

Recording the conversation of the Soviet governmental delegation with Chinese delegation on questions of bilateral relations

September 1, 1952

Secret

Attended by:

from the Soviet side, comrades. Molotov, Mikoyan, Bulganin, Vyshinsky, Kумыkin, Fedorenko, Panyushkin;

From the Chinese side, com. Zhou Enlai, Chen Yun, Li Fuchun, Zhang Wentian, Su Yu, Shi Zhe.

1. On the organization of direct rail links between the Soviet Union, the Mongolian People's Republic and the People's Republic of China. Molotov says that the Soviet side has prepared a draft Agreement on the organization of direct railway communications between the Soviet Union, the Mongolian People's Republic and the People's Republic of China and hands it over to Zhou Enlai.

Zhou Enlai, having familiarized himself with the draft of this agreement, clarified the issue of the expediency of creating a mixed commission to check and control the construction of the border railway line, as well as to resolve specific technical issues, as indicated in the considerations of the Chinese delegation on the issue of construction of a railway between the PRC and the MPR. Since these issues were not reflected in this draft Agreement, it becomes necessary to stipulate this in another technical agreement between the parties.

Molotov notes that it will probably be necessary to conclude another, technical agreement between the railroads or ministries. As for the mixed commission with the specified functions, there is no need to create it, since the parties are building roads of the same gauge independently, each on its own territory.

Zhou Enlai agrees, but notes that in this project the question of the procedure for the exchange of rolling stock is not reflected.

Molotov replies that this refers to the issues and conditions of operation and should be stipulated in a technical agreement between the railroads, not between the parties.

Zhou Enlai notes that the construction of a broad-gauge road on the territory of the PRC is justified only if the rolling stock of the PRC goes to the territory of the Soviet Union. Otherwise, there is no need to build a wide-gauge railroad in China, because all other railways of the country are narrow-gauge tracks. However, this project does not indicate that the Chinese rolling stock will go to the territory of the USSR, for example, to Ulan-Ude.

Molotov says that the question does not arise here, the Chinese rolling stock will undoubtedly enter the territory of the USSR, however, this circumstance must be reflected in the technical agreement.

Mikoyan explains, as an example, the procedure for the exchange of rolling stock between the USSR and Finland.

Zhou Enlai says that this project does not indicate the place of the road junction, since there is a considerable distance between Erlian and Tszamyn-Ude.

Molotov replies that this question needs to be clarified.

Zhou Enlai asks what caused the use of diesel locomotives on the railways indicated in this project.

Molotov replies that the use of diesel locomotives on the territory of Mongolia is due to the fact that there is a lack of water in this area. The use of diesel locomotives allows you to get by with a minimum amount of water on the railway line. However, here we are only talking about the use of locomotives on the railroad on the territory of the MPR.

Zhou Enlai notes that they prefer the use of steam locomotives in China, because there is no problem with water on their territory.

Molotov says that in this case, the indication in the project about the use of diesel locomotives could be excluded.

Zhou Enlai agrees. Then, referring to Article 4 of the draft Agreement, Zhou Enlai is investigating whether the road on the territory of the Mongolian People's Republic will be completed in 1954, if the draft states that direct communication will begin in 1955.

Molotov explains that in fact we are talking about 1955, and some objects on the railway line through the territory of the Mongolian People's Republic will be built in 1956.

Zhou Enlai says it would be desirable to clarify this in the draft Agreement.

Molotov agrees.

Zhou Enlai states that the project will be studied by the Chinese delegation.

2. About the naval base Port Arthur. Zhou Enlai states that the Chinese side agrees with the Soviet side's project on the Port Arthur naval base. After the Chinese text on this issue has been thoroughly worked out, the Chinese government delegation will present it to the Soviet side for comparison with the Russian text.

