

January 16, 1951

Ciphered telegram from Mao Zedong to Filippov (Stalin)

Citation:

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Summary:

A message from Mao to Stalin on the topic of military credit and its particulars.

Original Language:

Russian

Contents:

Translation - English

SECOND MAIN ADMINISTRATION OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE SOVIET ARMY
CIPHERED TELEGRAM No. 15607 Copies: Stalin (2), Molotov, Vasilevsky, Men'shikov
From BEIJING Received 14 hours 30 minutes 16.1.1951 EXTREMELY URGENT TT
Comrade FILIPPOV [Stalin] 1. I received your telegram of 4.1.51. I fully agree with all
the arrangements contained in your telegram. I thank you and the Soviet
Government for the assistance you are rendering to us. 2. We have studied the draft
agreement on military credit. We fully agree with the draft of this agreement, with the
exception of the 1st and 2nd points of the third article, to which were introduced
changes on the basis of your telegram of 4.1 of this year, about which we requested
Comrade Zakharov to inform you. With regard to the signing of this agreement,
Comrade Zhou Enlai will resolve this question together with Comrade Zakharov. 3. You
communicated in your telegram that in the first nine and a half months of 1950 the
USSR has agreed, in accordance with the agreement on credit of 14.2.1950, to deliver
to China military goods in the amount of 140 million rubles. Not long ago Comrade
Wang Jia-xiang brought the requests of February and May for military goods that he
received from the military-engineering administration of MVT to the general sum of
237,548,103.64 rubles, of which the request for February is 114,415,274.67 rubles
and for May 123,132,828.97 rubles. Thus, the total value of the military goods
delivered, contained in our telegram, is 97,500,000 rubles less than the value of the
military goods in the February and May requests. Should it be considered that the
military goods ordered in the requests have been sent only in part? Will this
difference be covered in 1951? I ask you to communicate about this. 4. That you have
established the amounts of military credit for 1951 is very good. As soon as we sort
out the first two requests we will make an application for military goods for 1951, with
a careful calculation of the cost of this military hardware, so that the total sum will
not exceed the amount of 400,000,000 rubles established by you, so that the Soviet
government will not be burdened by the fulfillment of our military applications. 5. I
thank you for your decision about the delivery of railway equipment as a part of the
military credit in accordance with the agreement on military credit, with a reduction
of 25% of the cost of this equipment. 6. We agree that 5,000 automobiles delivered to
us in 1950 and 12,000 automobiles which will be delivered in 1951 should be paid
through trade exchange. I hope that you will review my request and communicate an
answer about the delivery ahead of time of the remaining 12,000 automobiles for
satisfying the needs of the front. 7. I ask you to communicate to us whether gasoline
and aviation fuel, for military purposes, included in the application for military
equipment sent after 19.10.1950, will be included in the military equipment
stipulated by the agreement on military credit. Is the agreement on military
equipment applicable to the aforementioned gasoline? With bolshevik greetings! MAO
ZEDONG No. 26214.1.51