

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Pamphlet Accompanying
Microcopy No. 333

RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RELATING TO POLITICAL RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA
AND THE SOVIET UNION, 1910-29



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On the seven rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records from the decimal file of the Department of State, 1910-29, that concern political relations between the United States and Russia and the Soviet Union. Before 1917, documents are mostly instructions to and despatches from diplomatic and consular officials. As there were no American diplomatic representatives in Moscow after 1917, most records originated from Vladivostok during the years 1917-19 and from American diplomatic posts in the Baltic States, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Germany, and China during the years 1920-29.

Also included in these records are notes between the Department of State and foreign diplomatic representatives in the United States, memoranda prepared by officials of the Department, and correspondence with officials of other Government departments and with private firms and individuals. The Lists of Documents or "purport sheets" reproduced on Roll 1 give brief abstracts of the documents reproduced in this microcopy and serve as a finding aid to the documents themselves. The arrangement of the entries on these lists corresponds to the arrangement of the documents in the file.

Since 1910 the central files of the Department of State have been grouped and arranged according to a decimal system of subject classification. This decimal file initially consisted of nine primary classes numbered 0 through 8, each covering a broad subject area. Under Class 7, Political Relations of States, the documents are arranged according to the countries concerned. Each country has been assigned a 2-digit number and the numbers for the United States and for Russia are 11 and 61, respectively. Thus, the documents reproduced in this microcopy bear the file number 711.61 and concern political relations between the United States and Russia and the Soviet Union. The digits that follow the second country number represent a specific subject. This number, in turn, may be followed by a slant mark (/). The numbers following the slant mark are assigned to individual documents as they are accumulated on a specific subject. For example, a decimal file number taken from a document reproduced in this microcopy is 711.612/193. The digit 2 following the country number for Russia (61) signifies that the subject of the correspondence pertains to a treaty of commerce and navigation between the United States and Russia, and the number following the slant mark indicates that this is the 193d paper received on this subtopic.

The documents under one subject classification are generally in chronological order, coinciding with the document number assigned (which follows the slant mark). There are instances, however, when a document file number was not assigned until a date considerably later than the one on which the document was received.

Cross-reference sheets that refer to related records under other subject classifications in the decimal file have been reproduced as they occur, and appropriate cross-reference notations appear in the Lists of Documents. Other cross-reference notations are to documents in the "numerical file," a system used for the central files of the Department of State for the period 1906-10. This numerical system of assigning consecutive numbers to subject case files was replaced by the decimal system of subject classification in 1910.

Before filming the records a search was made by the National Archives and the Department of State for missing documents. The checkmarks that appear by most entries in the left-hand column of the Lists of Documents indicate that the papers are in the file. The absence of checkmarks denotes that the documents were not found; it is believed that they were not among the records when they were received from the Department.

This file contains communications received from and classified by foreign governments and Federal agencies other than the Department of State. Those documents that have not been declassified are not available as part of this microcopy. The National Archives and Records Service does not have authority to make reproductions of such documents available to searchers.

Under the general heading, Relations Between the United States and Russia (on Rolls 2 and 5), are discussed such subjects as visits of American businessmen to Russia, Russian newspaper comments on American policy in the Far East, and Russian-American political relations in general. After 1919, most of the correspondence relates to economic conditions in Russia and Soviet attitudes as reported by the State Department representatives at diplomatic posts in the Baltic States, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Germany, and China. There is also considerable discussion of the nonrecognition policy of the United States toward the Soviet Government.

