

Middle East conflict - correspondence with participating countries: Middle ...

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Middle East

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Notes of USSR to the Governments
of USA, U.K. and France

DELEGATION OF THE USSR TO THE UNITED NATIONS

February 13, 1957.

NOTES OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF
THE UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE

On February 11 D.T. Shepilov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, received C. Bohlen, Ambassador of the United States in the USSR, and handed him the following Note of the Soviet Government to the Government of the United States:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and on the instruction of the Soviet Government has the honour to state the following.

As a result of the efforts of the peace-loving peoples, supported by the United Nations, the aggressive actions against Egypt were liquidated, and favorable conditions arose and real possibilities emerged for insuring peace and also for the solution of international problems in the Near and Middle East.

The liquidation of the hotbed of war in this region provided prerequisites for the strengthening of national independence, sovereignty and economic development not only in Egypt but in all the countries of the Near and Middle East, and also opened the way for the broad cooperation of the countries of this region with all countries on the principles of equality in relations between states as formulated, in particular, in the decisions of the Bandung conference.

The peace-loving peoples justly expected that henceforth peace in the Near and Middle East could be preserved and strengthened, and that an end would be put to the policy of foreign interference in the internal affairs of the countries of this region, that the sovereignty and independence of the countries of the Near and Middle East would be sincerely respected, and that the countries of this region, and in particular the victim of aggression - Egypt - will be given selfless economic aid.

However, the period of amelioration of the tense situation in this region was regrettably short, and the hopes of the peoples were not justified. As a result of the unilateral steps taken by certain powers, the situation in the Near and Middle East has recently become very much more acute. This is mainly caused by the fact that it is still intended to use - without the consent of the United Nations and in a unilateral manner - the armed forces of one of the great powers in the Near and Middle East, at the discretion of that power, in order to interfere in the internal affairs of this region.

There is also the proposition for providing economic aid for the countries of the Near and Middle East, along with the imposition upon them of conditions by which these countries are to renounce any ties with certain countries which are members of the United Nations - that is, to accept political conditions for such aid that are incompatible with the dignity and sovereignty of these countries and with the high principles of the United Nations.

One cannot fail to be aware that the carrying out of such a policy, outside the framework of the United Nations, would lead to

a new and dangerous worsening of the situation in the region, which has so recently been the theatre of military action resulting from the aggression against Egypt, and would represent a threat to the cause of peace throughout the world.

The aforementioned plan is nothing but a continuation of a policy of isolated, aggressive military blocs such as NATO, SEATO and the Baghdad Pact, and the setting up of artificial economic and political barriers interfering with normal relations between states.

At the basis of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union lies the principle of the peaceful coexistence of states, irrespective of differences in their social or state system. It is a known fact that in establishing its friendly relations with the Arab countries, the Soviet Union not only did not seek any deterioration in the relations of those countries with other great powers, but on the contrary upheld the need for broad international cooperation, and the need to insure stable peace and the creation of an atmosphere of trust in the area of the Near and Middle East.

The Soviet Union does not possess, and does not wish to possess, military bases or any kind of concessions in countries of the Near and Middle East for the purpose of making profits, nor does it seek to obtain any kind of privileges in that area, because all that is incompatible with the principles of Soviet foreign policy.

The Soviet Union is vitally interested that there should be peace in the area of the Near and Middle East, situated in direct proximity to its borders. It is sincerely interested in the

consolidation of the national independence of the countries of that area and in their economic prosperity.

In the opinion of the Soviet Government the preservation of peace in the Near and Middle East is a necessary condition not only for the development of the countries of the Near and Middle East, but, as recent events have shown, for safeguarding the economic prosperity of many other countries. The need to strengthen peace and security in the Near and Middle East demands a broad development of political, economic and cultural ties between all countries, and joint action by the great powers primarily responsible for peace, this being particularly in accord with the United Nations Charter.

The Soviet Government considers that, by joint efforts on the part of the great powers, the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., Britain and France, the permanent United Nations Security Council members, it would be possible to secure lasting and stable peace in that area if all the afore-mentioned great powers built their relations with countries of the Near and Middle East on the basis of the general principle of a policy of noninterference in their internal affairs and respect for their national independence and sovereignty.

