

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

August 21, 1952

Secret

Attended by:

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

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

1. About the naval base Port Arthur, Zhou Enlai says that the Chinese delegation has prepared an initial draft proposal for the further use of the Port Arthur naval base. This project requires revision, and maybe a radical revision. Asks you to familiarize yourself with this project and make changes that will be found necessary. (The draft is attached).

Molotov replies that the submitted draft will be considered and if there are any comments, they will be presented at the next meeting.

2. About the Pindiquan - Ulaanbaatar railway, Zhou Enlai says that the Chinese delegation considers it appropriate to conclude two agreements: an open agreement of a principled nature, a technical agreement.

Molotov declares that there are no objections from the Soviet side.

The agreement in principle can probably be small, and it seems to have to be with the participation of the Mongolian People's Republic.

Zhou Enlai points out two questions: first, it is necessary to obtain the consent of the government of the MPR for the construction of a road through the territory of the MPR, and secondly, it is necessary for the government of the MPR to apply with a proposal to the Soviet government to build a road.

The Chinese delegation believes that the principled agreement on the construction of the Pindiquan - Ulan Bator railway could be trilateral, that is, so that such an agreement was concluded between the governments of the USSR, the PRC and the Mongolian People's Republic. As for the technical agreement, it could be concluded between the mixed Soviet-Mongolian JSC Ulan Bator Railway and the Ministry of Railways of the PRC. In the agreement in principle, apparently, it will also be necessary to indicate the place of the junction of the roads. The Chinese side believes that the junction point may be the Erlian point on the border between the PRC and the Mongolian People's Republic.

Molotov declares that the proposal for the junction point coincides with the outline of the Soviet side.

Bulganin asks what are the views of the Chinese side on the timing of the construction of the road.

Zhou Enlai replies that the Chinese government plans to complete the initial survey during 1952, and to complete the survey in the first half of 1953. Ending the construction of the road is foreseen in the middle of 1954.

The question arises about the size of the track. The Chinese side considers it expedient to build a section of the road on Chinese territory from Pindiquan to the PRC-Mongolian border with a wide

gauge, i.e., 1524 mm. The presence of a wide gauge would make it possible to carry out the movement of trains between the PRC and the USSR without transshipment at Erlian, where the construction of a large transshipment point would be very difficult, since Erlian is located in a desolate place. In addition, based on the prospects for the development of railways in China, it is more expedient for us to build wide-gauge roads. On this issue, Mao Zedong is of the opinion that China should have the same track as the Soviet Union railways.

Molotov says that this issue was not discussed by the Soviet side, this is the business of China itself.

Zhou Enlai notes that the Chinese side proceeds from the premise that the goods should pass without transshipment at the Sino-Mongolian border or on the territory of Mongolia, since they will mainly be destined for the Soviet Union or for China, respectively it would be more expedient to obtain a direct connection from Pindiquan to Ulan Bator or another point on the territory of the Soviet Union.

Molotov asks if the Chinese delegation has a draft suggestion on this issue.

Zhou Enlai replies that there is no such project, but there are sketches of separate articles on the most important points. It is desirable that such a project be prepared by Soviet comrades.

Molotov says that the Soviet side agrees to prepare a draft, but I would like to have an outline from the Chinese delegation on this issue in order to accommodate its wishes.

Zhou Enlai says that the Chinese delegation will provide blueprints on this issue tomorrow, August 22.

3. On technical cooperation in the field of hevea cultivation in China. Zhou Enlai reports that the conclusion of an agreement on technical cooperation in the cultivation of Hevea in China raises the question whether such an agreement should be published.

Molotov replies that it is hardly necessary to publish such an agreement.

Zhou Enlai says the Chinese delegation has prepared a draft agreement on this issue. (A translation of the Chinese draft agreement is attached.)

Then Zhou Enlai said that in connection with the remark of Comrade Stalin in the conversation of August 20 of this year. regarding the construction of a railway in Xinjiang, he considers it necessary to clarify that the Chinese government envisages the construction of a railway between Lanzhou and Hami during the first five-year plan (1953-1957), and during the second five-year plan - in the area between Hami²¹¹ (China) and Khorgos²¹² (USSR). The question of building this railway is reflected in the plans of the Chinese government, which will be presented to the Soviet side for review.

Molotov points out that at today's meeting all three outlined issues have been considered. Asks, what are the wishes of Comrade Zhou Enlai about further work?

Zhou Enlai replies that he would like to report to friend Stalin on the situation in China, and then begin discussing the five-year plan for construction in the PRC and military issues.

Molotov agrees.

Recorded by A. Panyushkin and N. Fedorenko.