

E 7110/1976/16/53

*Le Délégué du Conseil fédéral aux Accords commerciaux, H. Ebrard,  
au Commissaire du Peuple pour le Commerce extérieur  
de l'URSS, A. Mikoyan*

T. via Radio Suisse

*[Berne, 18 juillet 1941]*

Your telegraph 18 *[July]*<sup>1</sup>. Have honour to let know that your proposals concerning liquidation Sovietic orders have been transmitted to Swiss firms and Union Swiss machine manufacturers for study and advice. Am personally

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1. *Dans ce télégramme, Mikoyan propose:* Confirming my telegram of June 28th this year I think it possible at the same time to reach an agreement on the question of settling accounts with Swiss firms.

1. Goods accepted up to the present time by Soviet inspectors from Swiss firms as well as goods which will have been manufactured and accepted by July 20th this year shall be paid for out of the funds of the state bank of the USSR on the accounts with Swiss banks.



at work within the limits of state competencies for searching fair solution. Swiss Sovietic agreement of February 24 1941 having been based according to particular insistence of Sovietic delegation on integral compensation of values of mutually delivered goods. I beg you herewith to propose how Sovietunion will forward the goods delivered on Sovietic side which must be equivalent to supplies of Swiss firms. If effectiv compensation with Sovietic supplies of goods inequal value to Swiss supplies is not reached storage of Swiss goods accepted and paid seems almost impossible. Despite intensive efforts to bring back Sovietic functionaries in charge of buying and acceptation of machines at present living with their families in Switzerland and totalizing 32 persons, planed travel failed on account of refusal of German Government to authorize transit through formerly Yougoslav territory<sup>2</sup>. Beg to wire if consequently mentioned functionaries keep full authority and in which sense. Am still trying personally to bring back home above mentioned Sovietic citizens. Would be much obliged if you would also kindly consent to favour the travel back home or the leaving of Swiss citizens now in Sovietunion. Particularly recommend to your kindness the following Swiss citizens: Charles Weingart, engineer Escher Wyss, Zurich. Besides Gottfried Jordi, engineer 1901; Emil Riesen, chief monteur 1882; Ernst Hafner, monteur 1895; Arnold Amstutz, monteur 1911; Leo Hafner, monteur 1913; Fritz Simon, monteur 1908. All six are employed by Louis de Roll Iron Works Ltd., Gerlafingen, Switzerland and were working to construction of power station Kegums near Riga. Finally Ulrich Keller, 1899, engineer by Sulzer Brothers Ltd. Winterthour, considered erroneously as German subject and under arrest in Odessa<sup>3</sup>. Awaiting your telegraphic reply<sup>4</sup>.

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2. Out of the said funds shall be refunded upon becoming due the credits opened by Swiss firms for payment of Soviet goods.

3. Apart from goods mentioned in item 1 Swiss firms shall deliver to Soviet organizations the ordered goods within limits of the sums of the received advances, for the whole sum of advances.

4. All goods accepted and paid for by Soviet organizations including goods mentioned above in item 3 in case of impossibility to export them shall be taken by Swiss firms for responsible storage till regular communication between USSR and Switzerland is resumed.

5. As far as the rest is concerned execution of Soviet orders shall be suspended provided there is an understanding to that effect between Soviet organizations and Swiss firms comma in case there is no such understanding they shall be considered as annulled. Awaiting your telegraphic reply (E 2001 (D) 9/1).

2. *Sur le rapatriement des membres de la commission d'achats russe, cf. N° 72.*

3. *Sur cette affaire, cf. lettre du Délégué du Conseil fédéral aux Accords commerciaux, Ebrard, au Chef de la Division des Affaires étrangères du Département politique, Bonna, datée du 30 avril 1941 (E 7110/1976/16/53).*

4. *Par télégramme du 21 juillet, Mikoyan tient à préciser:* I have the honour to confirm the receipt of your information of 19 July to the effect that my proposal concerning settlements connected with Soviet orders has been transferred by you for study and advice to Swiss firms and the union of Swiss machinery manufactures and that you are personally working for the solution of this matter for the purpose of equalizing the balance of the mutual deliveries I agree to instruct Soviet export organizations to put under responsible storage till regular communication between USSR and Switzerland is resumed Soviet goods out of those sold to Swiss firms but not yet delivered in the sum of the value of Swiss goods manufactured by firms under our

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orders and put by them under responsible storage, provided however the Soviet goods put under storage are paid for by Swiss buyers. On 22 June this year the value of Soviet deliveries up to the moment of crossing the border has by a large sum exceeded in accordance with our approximate calculations the value of Swiss deliveries up to the moment of crossing the border. I am prepared if you find it necessary to exchange with you respective customs data. When establishing the sum of Soviet deliveries put under storage there should be taken into account the sum of excess of Soviet deliveries over Swiss deliveries on 22 June this year. Soviet functionaries in Switzerland retain their authority and are authorized also in the future to conduct all necessary negotiations with Swiss firms, effect acceptance of manufactures goods etc. The question of returning to Switzerland of Swiss citizens from USSR may be decided simultaneously with the question of returning from Switzerland to USSR of Soviet citizens. The solution of this question may be facilitated if Swiss government take upon themselves to settle the matter with governments of respective countries (E 7110/2/1). *F. Bauer a écrit sur ce document*: Im Einvernehmen mit Hr. Dr. Ebrard vorläufig nicht beantworten. Vgl. u/Schreiben 28.7.41 an Pol. Dep.

Gelegentlich beantworten. Wenn möglich, Untersuchung VSM über sowj. Vorschläge abwarten. *N'ayant pas eu de réaction suisse à ses propositions, Mikoyan télégraphie le 5 août*: In view of the fact that I have not yet received your reply to my suggestion expounded in my telegrams to you of 18 and 21 July, I consider myself free from these suggestions. I confirm the right of the Soviet party as stated in telegram of 28 June to reimbursement of damages arising in connection with the unilateral breach by the Swiss party of the agreement concerning exchange of goods (E 7110/2/1).