

Cable from Stalin to Mao Zedong with a request

on the purchase of natural rubber for the SU

November 21, 1950

Comrade Mao Zedong.

Comrade Mao Zedong, I have one request for you. We feel a great lack of natural rubber. We produce artificial rubber in sufficient quantities, but to use it for rubber production, it is required to add 30 thousand tons of natural rubber to the artificial rubber for every hundred thousand tons. Without such an admixture, artificial rubber is not suitable for industry.

Until recently, we bought natural rubber from the British as rubber monopolists, but now they have stopped selling rubber to us, even in the smallest sizes. This poses a threat to us to be left without tires for cars, aviation, and without rubber products for industry.

My request is that you and your Chinese friends use private firms and other suitable routes to purchase natural rubber and transfer it to the Soviet Union. It was good to buy in the near future fifty thousand tons of natural rubber. We will of course cover all costs. If you buy through Hong Kong or in some other way, then you should buy in small batches - 8 and 10 thousand tons each.

Please let me know if you have the opportunity to fulfill this my request.

Filippov

Letter from Mao Zedong to Stalin on the question of

purchasing of natural rubber for the SU

November 22, 1950

To comrade Filippov

Comrade Filippov!

Received your letter dated November 21. We currently have 18,000 (eighteen thousand) tons of natural rubber. I have given an order to the Ministry of Trade to immediately supply the government of the Soviet Union with 8000 (eight thousand) tons of rubber at the price we procured it.

We wish to receive from the Soviet Union newsprint and cotton fabric for the same value of the rubber supplied by us.

If the situation does not change, then with the help of Chinese immigrants living in the countries of Southeast Asia, we will be able to continue the procurement of natural rubber and bring it to the city of Tianjin. We can now order 50,000 (fifty thousand) tons of natural rubber, which is extremely necessary for the Government of the Soviet Union, and even more - up to 70,000 (seventy thousand) tons, but you have to pay in dollars or British pounds. At present, the price for natural rubber has increased to 1200 (one thousand two hundred) US dollars per ton.

The delivery time can be set for the coming months.

On the issue of supply and further procurement of natural rubber we oblige the Minister of Trade Comrade Jizhuang to begin direct negotiations with the trade representative of the Soviet government Comrade Migunov.

I ask you to give appropriate instructions on this question.

Mao Zedong

Letter from Stalin Mao Zedong on the question

Purchasing of natural rubber for the SU

[November 24, 1950]

Comrade Mao Zedong,

First. I have received your message that you have given an order to the Ministry of Trade of China to deliver immediately to the Soviet Union.

The Union has 8 thousand tons of rubber from its own reserves at the prices of its procurement. Thank you for your decision. We agree to compensate the cost of this rubber with supplies of newsprint and one-third of the cost of the rubber with cotton fabric.

Second. We consider it desirable to order for the USSR, in excess of 8 thousand tons, not 50, but up to 70 (seventy) thousand tons of rubber with payment only in British pounds, since we have a shortage of dollars. We consider the price reported by you to be acceptable.

We ask you to pay attention to such organization of rubber purchases in small batches to avoid a rush, if possible. It is necessary to pay special attention to the fact that rubber is purchased mainly in the highest grades - extra first, second grades, and no more than twenty to thirty percent of the third grade, since low natural rubber varieties are being successfully replaced with artificial rubber. As a last resort, you can buy rubber in the fourth and fifth grades in the range from five to ten percent.

The issue of quality is of particular importance. Therefore, we ask you to pay attention to the organization of a proper high-quality acceptance of the purchased rubber, since here various frauds on the part of rubber speculators are possible.

Third. The necessary instructions on rubber issues have been given to the trade representative comrade Migunov.

Filippov