

LETTER FROM J.V. STALIN TO MAO ZEDONG REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF NATURAL RUBBER FOR THE USSR

November 24, 1950

Comrade Mao Zedong,

First, I have received your message indicating that you have given instructions to the Chinese Ministry of Trade to immediately supply the Soviet Union with 8,000 tons of rubber from your own reserves at the prices of its procurement. I thank you for your decision. We agree to compensate for the cost of this rubber with supplies of newsprint paper and cotton fabrics, amounting to one-third of the rubber's value.

Second, we find it desirable to order for the USSR, in addition to the 8,000 tons, not 50, but up to 70,000 tons of rubber, with payment in British pounds only, as we are short of dollars. The price you have reported is acceptable to us.

Please pay special attention to the organization of rubber purchases in smaller batches to avoid possible speculation. It is necessary to focus on the procurement of mainly the highest grades of rubber, such as the highest, first, and second grades, and not more than twenty to thirty percent of the third grade, as the lower grades of natural rubber can be successfully replaced with synthetic rubber in our country. In extreme cases, rubber of the fourth and fifth grades may be purchased, but within the range of five to ten percent.

The issue of quality is of paramount importance. Therefore, I request that you pay attention to the organization of proper quality control for the purchased rubber, as there could be various manipulations by rubber speculators.

Third, necessary instructions regarding rubber matters have been provided to our trade representative, Comrade Migunov.

With communist greetings,

J. Stalin