From the diary of Soviet Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Ya. A. Malik, record of a conversation with the Czechoslovak Ambassador, J. Ullrich[[1]](#footnote-1), dated 5 August 1953

Secret Copy No. 1

RECORD OF CONVERSATION WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR ULLRICH

6 June 1953

On 6 June, the Czechoslovak ambassador Ullrich paid me a return visit.

From his remarks, the following merit special attention.

1. In diplomatic circles in London attention is paid to the fact that the British treated the Soviet representative with special regard at the coronation. Despite the fact that the Soviet Union did not send a special delegation to the coronation and, instead appointed its ambassador to act as the [Soviet] representative at the coronation and the subsequent state receptions. He was seated along with the Head of the special American delegation, General Marshall. The French representative, M. Schumann[[2]](#footnote-2), who arrived for the coronation instead of the previously appointed Foreign Minister Bidault[[3]](#footnote-3), held a clearly secondary place at the coronation.

Such an attitude towards the Soviet representative has been attributed to a serious turn in British foreign policy towards improving relations with the Soviet Union.

2. At the ongoing imperial consultation of the Prime Ministers of the British Commonwealth, the participants gave unconditional support for Churchill’s proposal to soon convene an international meeting with the Soviet Union’s participation. Churchill managed to achieve unity on this issue and also managed to convince the participants of the meeting that such unity is essential for Britain to speak with one mind with the USA at the Bermuda summit, and also with the USA and USSR at the meeting of the heads of great powers.

Churchill also ensured that the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali[[4]](#footnote-4) and the Prime Minister of the South African Union, D. F. Malan[[5]](#footnote-5), abandoned their earlier intentions to declare their countries as republics. Churchill managed to convince them that such a political act on their part may weaken the international position of the British empire at such a critical moment for international relations.

All participants also supported Churchill’s policy to speed up the signing of the Korean peace agreement. The Indian Prime Minister, Nehru, showed particularly strong support on this issue.

3. Eden’s trip to the USA for purposes of undergoing surgery and treatment have increased speculation that even after recovery Eden does not intend to return to politics because he does not agree with Churchill’s policy and the latter’s latest actions to improve relations with the Soviet Union. Eden supposedly believes he now cannot return to the Foreign Office because of foreign policy measures currently undertaken by Churchill. Eden is seen as a supporter of strengthening relations with the USA.

Due to Eden’s long-term illness and Churchill’s age, there is a growing consensus in conservative circles that Butler[[6]](#footnote-6) will be Churchill’s successor, although Churchill feels personal antipathy towards Butler and backs his favourite ­– Eden – as his successor for the post of Prime Minister.

USSR AMBASSADOR IN GREAT BRITAIN YA. MALIK

[FPARF, f. 6, inv. 12a, fold. 217, file 47, pp. 25-27]

Keywords: Great – power relations, Post-war USSR, British Commonwealth

1. Ullrich, Josef (1896–1967) – Czechoslovak political figure, member of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (from 1924), Chairman of the National Committee in the municipality of Pilsen (1945–1946), Ambassador of Czechoslovakia in London (1951–1954). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Schuman, Maurice (1911–1998) - Brother of the “founding father” of European integration Robert Schuman, State Secretary for French Foreign Affairs (1951 –1954), Foreign Minister of France (1969–1973). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Bidault, George-Augustin (1899–1983) – French political figure, President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic (from 1946), Prime Minister of France (1946, 1949–1950), Foreign Minister of France (1944–1946, 1947–1948, 1952–1954). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Ali Bogra, Mohammad (1909–1963) – prominent political figure in Pakistan and East Pakistan, Prime Minister of Pakistan (1953–1955), Foreign Minister of Pakistan (1954–1955, 1962–1963), Pakistan iMinister of Defence (1953–1954). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Malan, Daniel François (1874–1959) – South African political figure, an apologist for the policy of Apartheid and leader of the right wing of the National Party, Prime Minister of South Africa (1948–1954). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Butler, Richard Austen (1902–1982) – British politician, one of the leaders of the left wing of the Conservative Party who played a prominent role in British politics in the 1950s, Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Cabinet of Winston Churchill (1951–1955). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)