Documents submitted to V.M. Molotov

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

31.05. (1952)[[1]](#footnote-1) To Comrade Mikoyan.

Should МВТ together with

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs be ordered

to consider this issue and to prepare suggestions?[[2]](#footnote-2)

Short Summary

Vyshinsky Forwards the letter of the British lawyer Pritt[[3]](#footnote-3), received by Comrade Zarubin, the Soviet ambassador. Enclosed along with the letter is the memorandum of the MEC[[4]](#footnote-4) British delegation at the International Economic Conference in Moscow. In the mentioned memorandum, the British MEC delegates specify that, “in Britain it is necessary to immediately take corresponding measures for carrying out both the business and the political decisions of the Economic Conference”. Among these measures, there is the suggestion to first of all establish in Britain a corporation controlled by the countries which signed the agreements in Moscow. All the necessary communication with suppliers or buyers will be carried out via its mediation, and this corporation will run business with the corresponding corporations in the specified countries. The memorandum states that the corporation will also ensure that “any contracts with socialist states will be concluded in the spirit of the agreement reached in Moscow, and with the intent of creating favourable opportunities to involve the business community in implementing this Conference’s objectives”. With the help of its governing body, this corporation will aspire to promote trade between East and West and eliminate the barriers created by Western countries which at the moment impede trade and assist warmongers. The memorandum further states that the British delegation is going to create a British Council of International Trade Promotion chaired by Lord Boyd Orr[[5]](#footnote-5). This Council would promote the Conference resolutions in business, political and trade-union circles. In the memorandum it states: some British delegates believe that before they start the above-stated work, it is highly necessary to clarify the state of affairs together with responsible representatives in the USSR. Any further discussions should be conducted with them to make sure that these plans are in full conformity with the wishes of all the parties. The memorandum mentions that the British delegate Perry[[6]](#footnote-6), who intended to come back to Moscow for further negotiations, has still not been able to do so.

In the letter addressed to Zarubin, Pritt, who prepared draft charters of the suggested corporation and of the Council upon the British delegation’s request, demands to pass on the above-mentioned memorandum to Moscow and expresses a wish that everything possible be done to expand trade between West and East.

Sent to Comrades Mikoyan, Grigorian and Kumykin.

[RSASPH, f. 82, inv. 2, fold. 1042, p. 188]

Keywords: Moscow International Economic Conference

1. At the top of the page there’s V.M. Molotov's hand-written mark familiarizing with the document: “V. *M. 1/VI*”. This information in the report has number 1 dd 31.5.1952. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This printed sentence in the column “direction” is crossed out by V.M. Molotov. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Denis Nowell Pritt (1887-1972) – British lawyer, in 1918-1940 he was a member of the Labour Party; he was excluded for his support of the Soviet war in Finland. In 1949 he became part of the so-called Labour Independent Group of ex-Labour politicians expelled for their views and pronouncements. He was an opponent of the Cold War and of NATO. He was awarded the International Stalin Peace Prize in 1954. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. MEC - Moscow Economic Conference on April, 3-12, 1952 attended by 450 delegates from 47 countries. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Boyd Orr, John. 1st Baron Boyd-Orr (1880-1971) – British biologist and public figure. He was knighted in 1935. The founder and first Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1949. He was one of the prominent propagandists of supranational world government and the peaceful coexistence of different countries and continents. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Perry, Jack – a representative of the London Export Corporation at the International Economic Conference. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)