

## Interview with Joseph Stalin (6 October 1951)

**Caption:** On 6 October 1951, Joseph Stalin gives an interview to Pravda in which he responds to US criticism of the Soviet Union's nuclear policy.

**Source:** Soviet news. 2595, n° 08.10.1951. London: Press Department of the Soviet Embassy in London. "J.V. Stalin's reply to a Pravda Correspondant on the Atomic Weapon", p. 1.

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## Interview with Stalin (6 October 1951)

### J. V. Stalin's reply to a "Pravda" Correspondent on the atomic weapon

*QUESTION: What is your opinion of the hullabaloo raised recently in the foreign press in connection with the testing of an atom bomb in the Soviet Union?*

**ANSWER:** Indeed, one of the types of atom bombs was recently tested in our country. Tests of atom bombs of different calibres will be conducted in the future as well in accordance with the plan for the defence of our country from attack by the Anglo-American aggressive bloc.

*QUESTION: In connection with the testing of an atom bomb various personages in the United States are raising alarm and shouting about a threat to the security of the United States. Is there any ground for such alarm?*

**ANSWER:** There are no grounds whatever for such alarm.

Personages in the United States cannot but know that the Soviet Union is not only opposed to the use of the atomic weapon, but that it also stands for its prohibition, for the termination of its production. It is known that the Soviet Union has several times demanded the prohibition of the atomic weapon but each time it has been refused by the Atlantic bloc Powers. This means that in the event of an attack by the United States on our country the ruling circles of the United States will use the atom bomb. It is this circumstance that has compelled the Soviet Union to have the atomic weapon in order to meet the aggressors fully prepared.

Of course, the aggressors want the Soviet Union to be unarmed in the event of their attack upon it. The Soviet Union, however, does not agree to this and it thinks that it should be fully prepared to meet an aggressor.

Consequently, if the United States has no intention of attacking the Soviet Union, the alarm of personages to the United States should be considered as pointless and false, because the Soviet Union does not contemplate ever attacking the United States or any other country.

Personages in the United States are vexed because a secret of the atom bomb is possessed not only by the United States but also by other countries, the Soviet Union primarily. They would like the United States to be the monopolist of the production of the atom bomb, they would like the United States to have unlimited power to intimidate and blackmail other countries. But on what grounds do they think so, by what right? Do the interests of preserving peace require such a monopoly? Would it not be more correct to say that the matter is just the opposite, that it is the interests of preserving peace that require first of all the liquidation of such a monopoly and then unconditional prohibition of the atomic weapon too. I think that advocates of the atom bomb may agree to prohibition of the atomic weapon only if they see that they are no longer monopolists.

*QUESTION: What is your opinion regarding international control in respect of the atomic weapon?*

**ANSWER:** The Soviet Union stands for prohibiting the atomic weapon and terminating production of the atomic weapon. The Soviet Union stands for the establishment of international control over fully exact and conscientious implementation of the decision to prohibit the atomic weapon, to terminate production of the atomic weapon and to utilise already produced atom bombs solely for civilian purposes. The Soviet Union stands for precisely this kind of international control.

American personages also speak of "control", but their "control" presupposes not termination of the production of the atomic weapon, but continuation of such production in quantities conforming to the amounts of raw material at the disposal of the different countries. Consequently, American "control" presupposes not prohibiting the atomic weapon but making it legal and lawful. Thereby the right of the warmongers to annihilate with the help of the atomic weapon tens and hundreds of thousands of peaceful

inhabitants is made lawful. It is not difficult to understand that this is not control but mockery of control, deception of the peace-loving aspirations of the peoples. It is clear that such “control” cannot satisfy the peace-loving peoples who demand the prohibition of the atomic weapon and the termination of its production.