

During the past few months the United Kingdom and United States Embassies in Moscow, and the United States Red Cross office in Moscow, have found on several occasions that a threat of informing parliament or the press has accomplished in a few hours results on matters at which previously weeks or months of secret negotiation had failed. The Soviet Government's sensitivity on this point is of long duration and likely to remain.

Recently also the United Kingdom Embassy in Moscow started the practice of sending by diplomatic bag to the Press Department of the Foreign Office the passages which the Soviet authorities here censored out, for other than security reasons, from despatches of United Kingdom newspaper correspondents. These passages have been shown in London to the editors of the newspapers concerned. It is now intended to send these passages to London by cypher telegram. Naturally they cannot be printed. But it is felt that passing them immediately to the editors for their information and as confidential background for editorial comment, is a necessary measure of self-defense for a democracy where so much depends on the leaders of public opinion being adequately informed.

A.C.S.

(Sgd) Arnold C. Smith

Moscow, April 12th, 1945.

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