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STATEMENT ON THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM, SIR ANTHONY EDEN, WITH THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE U.S.S.R.
Mr. N. A. BULGANIN, AND MEMBER OF THE PRAESIDIUM OF THE
SUPREME SOVIET OF THE U.S.S.R., Mr. N. S. KHRUSHCHEV

From 18th to 27th April, 1956, Mr. Bulganin, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., and Mr. Khrushchev, Member of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., visited the United Kingdom at the invitation of Her Majesty's Government. During their stay they held a series of conversations with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Sir Anthony Eden, the Lord Privy Seal, Mr. R. A. Butler, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, and other members of Her Majesty's Government on Anglo-Soviet relations as well as on the international situation as a whole. These talks have been conducted, on both sides, in a spirit of candour and realism. They have ranged over most of the international questions of current concern, and there has been a full and useful exchange of views.

The representatives of the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom recognised that the strengthening of Anglo-Soviet relations in political, trade, scientific, cultural and other fields would be in the interests of the peoples of both countries. They were also convinced that this would help to consolidate general peace and security.

They expressed the determination of their Governments to work for a further relaxation of international tension. Having in view the present situation where there is not the necessary confidence between countries, they expressed their determination to take all possible measures to facilitate the strengthening of mutual confidence and the improvement of the relations between States. They recognise that one of the important factors in strengthening international confidence consists in personal contacts between leading statesmen, which have produced positive results.

The two countries, in their relations with each other and also in their relations with other countries, will be guided by the principles of the United Nations. They are convinced that the basis of friendly co-operation and peaceful co-existence of all countries, irrespective of their social systems, is respect for national independence and sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of others.

They will do their utmost to put an end to the armaments race in all parts of the world, and thus to free the peoples of the world from the threat of a new war.

The representatives of both countries attached particular importance to maintaining security in Europe, being convinced that peace and security in Europe are of determining importance in preserving the peace of the world. But an understanding on the means to achieve that end was not reached.

/As regards ...

As regards the other unsettled international problems, including those of Europe and Asia, on which an exchange of views has taken place, both parties will strive to promote a solution in the interests of consolidating general peace.

The representatives of the Soviet Union and of the United Kingdom have come to the following conclusions with regard to certain individual problems which have been under consideration.

Near and Middle East

The United Kingdom and the Soviet Union have the firm intention to do everything in their power to facilitate the maintenance of peace and security in the Near and Middle East. For this purpose they will give the necessary support to the United Nations in its endeavour to strengthen peace in the region of Palestine and to carry out the appropriate decisions of the Security Council.

The Governments of the two countries consider that effective measures should be undertaken in the immediate future to this end in accordance with the national aspirations of the peoples concerned, with the necessity of ensuring their independence and in full conformity with the principles expressed in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Governments of the two countries call on the States concerned to take measures to prevent the increase of tension in the area of the demarcation line established in accordance with the relevant armistice agreement between Israel and the Arab States.

They will also support the United Nations in an initiative to secure a peaceful settlement on a mutually acceptable basis of the dispute between the Arab States and Israel.

They recognise the importance of the problem of the refugees and accordingly will support action of the United Nations directed towards the alleviation of their hardships.

The Governments of the two countries express the strong hope that other States will also do everything possible to help the United Nations in bringing about a peaceful solution of the dispute between the Arab States and Israel and thus to strengthen peace and security in the Near and Middle East.

The Problem of Disarmament

In the course of the exchange of views the Disarmament problem was discussed. The representatives of the two countries reviewed the position reached in the discussions in the United Nations and the proposals made by the Powers concerned. It was agreed that a solution of this problem would be of the utmost significance for the maintenance of universal peace.

The Government of the Soviet Union and the Government of the United Kingdom attach great importance to concluding an appropriate international agreement on this problem. Such an agreement would help to reduce international tension, to increase confidence between States and to relieve the burden of military expenditures.

The two Governments agreed on the paramount importance of saving humanity from the threat of nuclear warfare. Their common objective remains the ultimate prohibition of nuclear weapons and the devotion of nuclear energy exclusively to peaceful uses and they will continue their efforts to achieve this aim.

