

**SECURITY
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER FROM IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL DATED 2 APRIL 1946

Iranian Embassy
Washington, D. C.

April 2, 1946

Sir,

As stated in my letter of acknowledgment to you of March 30, 1946, I did not fail to cable to my Government, on the evening of March 29th, the complete text of your communication of the same day, and I requested that an early answer be sent to the two questions suggested by Secretary of State Byrnes and endorsed by the Security Council.

I am now instructed to convey to you, for communication to the Security Council at its meeting of Wednesday, April 3rd, the following reply to the two questions:

1. You first ask as to "the existing status of negotiations between the two Governments."

With respect to the interference in the internal affairs of Iran, the subject matter of the first dispute, negotiations have taken place pursuant to the resolution of the Security Council of January 30, 1946. As to these negotiations, I submitted a report to the Council at its meeting on March 27, 1946. The negotiations pursuant to the resolution of January 30, 1946, have achieved no positive results, and Soviet agents, officials and armed forces are continuing to interfere in the internal affairs of Iran. They are still preventing the Government of Iran from exercising any authority in the Province of Azarbaijan.

Regarding the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Iran, there has been and there can be no negotiation.

2. Your second question is "whether or not the reported withdrawal of troops is conditioned upon the conclusion of agreements between the two Governments on other subjects."

The best way to answer is to give you a simple and exact account of the conversations that have taken place in Teheran since the arrival there of the new Soviet Ambassador.

On March 24th, the day before the opening meeting of the Security Council, the Soviet Ambassador called on the Prime Minister of Iran and handed him three memoranda. One was an announcement that the evacuation of the Red Army from Iran would begin March 24th and last five to six weeks. In this memorandum there was no mention of any condition being attached to the withdrawal of the troops. The second memorandum related to the formation of a joint Iranian-Soviet Corporation for the extraction of oil. The third memorandum dealt with Azarbaijan and suggested a form of autonomous government.

Within a few hours after delivering the three memoranda, the Soviet Ambassador again called on the Prime Minister and, on the basis of a telegram he had received from Moscow, orally confirmed the promise to evacuate Iran, but on the condition that no unforeseen circumstances should occur. When the Iranian Premier objected to this proviso and asked for explanations, the Soviet Ambassador did not give a convincing reply. Three days later the Iranian Prime Minister again referred to this proviso and said that the evacuation of the Soviet troops must be unconditional, and that he could not agree to the Soviet proposals on the subjects of oil and Azarbaijan. To this the Soviet Ambassador responded that if agreement could be reached on these other two subjects, there would be no further cause for anxiety and no unforeseen circumstances would take place. This statement has not been further clarified.

With respect to the other two memoranda, the Prime Minister has outlined his views to the Soviet Ambassador. His position is:

- (a) That as the status of the Province of Azarbaijan, like that of all the other Provinces in Iran, is regulated by the Iranian Constitution and the law on Provincial Councils, it is an internal matter with which the Iranian Government will deal;
- (b) That the formation of a stock company with joint participation by Iran and the Soviet Union is a matter to be submitted for approval to the next Parliament after the Soviet troops have been withdrawn from Iran and elections can be held lawfully for the organization of the 15th Legislature.

This is the present state of the discussions on the subject of oil and the future status of Azarbaijan. According to the latest information from my Government dispatched to me on April 1st, no understanding had been arrived at and no agreement had been made.

The Prime Minister of Iran emphatically states that he has not accepted and cannot accept any condition whatsoever being attached to the complete withdrawal of the Red Army from the whole of Iran. Those forces should have been unconditionally removed from Iran on or before March 2nd last. It is our position, as explained by me at the meeting of the Security Council on January last, that the evacuation of the whole of Iran by Soviet forces cannot properly be made dependent upon any conditions, foreseen or unforeseen.

In closing permit me to report that, in referring these disputes to the Council, the Iranian Government is animated by no feeling of hostility toward the Soviet Union. It is our hope that the Council will find a just solution which will promote friendly relations in the future.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant

Mussein Ala
Iranian Ambassador
and Representative of Iran
Before the Security Council

His Excellency, Mr. Trygve Lie
Secretary General of the United Nations
Hunter College
The Bronx, New York