Proceeding from the abovementioned, the Soviet Government addresses to the governments of the U.S.A., Britain and France the proposal to work out and to proclaim basic principles in matters of peace and security in the Near and Middle East and of noninterference into the internal affairs of the countries of this region.

These principles could be made the foundations of a joint declaration, the adoption of which would exclude the possibility

of any dangerous, unilateral action by this or that great power in regard to the countries of Near and Middle East, and would help to strengthen peace and security in this most important region, to develop the national economy and to consolidate the independence of these countries. It is self-evident it would be open to any state interested in peace and security, which desires to build its relations with the countries of the Near and Middle East on the basis of the mentioned principles, to subscribe to this declaration.

Proposals regarding the obligations of the member-powers under the declaration could at once be conveyed to the governments and peoples of the Near and Middle East countries.

The Foreign Ministry appends the basic stipulations of the draft declaration by the four powers - the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., Britain and France - as proposed by the U.S.S.R. Government, and would be grateful to the United States Embassy for information regarding the acceptability to the United States Government of the draft of the basic principles expounded in the declaration regarding peace and security in the Near and Middle East and non-interference into the internal affairs of the countries of this region.

The Soviet Government would have no objection to the Governments of the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union coming out with separate declarations of similar content regarding their relations with the countries of the Near and Middle East, based on the principles expounded in the attached draft.

Annex: Draft of "The basic principles of declaration by the Governments of the USSR, the USA, Britain and France regarding the question of peace and security in the Near and Middle East and non-interference in the internal affairs of the countries of this region".

Moscow, February 11, 1957.

THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF DECLARATION BY THE GOVERNMENTS
OF THE U.S.S.R., THE U.S.A., BRITAIN AND FRANCE REGARD-
ING THE QUESTION OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE NEAR AND
MIDDLE EAST AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS
OF THE COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION

The Governments of the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., the United Kingdom and the French Republic, guided by lofty peace-loving aims and the principles of the United Nations as expressed in its Charter,

declare their agreement that at the basis of their policy in respect of the countries of the Near and Middle East lies the desire to establish peace and security in the Near and Middle East and throughout the world;

acknowledge and respect the lofty principles of relations between states formulated at the Bandung conference of Asian and African countries;

strive to create favorable conditions for the strengthening of the national independence and national sovereignty of the countries of the Near and Middle East;

express a sincere desire to contribute disinterestedly, by common efforts, to the economic development of the countries of this area, and are in this proceeding from the fact that the natural wealth of the underdeveloped countries is the inalienable national property of the peoples of these countries, which have the full right to dispose of and use it in the interests of the development of their national economy and progress.

The Governments of the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., Britain and France,

desire to contribute to the all-round development of economic, business and cultural relations of the countries of the Near and Middle East with all countries, on the basis of equality and mutual advantage;

are of the opinion that wide economic and trade relations for the countries of this area accord not only with the interests of these countries but also with the securing of the economic prosperity for other countries of the world,

recognize the need for a peaceful settlement of all outstanding international problems and questions relating to the Near and Middle East by way of negotiations.

Aware of the importance of the responsibility they bear for the maintenance of peace and security throughout the world, the Governments of the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., Britain and France pledge themselves to follow, in their policy in respect of the Near and Middle East, the principles stated below:

1. The preservation of peace in the Near and Middle East by settling questions at issue exclusively by peaceful means, on the basis of the method of negotiations.

2. Noninterference in the internal affairs of the countries of the Near and Middle East. Respect for the sovereignty and independence of these countries.

3. Refusal to undertake any attempts to draw these countries into military alignments with the participation of the great powers.

4. The liquidation of foreign bases and the withdrawal of foreign troops from the territory of countries of the Near and Middle East.

5. Joint refusal to supply arms to countries of the Near and Middle East.

6. Assistance in the economic development of countries of the Near and Middle East, without putting forward any political, military or other conditions incompatible with the dignity and sovereignty of these countries.

The Governments of the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., the United Kingdom and the French Republic express the hope that other states as well will, in their relations with countries of the Near and Middle East, adhere to the same principles.

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On the same day similiar notes were handed to M.Dejean, Ambassador of France in the USSR, and S.Parrot, Charge d'Affaires of Great Britain in the USSR.