

1949

Speeches/Documents

Title: Cables to Stalin re Soviet Plague Relief

Author: Mao Zedong

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Source: Uncertain partners 235-236

Description:

Comrade Filippov [Stalin]:

Black Death has broken out in the region north of Zhangjiakou, with 60 people dead. It has already spread to Zhangjiakou, where four people have died, and is 235 now threatening Beiping [Beijing] and Tianjin. Let me ask you to consider the possibility of transporting by air 4,000,000 units of vaccine and 100,000 units of serum for use in Beijing.

We shall order the Chinese government to pay all the necessary expenses by way of barter trade. Besides this, [let me inform you that] an anti-epidemic unit, comprising more than 30 people and headed by Doctor Maisky,' who was sent by your government to China some time ago, has accomplished the work of preventing Black Death in the Northeast with great success. The people of the Northeast and the Chinese public health workers all express their greatest gratitude. Right now, [this unit] is on its way back to the Soviet Union. If it is possible, let me ask you to consider sending a similar anti-epidemic unit again to Beijing for work in Zhangjiakou to help us prevent and cure Black Death. If you should do us the honor of agreeing, we will be deeply grateful! Comrade Filippov: The October 29 cable has been received. I am very grateful for your agreeing to send to Beijing medical specialists, an anti-epidemic unit, and a large quantity of medicine.