

'Foreign press reaction to interview with Stalin' from Pravda

Caption: In March 1946, the Soviet daily newspaper Pravda outlines the reactions in the foreign press to the interview given by Stalin concerning Winston Churchill's speech in Fulton.

Source: Pravda. 13.03.1946. Moskva. "Otkliki inostranoi pečati na interview tov. I. V. Stalina s korrespondentom Pravdy otnositel'no rechi g. Churchilla".

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Foreign press reaction to *Pravda* correspondent's interview with Comrade Stalin regarding Churchill's speech

ENGLAND

LONDON, 14 March. (TASS). Stalin's interview with a *Pravda* correspondent regarding Churchill's speech has been broadcast on London radio several times over the past two days. Reuter's news-agency also distributed a transcript of the interview. It made all of today's front pages with huge headlines. Most of the newspapers edited the text of the interview, which was Stalin's response to Churchill's remarks concerning the Communist Party's growing influence. Almost all the headlines alluded to Stalin's accusation that Churchill is guilty of warmongering.

LONDON. 14 March. (TASS). The diplomatic correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* commented on Stalin's interview with a *Pravda* correspondent, stating that it opens a significant chapter in international relations.

The only other newspaper to comment on Stalin's interview was the *Yorkshire Post*.

USA

NEW YORK, 14 March. (TASS). Stalin's interview with a *Pravda* correspondent regarding Churchill's speech is the topic of the day on American radio. Radio New York comments that Stalin considers Churchill's recent speech in Fulton, as a dangerous move intended to sow the seeds of discord between the allied countries and to make cooperation difficult. Special significance was given to Stalin's accusation that 'Churchill is guilty of warmongering'.

The interview as broadcast at night on Radio San Francisco, included Stalin's statement that 'Churchill, like Hitler, is beginning to fan the flames of war with a racial theory, claiming that the only fully-fledged nations are the English-speaking nations, and that they are destined to decide the fate of the entire world.' According to the radio broadcast, Stalin expressed certainty that Churchill and his friends would have been defeated if, after the Second World War, they had managed to devise a new military campaign against 'Eastern Europe.'

The latest editions of yesterday's evening newspapers had a report with banner headlines on Stalin's interview.

POLAND

WARSAW, 14 March. (TASS). Stalin's full interview with a *Pravda* correspondent about Churchill's speech was published in full on the front pages of all of today's leading Polish newspapers under huge headlines.

The newspaper *Robotnik*, affiliated to the Polish Socialist Party published the interview under the following headline: 'Hatred between Poland and Russia gives way to friendship. Stalin responds to Churchill, exposing his hawkish intentions.'

The interview with Stalin published in *Zhitse Varshavy* reads: 'Millions stand watch over peace. Stalin's response to Churchill's hawkish speech.'

The newspaper *Kurier Codzienny*, affiliated to the Stronnictwo Demokratyczne (Democratic Party) stated in its headlines that 'Churchill's speech will spoil the peace' and that his 'misleading and provocative game is directed against peace and democracy'.

CHINA

CHUNTSIN, 14 March. (TASS). After Moscow radio's broadcast yesterday of Stalin's interview with a

Pravda correspondent about Churchill's speech, Chuntsin radio broadcast an account of the interview that stressed the frankness and sincerity of Stalin's statement.

BULGARIA

SOFIA, 14 March. (TASS). The full text of Stalin's interview with a *Pravda* correspondent about Churchill's speech was printed on the front pages of today's newspapers in Sofia together with photographs of Generalissimo Stalin.

The newspaper *Otechestven Front*'s headlines read: 'All military crusades against Eastern Europe are doomed to failure. Churchill's position is one of war. The Soviet Union is fighting for peace, security, friendly relations and cooperation with its neighbours'. The newspaper *Zemledelsko Zname* points out in its headlines that any attempted aggression against Eastern Europe is doomed to failure. The headline of the interview in the newspaper *Narod* reads: 'Churchill's position is an incitement to war against the USSR. The Soviet Union cannot forget its huge losses. Millions stand watch over peace.'

