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LETTER DATED 8 AUGUST 1951 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION
OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

To the Secretariat of the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations has received the following letter and resolution of protest from Mr. Jean Laffitte, General Secretary of the World Peace Council, in connexion with the refusal of the United States Government to grant visas to members of the delegation of the World Peace Council for a meeting with the President of the Security Council at the invitation of the latter.

"His Excellency Mr. Yakov Malik, Ambassador,
680 Park Avenue,
New York.

Prague, 31 July 1951.

Sir,

I have the honour to send you herewith the text of a protest with regard to the refusal of the United States Government to grant the visas required by members of the delegation of the World Peace Council to respond to the invitation of the President of the United Nations Security Council.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by the Bureau of the World Peace Council at the session presided over by Mr. Frederic Joliot-Curie at Helsinki from 20 to 23 July 1951.

I have the honour to be, etc.

For the World Peace Council

Jean LAFFITE
General Secretary "

/"PROTEST WITH

"PROTEST WITH REGARD TO THE REFUSAL OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO GRANT THE VISAS REQUIRED BY MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION OF THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL TO RESPOND TO THE INVITATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
unanimously adopted by the Bureau of the World Peace Council at Helsinki
(20-23 July 1951)

In February 1951, the World Peace Council decided to send a delegation to the United Nations.

After various negotiations, the World Council was informed that the President of the Security Council in office, Mr. Malik, would receive the delegation at United Nations Headquarters. Members of the delegation then requested the appropriate American consulates to grant the visas necessary to enable them to respond to the invitation of the President of the Security Council. They were, however, informed that these visas could not be granted.

The reason given by the American authorities was that the requests for visas could not be granted 'under the United Nations Headquarters Agreement'. Since the question had required 'careful study' (sic), the American authorities added that they no longer had time to deal with the requests made by members of the delegation, in accordance with the usual procedure and that, in the circumstances, no further action would be taken on the requests.

The Bureau of the World Peace Council protests vigorously against this decision.

It does not wish to engage in any legal controversy on the scope of the 'United Nations Headquarters Agreement' and would merely note that, through the action of the American authorities, the representatives of the World Council have been prevented from answering the invitation of the President of the Security Council. The Bureau of the World Council makes the following observations in this connexion:

1. By deciding to send a delegation to the United Nations, the World Peace Council had indicated its desire to establish relations with that high international organization and to inform it of the views of hundreds of millions of men and women on questions related to the maintenance of peace.

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It was for the United Nations organs before whom the question had been duly brought, and for them alone, to decide what action was to be taken on the World Peace Council's request. Their decision on such a matter cannot be subordinated to previous authorization by the American Government without prejudicing their authority and independence.

2. The violation of the principle stated above is particularly serious in the case of a delegation invited to United Nations Headquarters by the President of the Security Council or by another organ of the United Nations. If it were upheld, the American Government's decision would to a marked degree restrict the freedom of action and information of the highest organs of the United Nations which should be able to discuss current international problems with any given person or delegation they feel they should invite.

Consequently, the Bureau of the World Peace Council protests against the United States Government's decision. It draws the attention of international public opinion to the dangers resulting from this decision. It points out to the United States Government that the United Nations is on its territory but not under its control. It asks the United Nations to take the measures necessary fully to ensure its independence of action in all fields, including that of information, without any intervention or any hindrance on the part of any Power whatsoever."

I would ask you to have this letter issued as a Security Council document and distributed to delegations to the United Nations.

I have the honour to be etc.

(signed) S. TSARAPKIN

