

February 16, 1949. - Cipher telegram from I.V. Stalin to A.Ya. Orlov, outlining instructions to inform Mao Zedong about the special conditions at the current stage of the activities of the USSR consulates in Beijing, Tianjin, Harbin, at Manchuria station, and Soviet journalists in the liberated areas of China.

Referring to instructions from Moscow, convey the following orally to Mao Zedong:

"The Soviet Government has given its consuls in Beijing, Tianjin, Harbin, Mukden, and Manchuria station the following instruction.

Due to the fact that we have not established diplomatic and consular relations with the democratic authorities in the liberated areas of China, and due to the fact that the democratic authorities in the liberated areas demand that all foreign consulates cease their activities until normal diplomatic and consular relations are established, you are instructed:

1. Until further notice, cease all official consular activities in the liberated areas of China and consider all consulate employees as private individuals.
2. Maintain unofficial relations with local democratic authorities only through the consul or vice-consul in cases where the relevant democratic authorities address you or upon special instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
3. The heads of the Soviet newspapers published in Harbin, Tianjin, and other liberated areas should be appointed from among Chinese citizens, chosen by the consul, who should properly re-register these publications with the local Chinese administration; in fact, the publication work should remain with Soviet citizens.
4. TASS and Sovinformburo offices must cease independent distribution of information and articles to publishing houses, newspapers, and radio stations in the liberated areas of China. TASS and Sovinformburo offices, in accordance with the wishes of the democratic authorities, should agree with them to transfer all Soviet information received from Moscow to the appropriate local democratic authorities for distribution among Chinese newspapers, publishing houses, and radio stations, and to receive relevant information from the Chinese authorities for transmission to Moscow.
5. Soviet journalists in the liberated areas of China must cease to function officially. In fact, they can write articles and reports in accordance with assignments received from Moscow and by unofficial agreement with the relevant democratic authorities."

Report the execution by telegram.

Filippov.

AVP RF. F. 45. Op. 1. D. 330. L. 129-130. Copy. Typewritten copy.

The document is partially published: Tikhvinsky S.L. China's Path. P. 460. The full text of the document is published for the first time.

*On l. 129, notes, above the text: To Comrade Poskrebyshv; the document is printed on the letterhead: Main Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces. Copy is correct: (signature illegible). February 16, 1949.