FINLAND

HELSINKI, 14 March. (TASS). Stalin's interview with a *Pravda* correspondent regarding Churchill's speech is the main story in Finland's press. Helsinki's newspapers gave prominence to the interview under huge headlines. The newspaper *Vapaa Sana* had the following headline: 'Churchill's speech in Fulton was full of lies and calls to war against the Soviet Union'. The headlines in the newspapers *Hufvudstadsbladet* and *Helsingin Sanomat* point out that Churchill's speech is intended to sow discord at the United Nations. The *Helsingin Sanomat* noting the gravity of Stalin's interview included the following comment about Churchill's speech in a sub-headline: 'I consider it a dangerous act, aimed at sowing seeds of discord between the allied countries and impeding their cooperation'.

NORWAY

OSLO, 14 March. (TASS). Stalin's interview with a *Pravda* correspondent about Churchill's speech is the centre of attention in the Norwegian capital's newspapers. The interview is published in this morning's newspapers with huge headlines. The papers also printed a large portrait photograph of Stalin.

The newspaper *Arbeiderblad* printed the interview with the headline 'Stalin responds to Churchill' and underlined the dangerous nature of Churchill's speech. The newspaper *Aftenposten* made reference in its headline to the part of the interview in which Stalin accuses Churchill of warmongering. The newspaper *Morgenbladet* has in its headline the part of the interview in which Stalin claims that Churchill and his friends are a striking reminder of Hitler and his friends, as Churchill's view of war is based on racial theory, as was Hitler's.

SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM, 14 March. (TASS). Stalin's interview with a *Pravda* correspondent regarding Churchill's speech was broadcast on Swedish radio overnight. Today's Swedish newspapers published the interview on their front pages with huge headlines comprising extracts from the interview. Every morning newspaper commented on Stalin's interview.

INDIA

DELHI, 14 March. (TASS). Delhi's radio stations broadcast a detailed synopsis of Stalin's interview with a *Pravda* correspondent about Churchill's speech yesterday evening.

DENMARK

COPENHAGEN, 14 March. (TASS). Prominence was given in today's editions of the Danish capital's

newspapers to the full text of Stalin's interview with a *Pravda* correspondent about Churchill's speech. The interview was accompanied by a photograph of Stalin.

The key parts of the interview were included in huge headlines.

AUSTRIA

VIENNA, 14 March. (TASS). Today's edition of *Oesterreichische Volksstimme* published extracts from Stalin's interview with a *Pravda* correspondent on its front page, with the following headline: 'Stalin responds to Churchill's call'. The newspaper makes particular reference to the part of the interview in which Stalin claims that 'nations have spilled blood over five years of fierce war for the sake of freedom and independence, and not so that they could replace the despotic Hitler with the equally despotic Churchill.'

The interview was also published in the newspaper *Oesterreichische Zeitung*.

LEBANON

BEIRUT, 14 March. (TASS). Stalin's interview with a *Pravda* correspondent has had a huge impact in Lebanon.

Beirut's radio stations broadcast the full interview in French and Arabic at 7 a.m. and again at 8 a.m.

News of the interview spread quickly through the city. The Lebanese began searching for newspapers that had published it. The midday edition of the *Telegraph* printed the interview and it sold like hot cakes. The newspaper had a large portrait photograph of Stalin on the front page along with the complete text of the interview and the following headline: 'Stalin speaks out against Churchill, claiming that he is making plans for the Third World War', 'Churchill, like Hitler, wants to dominate the world; however, millions will spurn any attempt at enslavement', 'Stalin rejects Churchill's accusation that the Soviet Union has expansionist plans'.

GREECE

ATHENS, 14 March. (TASS). All today's newspapers have printed Stalin's interview with a *Pravda* correspondent regarding Churchill's speech.

The newspaper *Eleftheria* had the following headline: 'Stalin calls Churchill a warmonger and accuses him of perpetuating Hitler's racial theory.'