

# Memo from Joseph Stalin about Opening of Second Front during World War II, August 13, 1942

## AIDE-MEMORIE

As the result of an exchange of views in Moscow which took place on August 12th of this year, I ascertained that the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Mr. Churchill, considered the organization of a second front in Europe in 1942 to be impossible.

As is well known, the organization of a second front in Europe in 1942 was pre-decided during the sojourn of Molotov in London and it found expression in the agreed Anglo-Soviet communique published on June 12th last.

It is also known that the organization of a second front Europe had as its object the withdrawal of Germany forces from Easter front to the West, and the creation in the West of a serious base of resistance to the German-Fascist forces and then affording of relief by this means to the situation of the Soviet forces on the Soviet-German front in 192.

It will be easily understood that the Soviet command built their plan of summer and autumn operations calculating on the creation of a second front in Europe in 1942.

It is easy to grasp that the refusal of Government of Great Britain to create a second front in 1942 in Europe inflict a moral blow to the whole of Soviet public opinion, which calculated on the creation of a second front, and that it complicates the situation of the Red Army at the front and prejudices the plan the Soviet Command.

I am not referring to the fact that the difficulties arise for the Red Army as the result of the refusal to create a second front in 1942 will undoubtedly have to deteriorate the military situation of England and all remaining allies.

It appears to me and my colleagues that the most favorable conditions exist in 1942 for the creation of a second front in Europe, in as much as almost all the forces of the Germany army, the best forces to boot have been withdrawn to the Eastern front leaving in Europe an inconsiderable amount of forces and these of inferior quality. It is unknown whether the year of 1943 will offer conditions for the creation of a second front as favorable as 1942. We are of the opinion therefore that it is particularly in 1942 that the creation of a second front in Europe is possible and should be effected.

I was however unfortunately unsuccessful in convincing Mr. Prime Minister of Great Britain hereof, while Mr. Harriman, the representative of the President of the U.S.A., fully supported Mr. Prime Minister in the negotiations held in Moscow.

August 13th, 1942. (Signed) I .STALIN.