World War II was hardly over in Europe when British Prime Minister Winston Churchill ordered contingency plans to be drawn up for a third world war against the Soviet Union, newly released documents show.

The strategy was called "Operation Unthinkable" but was thought out in detail and even contemplated the use of 100,000 defeated German troops.

The plan was handed to Churchill just two weeks after the Germans surrendered in Europe, according to the long-secret documents, reported in the Daily Telegraph on Thursday.

Churchill said an Anglo-American attack on the Soviet Army was "purely hypothetical" but ordered such a plan because he was worried that Soviet leader Josef Stalin might not adhere to Allied agreements in Europe, the Telegraph reported.

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