

November 14, 1945

TASS Report Distributed to Cdes. I.V. Stalin, V.M. Molotov, A.I. Mikoyan, L.P. Beria, G.M. Malenkov, and A. Ya. Vyshinsky, 'Expressen Comments on Rumors of an Illness of Comrade Stalin'

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Summary:

Swedish newspaper Expressen suggests that Western rumors surrounding Stalin's diminishing health will only get worse unless TASS, or some other authoritative Russian source, clearly refutes them.

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Top Secret

EXPRESSEN COMMENTS ON RUMORS OF AN ILLNESS OF COMRADE STALIN

STOCKHOLM, 12 November, (TASS). The newspaper Expressen, commenting on rumors of the state of health of Cde. Stalin, is surprised "why the Soviet authorities do not put an end to these rumors". In the newspaper's opinion, it was necessary to give TASS a refutation about this. The newspaper continues, "The lack of an authoritative Russian refutation about all the rumors of the state of health of Stalin stimulates the fantasizing even more. As long as they behave secretively in Moscow, the Russians will have to reckon with a continuation of the campaign of rumors in America and Western Europe. These rumors will take on the form of political speculation, which is not always to Russia's advantage. Possibly the Russians think that this is a lesser evil compared to preparing the Russian people for a tragic event".

Seven copies printed

- 1 - to Cde. I. V. Stalin
- 2 - to Cde. V. M. Molotov
- 3 - to Cde. A. I. Mikoyan
- 4 - to Cde. L. P. Beria
- 5 - to Cde. G. M. Malenkov
- 6 - to Cde. A. Ya. Vyshinsky
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