From: Molotov

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To: Stalin

7 June, 1947

Re: American Aid to Europe

United States announced on 5 June a program to aid in rebuilding of Europe. U.S. minister says aid will be offered to Soviets and other countries that want it. It seems to me to be dollar imperialism. I don’t think they really want to help us; only to infiltrate European countries and gain influence. We must not allow the countries under our influence to accept the offer. We need to keep a buffer of weak countries under our influence around us. Germany must never be allowed to grow back economically. And the Americans must not be allowed to expand their influence in Europe. They have much money and can buy a lot of friends.

It is becoming more and more evidence to everyone that the implementation of the Marshall Plan will mean placing European countries under the economic and political control of the United States and direct interference by the United States in the internal affairs of those countries.

Moreover, this Plan is an attempt to split Europe into two camps and to complete the formation of a *bloc* of several European countries hostile to the interests of the democratic countries of Eastern Europe and most importantly to the interests of the Soviet Union.

Molotov

TO ALL CITIZENS OF BERLIN

22 June, 1948

We will halt all passenger trains and traffic from the West to Berlin. All citizens will be required to use the new Soviet currency, the Ostmark. No citizens will be allowed to travel back and forth from the Soviet sectors to the Allied sectors of Berlin. Citizens living in the Allied parts of Berlin will no longer be able to obtain food. Citizens of West Berlin! You have only thirty-six days of food left and little coal. The Allies will not be able to help you. We have cut off their access to your part of the city. You will have no choice but to rely on the Soviet Union.

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Nikolai Novikov, “U.S. Foreign Policy in the Post War Period,” September 27, 1946

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The foreign policy of the United States, which reflects the imperialist tendencies of American monopolistic capital, is characterized in the postwar period by a striving for world supremacy. This is the real meaning of the many statements by President Truman and other representatives of American ruling circles; that the United States has the right to lead the world. All the forces of American diplomacy—the army, the air force, the navy, industry, and science—are enlisted in the service of this foreign policy. For this purpose broad plans for expansion have been developed and are being implemented through diplomacy and the establishment of a system of naval and air bases stretching far beyond the boundaries of the United States, through the arms race, and through the creation of ever newer types of weapons.

The present policy of the American government with regard to the USSR is also directed at limiting or dislodging the influence of the Soviet Union from neighboring countries. In implementing this policy in former enemy or Allied countries adjacent to the USSR, the United States attempts, at various international conferences or directly in these countries themselves, to support reactionary forces with the purpose of creating obstacles to the process of democratization of these countries. In so doing, it also attempts to secure positions for the penetration of American capital into their economies.

Joseph Stalin:
Reply to Churchill, 1946

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... In substance, Mr. Churchill now stands in the position of a firebrand of war. And Mr. Churchill is not alone here. He has friends not only in England but also in the United States of America.

In this respect, one is reminded remarkably of Hitler and his friends. Hitler began to set war loose by announcing his racial theory, declaring that only people speaking the German language represent a fully valuable nation. Mr. Churchill begins to set war loose, also by a racial theory, maintaining that only nations speaking the English language are fully valuable nations, called upon to decide the destinies of the entire world.

One can ask therefore, what can be surprising in the fact that the Soviet Union, in a desire to ensure its security for the future, tries to achieve that these countries should have governments whose relations to the Soviet Union are loyal? How can one, without having lost one's reason, qualify these peaceful aspirations of the Soviet Union as "expansionist tendencies" of our Government?. . .

Mr. Churchill wanders around the truth when he speaks of the growth of the influence of the Communist parties in Eastern Europe.... The growth of the influence of communism cannot be considered accidental. It is a normal function. The influence of the Communists grew because during the hard years of the mastery of fascism in Europe, Communists slowed themselves to be reliable, daring and self-sacrificing fighters against fascist regimes for the liberty of peoples.

From "Stalin's Reply to Churchill," March 14, 1946 (interview with *Pravda*), *The New York Times, p.* 4.