The Governments of the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom recognise the necessity of reaching an agreement to start without delay upon practical measures for a substantial reduction under appropriate international control of the armed forces of States (with corresponding reductions in their armaments) beginning with reductions by the five great Powers.

The Governments of the two countries will continue their efforts to promote the necessary understanding on this question between the States concerned in the United Nations and the Disarmament Sub-Committee.

Development of Anglo-Soviet Trade Relations

Questions were also considered relating to a further development of trade between the U.S.S.R. and the United Kingdom.

The representatives of the two countries agreed that the development of trade between the U.S.S.R. and the United Kingdom could make an important contribution to closer relations between the two countries. This would serve to promote a more rational use of production possibilities in each of them, and would stimulate trade between East and West.

In the course of the discussions the Soviet representatives stated that the Soviet Government were willing to extend trade with the United Kingdom considerably. The British representatives also stated their desire to see an extension of this trade. The Soviet representatives stated that the Soviet Union could in the coming five years between 1956-60, if there were no trade restrictions or discrimination, increase purchases in the United Kingdom to as much as approximately 9-11 billion roubles, i.e. £800-1,000 millions, including the placing of orders for various equipment and ships for some 4-5 billion roubles and the purchase of a wide range of industrial goods and raw materials for 5-6 billion roubles. A comprehensive list of machinery, equipment and ships which could be ordered by the Soviet organisations from the United Kingdom was handed to the United Kingdom representatives.

The representatives of the United Kingdom pointed out that a part of this list was covered by existing strategic controls. Nevertheless, a substantial part of the goods and raw materials on the list was free of restriction, and accordingly there was scope for an increase of trade. The representatives of the Soviet Government pointed out that the increase envisaged in Soviet orders in the United Kingdom for machinery, equipment and ships as well as the increase in purchases of raw materials and industrial goods would make it necessary for them to increase their earnings of sterling by a corresponding development in their exports, and the representatives of the United Kingdom pointed out that the United Kingdom market was open to a wide range of Soviet exports.

The representatives of the two Governments agreed in the light of the foregoing considerations that the above-mentioned list should be studied further on the British side with the help of Soviet technical experts.

They also agreed to study further the matter of exchanging consumer goods and facilitating contact between buyers and sellers.

Cultural and other Contacts

The representatives of the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom also discussed the problem of increasing cultural and other contacts. They adopted a joint declaration on this subject which is published separately as an Appendix.

Prime Minister of the
United Kingdom

Anthony Eden

Chairman of the Council
of Ministers of the
U.S.S.R.

N.A. Bulganin

FOREIGN OFFICE

26th April, 1956.

JOINT DECLARATION ON THE FURTHER
DEVELOPMENT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN
THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE U.S.S.R.

The Heads of Government of the United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R. on the occasion of the visit of N. A. Bulganin and N. S. Khrushchev to the United Kingdom, after an exchange of views, have agreed upon the following:-

- (i) They have noted with satisfaction that certain results have been achieved in the relations between the two countries in respect of cultural, scientific and technical contacts. There have been governmental, municipal, scientific and cultural visits from each side, as well as visits by theatre companies, musicians and sports teams.
- (ii) They consider it desirable that the Governments of the two countries should accord to the citizens of each country every assistance in acquainting themselves with the experience and achievements of the other in the fields of literature, painting and sculpture, the theatre, music, the cinema, broadcasting and television, as well as of science, technology, education and public health.
- (iii) They favour the increase of all types of exchanges between artistic, technical, scientific and sporting organisations on a reciprocal basis, drawing on the best which each country has to offer, and the exchange of suitably qualified students to study at the universities in each country.
- (iv) They wish to encourage the exchange of information between the principal academic, professional and scientific bodies in the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, and to increase the exchange between the two countries of publications in the fields of science, technology and culture.
- (v) They look forward to an increase in individual and group visits of Soviet citizens to the United Kingdom and of United Kingdom citizens to the Soviet Union.

Both Governments will afford all possible assistance in giving effect to these measures, in particular by creating more favourable economic conditions.

- (vi) With a view to improving the mutual understanding which it is the object of these exchanges to promote, they agree to provide every opportunity to the peoples of the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union to learn about each other's opinions and ways of life. To that end they will take practical steps directed towards ensuring a freer exchange of information by the spoken and the written word.

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