

September 23, 1944

Prisoners of War in the Balkans

Citation:

"Prisoners of War in the Balkans", September 23, 1944, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Container 174, W. Averell Harriman Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/220019>

Summary:

Harriman and Stalin discuss the Red Army's help evacuating American prisoners of war from Romania and their treatment by the Bulgarians.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan
Transcript - English

Container 174, W.A. Harriman papers, LOC

THE AMBASSADOR

TOP SECRET

44 09-23

Conversation. September 23, 1944

Present: The American Ambassador, Mr. Harriman
Mr. Edward Page, Second Secretary of
Embassy

The British Ambassador, Sir Archibald
Clark Kerr
Major A. H. Birse, Second Secretary of
Embassy

Marshal I. V. Stalin
Mr. V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar
for Foreign Affairs
Mr. Pavlov, Soviet interpreter

Subject: Prisoners of War in the Balkans.

At the conclusion of our conversation with Marshal Stalin I thanked him for the cooperation which the Red Army had extended in regard to the evacuation of our prisoners of war from Rumania. I remarked that the Bulgarians had seriously abused our prisoners. Because of this we would expect full investigation and apprehension of those who had been responsible. Marshal Stalin readily concurred. He said that the Bulgarians were brutal people and that many of them had come under the influence of the Nazis. On the other hand the Rumanians, who were a "more simple people", had behaved much better.

EP:am
Copy to General Deane

THE AMBASSADOR
TOP SECRET

Conversation. □□□□□□□□ September 23, 1944.

Present: The American Ambassador, Mr. Harriman
□ Mr. Edward Page, Second Secretary of Embassy

□ The British Ambassador, Sir Archibald Clark Kerr
□ Major A. H. Birse, Second Secretary of Embassy

□ Marshal I. V. Stalin
□ Mr. V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs
□ Mr. Pavlov, Soviet interpreter

Subject: Prisoners of War in the Balkans.

□ At the conclusion of our conversation with Marshal Stalin I thanked him for the cooperation which the Red Army had extended in regard to the evacuation of our prisoners of war from Rumania. I remarked that the Bulgarians had seriously abused our prisoners. Because of this we would expect full investigation and apprehensions of those who had been responsible. Marshal Stalin readily concurred. He said that the Bulgarians were brutal people and that many of them had come under the influence of the Nazis. On the other hand the Rumanians, who were a "more simple people", had behaved much better.

EP:nn
Copy to General Deane