

Letter From the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the SU

A.A. Gromyko to I.V. Stalin On The Possibility of Repatriation

Of Soviet Citizens from The People's Republic Of China In 1952.

January 7, 1952

Top Secret

According to reports from the USSR Ambassador to the People's Republic of China Comrade Roshchin and the Consuls General in Shanghai and Tianjin, some local Soviet citizens in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, and several other cities of China have been unemployed for a long time and are in dire financial straits.

Due to the significant number of unemployed Chinese citizens in China, the Chinese authorities are unable to provide jobs for local Soviet citizens. In response to repeated requests from our consuls to the Chinese authorities to employ at least some local Soviet citizens, Chinese representatives usually refused, citing unemployment among Chinese citizens.

Furthermore, as the USSR Ambassador to China, Comrade Roshchin, points out, the Chinese authorities' refusal to provide employment to local Soviet citizens is explained by political mistrust of these citizens. The Chinese authorities are aware that we, for our part, are reluctant to grant permits for local Soviet citizens to enter the USSR.

According to verified data, there are currently approximately 2,500 unemployed Soviet citizens in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Qingdao, and Manchuria.

Unemployment among Soviet citizens is forcing them to seek assistance from the International Relief Organization (IRO), known for its hostility toward the Soviet Union. This organization and the Canadian and Israeli consular representatives in China are recruiting Soviet citizens to emigrate to other countries. According to available information, the IRO branch in China, which is under the complete control of Anglo-American intelligence, has recently intensified its operations, aiming to evacuate all foreigners, especially local Soviet citizens and stateless Russian émigrés, from China under the guise of refugees.

Denying the applications of local Soviet citizens for entry into the USSR at a time when citizens of People's Democracies are being repatriated from China to their homeland is causing unhealthy sentiments among local Soviet citizens in China and is being used against the USSR by circles hostile to us. Furthermore, our refusal to allow entry of local Soviet citizens into the USSR could create the false impression among the Chinese authorities that we are interested in maintaining this colony of Soviet citizens in China.

The USSR Embassy in the People's Republic of China and the Consulate General of the USSR in Shanghai propose repatriating unemployed Soviet citizens in the spring and summer of 1952 under the same conditions as those imposed in 1947 on the 3,000 Soviet citizens repatriated from China to the USSR. The USSR Embassy in China also proposes granting entry permits to the USSR in 1951 to 100-150 families of Soviet citizens in dire need, whose relatives are in the USSR and agree to accept them.

We consider it advisable to permit entry in 1952 to 2,500 Soviet citizens and their families from Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Qingdao, and Manchuria, and to authorize the USSR Embassy in the People's Republic of China to issue, after a thorough individual verification, entry visas to the USSR in early 1952 to 100-150 Soviet citizens and their families, whose relatives are in the Soviet Union. To issue entry permits to the USSR on the spot, we propose creating a commission at the USSR Embassy in China, including a representative of the USSR MGB.

The USSR Ministry of Finance (Comrade Zverev) has been agreed upon.

This issue was discussed at a meeting of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) on December 20, 1951, and it was decided to return to its consideration within a week.

The draft resolution is attached.

Please review it.