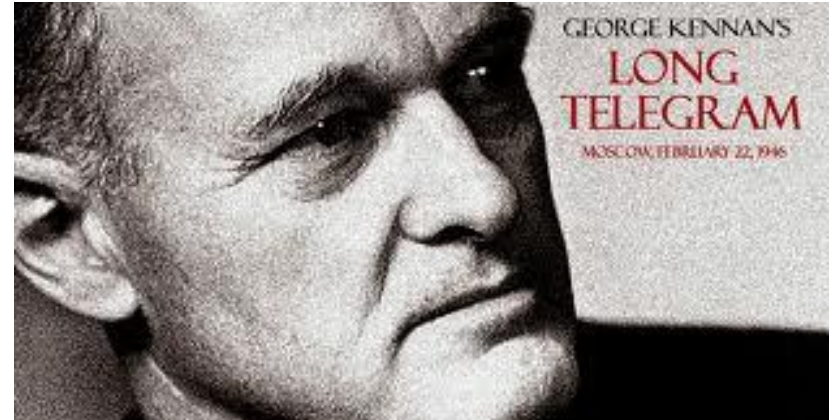


# The Two Telegrams

# The Long Telegram

The Long Telegram was written in February of 1946 by the US ambassador to the Soviet Union, George Kennan, requested by the American government.





In the telegram, Kennan expressed his views on US-Soviet relations, which were rather accusatory. He claimed Stalin wanted to see capitalism destroyed and spread communism. The American government took his allegations seriously

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
INCOMING TELEGRAM

PEM-K-M  
No paraphrase necessary.

8963  
Moscow via War

ACRTON-EPD  
IN  
S  
U  
C  
A-  
A-  
A-  
SA  
SP  
UN  
EU  
DC

The Long Telegram gave the US government a clear understanding of how the Soviet government saw itself in the international community. According to Kennan, due to the vast ideological differences, the Soviet Union did not see the possibility for long-term peaceful coexistence with the capitalist world.

(Four) its projection on international level.  
(Five) Practical deductions from standpoint of US policy.  
I apologize in advance for this burdening of telegraphic channel; but questions involved are of such urgent importance, particularly in view of recent events, that our answers to them, if they deserve attention at all, seem to me to deserve it at once. THERE FOLLOWS PART ONE: BASIC FEATURES OF POST WAR SOVIET POLICY AS DEVELOPED BY OFFICIAL PROPAGANDA MACHINE

## An excerpt from the Long Telegram

*"In summary, we have here a political force committed fanatically to the belief that with U.S. there can be no permanent modus vivendi, that it is desirable and necessary that the internal harmony of our society be disrupted, our traditional way of life be destroyed, the international authority of our state be broken . . . ."*

# The Novikov Telegram

The Soviet ambassador in Washington, Nikolai Novikov, in his turn wrote his telegram in response to the Long Telegram to the Soviet Union in September of 1946.





The Novikov Telegram warned that the USA had emerged from the second world war economically and military powerful, and that they were bent on imposing their domination around the world.

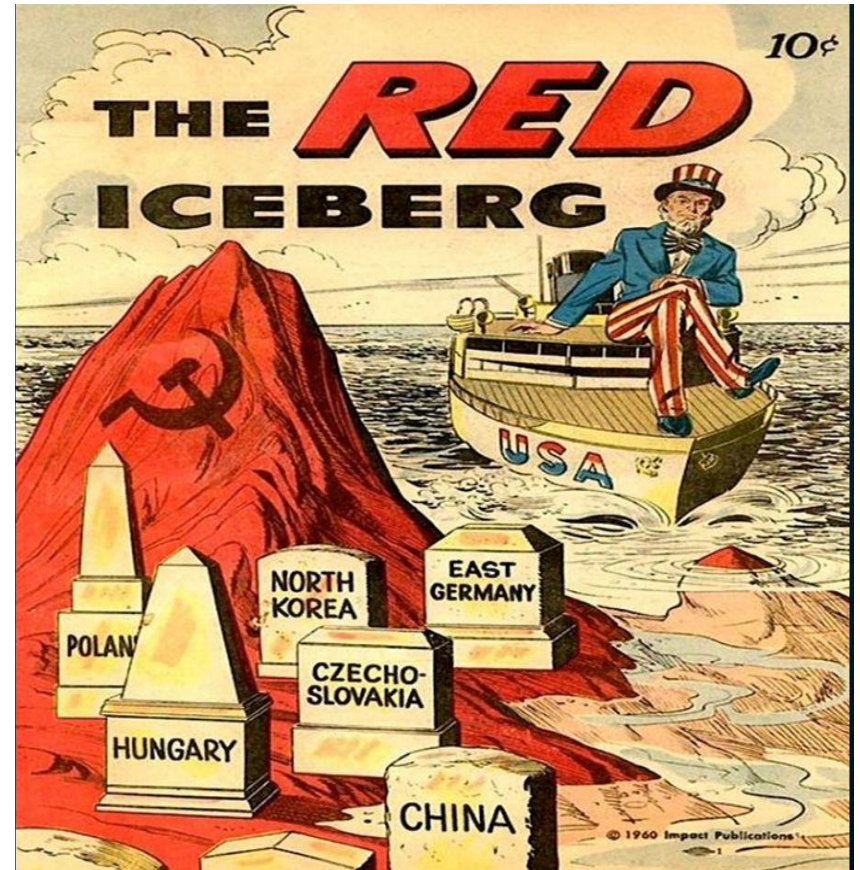


In Stalin's eyes, this meant that it was crucial for the USSR to secure its “buffer zone” in Eastern Europe (to take control of the countries on his border as a form of protection.)



The Novikov Telegram increased tension between the US and Soviet Union, as it directly opposed what Kennan had to say in his “Long Telegram”.

It also resulted in more Soviet propaganda based on the key points and perspectives expressed in this telegram.





These two telegrams set the scene for the Cold War in Europe. Some believe this might have been the cause of it. The USSR would attempt to dominate Eastern Europe and spread communism where possible. The USA would commit to a policy of 'containment'.



Following both telegrams, both countries believed that there was a great possibility of war. The USSR believed that war was inevitable whereas the Americans had labelled Stalin as 'the new Hitler'. By the end of 1946, the Grand Alliance was all but over. America believed the USSR were preparing for world domination and vice versa. This was the unofficial start of the Cold War