

LETTER FROM MAO ZEDONG TO J.V. STALIN ON THE QUESTION OF PURCHASING NATURAL RUBBER FOR THE USSR

November 22, 1950

Comrade Filipov,

Comrade Filipov!

I have received your letter dated November 21. At present, we have 18,000 (eighteen thousand) tons of natural rubber. I have instructed the Ministry of Trade to promptly deliver 8,000 (eight thousand) tons of rubber to the government of the Soviet Union at the prices at which we have procured it.

We wish to receive newsprint and cotton fabric from the Soviet Union at a price equivalent to the rubber we are supplying.

If the situation does not change, with the help of Chinese emigrants living in the countries of Southeast Asia, we can continue to procure natural rubber and transport it to the city of Tianjin. We can now place an order for 50,000 (fifty thousand) tons of natural rubber, which is urgently needed by the Government of the Soviet Union, and even more, up to 70,000 (seventy thousand) tons, but it would need to be paid for in American dollars or British pounds. Currently, the price of natural rubber has risen to 1,200 (one thousand two hundred) American dollars per ton.

The delivery time can be set for the coming months.

Regarding the issue of supply and further procurement of natural rubber, we commit Minister of Trade Comrade Zizhuan to initiate direct negotiations with the trade representative of the Soviet government, Comrade Migunov. I request you to provide the appropriate instructions on this matter.