

Incl #1 to G-2 periodic Report #702, 20 September 1947

MR. MOLOTOV'S REPLY TO MR. LOVETT'S PROPOSALS

9 September 1947

Dear Mr. MARSHALL,

I acknowledge the receipt of the letter from Mr. LOVETT of 26 August 1947:

I deem it necessary to draw your attention to the fact that the preliminary elaboration of measures to assist in the establishment of a Provisional Korean democratic Government, according to the decision of the MOSCOW Conference of the Three Ministers of Foreign Affairs, is being carried out by the Joint Commission, which had been formed of the representatives of the Soviet Command in North KOREA and the representatives of the American Command in South KOREA.

The recommendations elaborated by the Joint Commission prior to their final acceptance, according to the MOSCOW Decision, should be presented for the consideration of the four Powers, which include the governments of GREAT BRITAIN and CHINA.

Furthermore, the governments of GREAT BRITAIN and CHINA, together with the governments of the U.S.S.R. and the U.S., will participate in the consideration of the proposals elaborated by the Joint Soviet-American Commission on the measures of helping and assisting (trusteeship) the political, economic and social progress of the Korean people, the development of democratic self-government, and the establishment of the national independence of KOREA, in order to work out an agreement on a four-power trusteeship representing KOREA.

The task of the Soviet American Joint Commission, as it is known, consists in assisting the formation of one Provisional democratic Government for all KOREA. It is true that the Joint Commission has as yet done little in this direction, but such a circumstance resulted mainly from the position taken by the American Delegation regarding the question of consultation of the Commission with Korean democratic parties and social organizations, which had been noted in my last letter addressed to you.

Had the American Delegation displayed a proper inclination to the rendering of aid in the formation of a truly democratic government in KOREA, then the work of the Joint Commission would have been more successful; the task, imposed on it, may have been fulfilled and there would not have been such a stagnant condition in the work of the Joint Commission, which in the letter of Mr. LOVETT was called a stalemate.

As you know, the Soviet Delegation, desiring to resolve the situation existing in the Joint Commission, and striving to expedite the work on the formation of a Provisional Korean Democratic Government, agreed with the proposal of the American Delegation to dispense with oral consultation with Korean democratic parties and social organizations, and on 26 August 1947 submitted a new proposal on the formation of a consultative body---a Provisional ALL-KOREA People's Assembly---of representatives of democratic parties and social organizations of all KOREA. This proposal should not, in our opinion, meet with any objection on the part of the American Delegation, because it could eliminate the difficulties which confront the Joint Commission.

We deem it necessary to add to the above statement that the successful realization of the measures indicated in the proposal of the Soviet Delegation is only possible on the basis of free and unhindered activity of democratic parties and organizations, representatives of which are currently subjected in South KOREA to arrests and other repressions, which fact is incompatible with the principles of democracy and justice, as well as with those commitments which the governments of the USA and the USSR assumed towards KOREA.

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Regarding the assertions stated in the letter of Mr. LOVETT, pertaining to the position of the Soviet Delegation in the Joint Commission, the sense of which is that the Soviet Delegation, allegedly, does not evince any understanding of the proposals of the American Delegation, I do not see any necessity of dwelling upon these assertions in view of their obvious unfounded nature.

At the same time, I cannot refrain from expressing regret in regard to actions undertaken by you unilaterally, such as your extension of invitations to the governments of GREAT BRITAIN and CHINA, to participate in the discussions of this question, in which were set the place and date for the conference. Your proposal of transferring the question concerning the formation of a Provisional Korean Democratic Government for consideration by the governments of the four countries the Soviet Government considers inexpedient, because the Joint Commission is far from having exhausted all its possibilities for the working out of coordinated recommendations, which is entirely feasible.

The U.S. proposals on KOREA, as indicated in Mr. LOVETT's letter, are also unacceptable. These proposals cannot help but result in further disunity of KOREA, since they stipulate formation of separate legislative assemblies in South and North KOREA (in the Soviet and American zones), whereas the urgent problem consists in securing as soon as possible a joint, even though provisional, but unified organ of power, i.e. of an All-KOREA Provisional Democratic Government.

The American proposal does not remove the now existing situation in KOREA, which is the division of the country into two zones, for the liquidation of which all the efforts should be directed, but on the contrary the American proposal perpetuates this abnormal situation.

Bearing in mind that the proposal to review the question on KOREA in a joint conference of the four-power representatives does not derive from the MOSCOW Decision of the three Ministers of Foreign Affairs on KOREA, and taking into consideration the above-mentioned reasons, the Soviet Government does not see the possibility of accepting Mr. LOVETT's proposals advanced in his letter.

Copies of this letter are being forwarded to the governments of GREAT BRITAIN and CHINA.

I beg Mr. Secretary of State to accept the assurances of my very high respect.

(Signed) V. M. MOLOTOV

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