3. The Soviet-Chinese communique on the transfer of the Chinese Changchun railway to the government of the People's Republic of China. Zhou Enlai declares that the Chinese side agrees with the draft communique proposed by the Soviet side. After the editing of the text in Chinese has been completed; it will be presented to the Soviet side.

4. About technical cooperation in the field of cultivation of Hevea in China. Zhou Enlai says that the Chinese side would like to clarify some issues on the draft agreement on technical cooperation in the cultivation of hevea in China. Referring to Article 4 of the draft Agreement, Zhou Enlai said that the Chinese side is experiencing difficulties in ensuring the supply of rubber purchased from third countries in the amount of 15-20 thousand tons annually, since China is in a state of blockade and the purchase of rubber by China is fraught with enormous difficulties. In this regard, Zhou Enlai proposes to exclude from the draft agreement the reference to the supply of rubber purchased in third countries in the amount of 15-20 thousand tons annually.

Otherwise, the Chinese side may fail to fulfill this obligation and thus become a violation of the Agreement.

Molotov notes that the supply of rubber in the amount of 15-20 thousand tons annually, in the opinion of the Soviet side, is feasible for the PRC. Therefore, the Soviet side considers it inappropriate to exclude this figure from the Agreement.

Zhou Enlai states that there is no doubt that the fact that the Chinese side will continue to strive in every possible way to fulfill the request of the Soviet government to purchase rubber for it in the countries of the southern seas. However, due to the objective conditions, the Chinese side may find itself in difficulty and will not ensure the supply of the specified amount of rubber. In this regard, it

would be desirable for the Chinese side not to indicate in the Agreement the amount of rubber purchased from third countries and supplied to the Soviet Union.

Molotov notes that, despite the possible difficulties for the Chinese side, the supply of the specified amount of rubber to the Soviet Union is essential, since the Soviet Union needs rubber. Therefore, it is desirable to keep in the Agreement the indication of the amount of rubber supplied by China to the Soviet Union. China can make this commitment because it is not impracticable for China. If China actively looks for opportunities to fulfill this obligation, then it will find such opportunities. Communists exist precisely to overcome the difficulties encountered.

Zhou Enlai says this issue will be further studied by the Chinese side.

Zhou Enlai then, referring to Article 4, says that the supply for the Soviet Union, the lead envisaged by the draft Agreement seems to be difficult, since China currently produces only 8,830 tons of lead, which is not enough to meet the PRC's own needs. Therefore, it is advisable to exclude the reference to supply of lead or agree that China will not supply lead in the first year.

Molotov replies that the draft Agreement states that the quantities of supplied lead, tungsten, molybdenum, tin, and antimony will be set annually by agreement of the parties. Consequently, the wording contained in the draft Agreement should not be changed. As for the production of lead, the need for it is great and the Soviet Union, so China should have expanded its lead production. In this respect, the Soviet Union is ready to provide technical assistance to China.

Zhou Enlai says the Chinese government intends to turn to the Soviet Union for technical assistance in the exploration and extraction of lead and zinc.

Further, Zhou Enlai asks for clarification on how the reference to the production of rubber in China on a large industrial scale should be understood.

Molotov replies that this refers to the production of rubber in China to the extent that the Chinese delegation informed the Soviet side at the last meeting.

Zhou Enlai states that the draft agreement on assisting the People's Republic of China in the cultivation of rubber plants, the collection and production of rubber, and on the supply of rubber to the Soviet Union will be additionally studied by the Chinese side.

In conclusion, Zhou Enlai says that written reports on economic and military questions were sent by the Chinese delegation to Comrade Stalin on August 30 of this year. He asks to find out when Comrade Stalin will be able to receive the Chinese delegation for a personal report.

Molotov replies that the request of the Chinese delegation will be forwarded to Comrade Stalin and Zhou Enlai will be informed of the results.

Zhou Enlai says that the Chinese Government's applications for designers, Soviet specialists, orders, and supplies will be presented on September 3-4 this year.

Molotov announces the meeting is over.