords: Economy

1. The addressee in the top right-hand corner – ‘To Cde. Vyshinsky’ – is crossed out in Molotov’s hand. At the top of the document the date he first read it is written in the self-same hand: ‘V.М. 3/II’. The information in the summary report has been completed under sequential number 1 for 02.02.1952. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Butler, Richard Austen, Baron Butler of Saffron Walden (1902-1982) – prominent British Conservative Party figure. In 1941-1945 he was Minister of Education. In 1951-1955 he was Chancellor of the Exchequer. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The Commonwealth Finance Ministers’ Conference took place on 15-21 January 1952. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Zverev, Arsenii Grigoryevich (1900-1969) – Soviet political figure, Minister of Finance of the USSR (1948-1960), candidate member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (1952-1953). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Kumykin, Pavel Nikolaevich (1901-1976) – Soviet political figure, Minister for Foreign Trade of the USSR (1951-1953). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)