

2.11.55

3226

CONCERNING V.M. MOLOTOV'S TALKS WITH MACMILLAN, DULLES
AND SHARETT

GENEVA, Oct.31, (TASS). The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR V.M. Molotov received on October 29 Mr. Macmillan, Foreign Secretary of Great Britain; on October 30 -- Mr. Dulles, the United States Secretary of State; and on October 31 -- Mr. Sharett, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel.

The conversations which ensued touched on the question connected with the recent sale by Czechoslovakia of a certain quantity of arms to Egypt for defensive needs. The Soviet side invariably emphasised the recognition of the sovereign rights of states taking care of their legitimate defensive requirements, and at the same time the necessity of maintaining and consolidating peace in the Near and Middle East and the readiness to improve the direct relations between the countries of this region.

Of late this question has been extensively advertised by certain Western papers. Probably this reflects the dissatisfaction of those Western circles which, obviously, would like Egypt to remain actually dependent on them.

As reported by the American papers one of the Israeli Ministers now in the United States, even went so far as to call for a preventive war against Egypt which, evidently, does not testify to the shortage of arms in a country which comes out with such aggressive appeals.

It is noteworthy that although the official representatives of certain countries are at present emphasising the possibility of grave complications in this area they are taking no measures for the normal consideration of this question. No one has raised the question of calling the Security Council in view of these developments.

It is pointed out in the journalistic circles of Geneva that the position of the USSR in this case, naturally, takes into account the legitimate right of Egypt to display concern for safeguarding its national independence, and the necessity to promote the relaxation of international tension and improve relations between the countries of this area. (All papers. In full.)

Wednesday, Nov. 2

+ + +

55 NOV 11 1955
YF/110