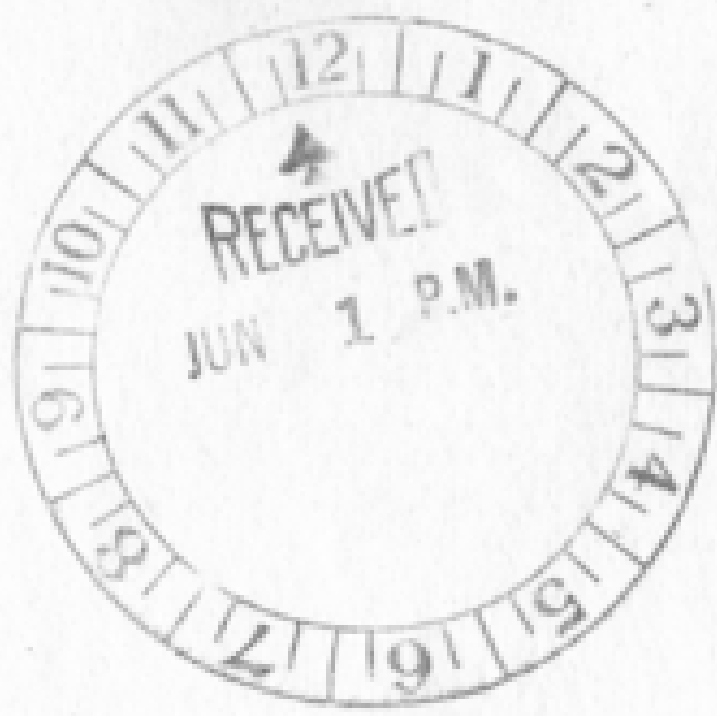


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Dept. of State letter, Aug. 10, 1972
By NTM, MARS Date 6-26-73



SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 1, 1945



TO: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: STETTINIUS, SAN FRANCISCO

Mr. Grew has informed me of the message he received from you relative to closing the conference as soon as possible. I assume that was written before our telephone conversation in which we reached the conclusion that it would be unwise to press too strenuously because of resentment which might be created with the other countries which might jeopardize the final outcome of our great undertaking. Moreover, I am sure you realize that much of the delay that we have encountered is because Gromyko has not received his instructions from Moscow on open items. In our conversation I promised to give you an estimated closing date as soon as possible.

The procedure we are following, which was agreed upon among the sponsors prior to the conference, is to have five power consultations on important substantive questions prior to bringing them to a solution in the conference itself. Presently there are a group of such questions on which the five powers have not completed these consultations, including a clarification of the voting procedure in the security council as applied to questions such as the ratification of amendments, the election of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary Generals, and the election of the judges of the court. An effort is also being made to specify the parts of the charter on which voting will not require unanimity on the part of the five great powers.

Other



Other matters under five power consultation are expulsion, the method of negotiating agreements for provision of armed forces, a French amendment on the provision relating to treaty arrangements with respect to the renewal of aggression by the enemy states in this war, the preamble, and the preparatory commission. Most of these issues we believe will be solved without undue difficulty once the voting issue is clarified. We are working day and night on all of these problems. Yesterday I held a long meeting with Ambassador Gromyko on this subject but we are still awaiting a definite response from the Soviets on the voting issue. Tonight a big five meeting is scheduled at 9 in my apartment.

Meanwhile, there are various technical matters still being debated in the committees of the conference or being drafted in subcommittees. Also, we are pushing ahead with the public meetings of commissions at which the various committees report on their work. In addition, the coordination committee is drafting provisions of the final charter in treaty form as soon as the committees and commissions finish with individual parts of the charter. All of these things, as you know, do take time and there will be various technical questions such as the careful preparation of authentic translations of the final charter in the other four official languages, French, Spanish, Chinese and Russian. Consequently, I do not believe that without a good deal of whip-cracking we can count on adjournment before the 14th or 15th of June.

Therefore, if entirely convenient to you, may we set June 15 as our goal for final adjournment.