

Telegram, George Kennan to George Marshall, March 14, 1946.
Harry S. Truman Administration File, Elsey Papers.

George M. Elsey

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

COPI

ACTION MUST BE ENDORSED
ON ACTION COPY

~~ACTION: EUR~~

INCOMING TELEGRAM

INFO:

5476

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JSP -G
No paraphrase necessary.

Moscow via War

Dated March 14, 1946

~~SECRET~~

Rec'd 6:20 p.m.

SECSTATE

URGENT

209, March 14, 4 p.m.

Significance of Stalin's interview on Churchill's speech is naturally subject of most intense interest among foreign observers here today. Following points strike our attention.

(1) Interview is not an attempt to deal in any serious or objective way with Churchill's statements, but a polemic, obviously drawn up for home consumption, in which Churchill's remarks (which were basically defensive in character) are misinterpreted to Soviet public as evidence of strong sentiment in west for new "intervention" against Soviet Union.

(2) Taken together with PRAVDA editorial and Tarle's article, this interview represents most violent Soviet reaction I can recall to any foreign statement.

(3) Above would indicate that Kremlin had tactical reasons of high importance and urgency for seizing this speech and presenting it to Soviet public, not for what it was, but for what Kremlin wished it to appear.

(4) Churchill's speech was made at moment when Soviet leaders have committed themselves to an aggressive course of action in Iran, character of which has been correctly spotted, analyzed and brought before world opinion by our government and British Government. In other words, their play has been called. Lightly as they may take possibilities for direct and immediate UNO sanctions against USSR in Iranian affair, they know that policy they are following in Iran must, if further pursued, have deep and unfortunate repercussions on great power relations and

collaboration.

DECLASSIFIED

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

Dept. of State letter, Aug. 10, 1972

By MLT, KASS Date 12-11-72