

Information on the negotiations with British, Polish, and Czechoslovak trade companies  
for re-export of old German armament to Third World countries, March 1959

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### INFORMATION

Since 1955 few explorations have been made to re-export of German models of weapons and ammunition not in use in the Bulgarian People's Army. The Engineering Department at the Ministry has made contacts with western companies showing interest to purchase these weapons and ammunitions. In February this year a visit to Sofia paid the Director of the English firm "Baker Street Trading Co Ltd", where price, terms, place and receipt of delivery were specified. The question on whose behalf the contract will be signed has not been answered yet. Until now the negotiations have been held on behalf of a private person – Comrade Ivan Kazandjiev. Since the Director of the firm "Baker Street Trading Co Ltd" insists on work with a specified firm, we had to look for an appropriate company, bearing in mind also the Peace Treaty terms.

In connection with this task in the beginning of March the chief of the Engineering Department was sent to Poland and Czechoslovakia in order to discuss the opportunities of using a company from these countries, and to examine their experience with arms export for underdeveloped capitalist countries. The results of the negotiations are as follows:

1. With Main Engineering Directorate at Ministry of foreign trade of Polish People's Republic. They agreed to undertake the official legalization of the deals for export of German models of weapons and ammunition. The Polish government has approved such arms export for Morocco and Libya so far.

The tripartite negotiations will be held in Sofia between representatives of the western firm, Engineering Department at our Ministry of foreign trade, and Main Engineering Directorate at the Polish Ministry of foreign trade... The Polish side wants 2.5 % commission; we have suggested 1 % of the total income.

2. With Main Technical Directorate at Ministry of foreign trade of Czechoslovak Republic. They agreed all such deals to be officially legalized by the Directorate via “Omnipol” Trade Company. However, the Czechoslovak side insists on an official request by our government to their government on the issue. They also want to receive in advance the addresses of the respective western firms in order make their own explorations. They do not want any commission for the realization of the deals. They agree to make official legalization for deals with Tunisia, Morocco, and the UAR, but for the time being exclude Libya.

[...]

*[Translated by Greta Keremidchieva]*