

SECRET

No. 322.

EMBASSY OF INDIA,
MOSCOW.

The 31st August, 1960.

My dear *[Handwritten name]*

Dubaut
3.9.60
For info

You will have seen the reports in the press that Mr. Molotov has been appointed as the Soviet representative at the Atomic Energy Authority at Vienna. The news did not come as a complete surprise since the rumour had been afloat for some time that he was due to go to Austria in some capacity or other. Soviet diplomats whom I met in Ulan Bator recently (when I went there with our Cultural Delegation) told me that he had been away for over three months, that he was not coming back and that they had also heard that he might be going to Vienna. It, therefore, seems that he had been thought of for this post for quite some time.

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2. His transfer has naturally attracted much attention and there has been considerable speculation about the reason for the move. Naturally, the most obvious explanation which some observers have put forward is that the Soviet Government might have felt that Mr. Molotov, with his well-known pro-Stalinist views (he was the only one of the anti-Party group who did not publicly recant after their dismissal in 1957) might have become a rather embarrassing envoy in a country in which Soviet and Chinese influences are almost certainly competitive rather than complementary. The fact that some of Mr. Molotov's speeches were put out by the Chinese Press and Radio, though they went unreported here, has added some force to this theory. Particularly since Eucharist with attempts being made by the Soviet Union to bring other communist countries round to its point of view, it is argued that Mr. Molotov might have been something of an impediment to the smooth regulation of Soviet-Mongolian relations. How reliable this version is, it is difficult to say. You will, of course, have seen the correspondence between the Ministry, our Ambassador in Peking and our Ambassador last year (vide Shri Sen's letter No.D.342-Eur.E/59, dated January 27th 1959) when much the same speculation arose over the reported transfer of Mr. Molotov to The Hague.

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3. The general feeling now is that if Mr. Molotov was considered to be an unreliable or undesirable ambassador nothing would have been more natural than to let him retire quietly as Mr. Bulganin is reported to have done here in Moscow. The fact that the Soviet Government has decided to send him to Vienna suggests that it is felt that he will do a good job in Vienna. It also shows that Mr. Khrushchev and the Party no longer consider it necessary to further humiliate those who were in opposition in 1957. It is, of course, particularly interesting that Mr. Molotov should have been selected to go to Vienna since one of the charges against him in 1957 was that he had opposed the Peace Treaty with Austria.

Also shows
some confidence
in molotov.
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/4. I had.....

कौन्सिल सचिव परिदेशक
द्वारा जारी है।
दस्तावेज संख्या: 322/60
दिनांक: 31 अगस्त 1960

4. I had rather a long discussion with Soviet diplomats in Ulan-Bator about their former Ambassador. They described him as a man of iron will and an unequalled devotion to duty. I mentioned Deutscher's remark that Mr. Molotov had become a success after 1917 only because he changed over from revolutionary to bureaucrat overnight. They were indignant and denied he had done anything "un-revolutionary" till he came under the influence of the anti-Party group. It is also interesting to recall the conversation a British diplomat who called on Mr. Molotov had with him in Ulan-Bator. The diplomat is reported to have said that all there was in Ulan-Bator could be seen in ten minutes. Mr. Molotov agreed and said: "Some people, however, do not think so." He went on to enquire how his friend Lord Attlee was and on being told that he was no longer in Opposition and was in the House of Lords remarked: "So that is what you do with the opposition in Britain!" All of which creates the impression that Mr. Molotov cannot be over-bitter about his posting to Mongolia and that as a loyal Communist he is prepared to do his duty if and where he is asked to.

The diplomat was John Morpur, 2nd Secy Br Embassy, in Mrs. was. He returned to London last year was Ulan-Bator.
Duty

Yours (16/10/53)

(Signature)

Shri P.M. Kaul,
Deputy Secretary,
Ministry of External Affairs,
New Delhi.

Copy to:

1. Shri K.M. Kannampilly,
Counsellor,
Embassy of India, Peking.
2. Shri A.K. Mitra,
First Secretary,
Embassy of India, Vienna.