Under the same heading (on Rolls 3 and 4) is a large collection of documents compiled by the Division of Eastern European Affairs of the Department of State and transmitted by letter of June 25, 1927. The collection consists of five volumes, the first of which contains a chronological table of contents, a subject index, and a list of Soviet

officials who are cited throughout the collection. In the other four volumes are documents that were arranged in chronological order and assigned consecutive file numbers. This collection is a compilation of diplomatic correspondence of the Soviet Government, resolutions of Soviet organizations, statements by Soviet officials, and other papers containing comments regarding the attitude of the Soviet Government toward the United States. The documents specifically relate to the Soviet Government and World War I, charges of American interference in the internal affairs of Russia, attitudes toward American officials in Russia, Soviet representation in the United States, the Washington Conference of 1921-22, proposals made to the United States Government by the Soviet Government, commerce and commercial relations, and expressions of desire or hope for diplomatic relations with the United States.

Among the records on other rolls in this microcopy is considerable correspondence concerning the abrogation of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation of 1832 between the United States and Russia, which was terminated on January 1, 1913. There are also many documents later concerning Russia's adherence to the Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928. Other records consist of a few documents each on the provisions of treaties on arbitration, naturalization, consular affairs, and regulation of corporations.

This microcopy does not include the records for Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Lithuania, the Ukraine, Poland, Transcaucasia, and Azerbaijan, former provinces of Russia, during the period of their independence after World War I.

A table of contents, indicating the document number range and the subjects covered by the documents in this microfilm publication, appears after the information on related record groups given below.

The records reproduced in this microcopy are part of a body of records in the National Archives designated as Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State.

Additional records concerning treaties and conventions are in other classes of the Department of State decimal file, 1910-29, as follows: Class 2, extradition treaties; Class 4, claims treaties, conventions, and agreements; Class 5, international congresses and conferences, multilateral treaties; Class 6, commercial treaties, conventions and trade agreements; Class 8, postal conventions.

Complementary to the records in Class 7 reproduced in this microcopy are two other series, also in Record Group 59, regarding Russian

affairs; one is another series in Class 7, which concerns political relations between Russia and the Soviet Union and Other States (Microcopy 340) and the other a series in Class 8, which relates to the internal affairs of Russia and the Soviet Union (Microcopy 316).

In the same record group in the National Archives are several series of volumes containing additional material on relations between Russia and the United States. There are copies of instructions from the Department of State to United States Ministers to all countries, 1808-33 (Rolls 2-8 of Microcopy 77) and to United States Ministers to Russia, 1833-1906 (Rolls 136-140 of Microcopy 77); despatches from United States Ministers to Russia to the Department, 1808-1906 (Microcopy 35); notes to foreign ministers and consuls in the United States from the Department of State, 1810-34 (Rolls 2-5 of Microcopy 38); notes to the Russian Legation in the United States from the Department, 1834-1906 (Rolls 82-84 of Microcopy 99); and notes from the Russian Legation in the United States to the Department, 1809-1906 (Microcopy 39). Also related to matters concerning Russia are communications to special agents of the United States from the Department, 1823-86 (Rolls 152 and 154 of Microcopy 77); and despatches from special agents to the Department, 1794-1906 (Microcopy 37). There are also despatches from United States consular officials at Amur River, 1856-74, Archangel (Arkhangelsk) 1811-89, Batumi (Batumi) 1890-1906, Helsinki, 1851-1906, Moscow, 1857-1906, Novorossisk, 1883-84, Odessa, 1831-1906, Petropavlovsk, 1875-78, Reval (Tallinn) 1858-70, Riga, 1811-72, 1890-1906, St. Petersburg, 1803-1906 (Microcopy 81), Vladivostok, 1898-1906, and Warsaw, 1871-1906. Complementary to the despatches from consuls are instructions to the consuls. All of these series were discontinued on August 14, 1906, when the Department of State adopted the practice of filing incoming and outgoing correspondence by subject.

In Record Group 43, Records of United States Participation in International Conferences, Commissions, and Expositions, are records of United States participation in the Interallied Railway Commission of Russia and the Interallied Technical Board, 1917-23, and records of the Russian Railway Service Corps, an organization of American railway engineers and technicians formed in 1917 at the request of the Provisional Government of Russia.

In Record Group 76, Records of Boundary and Claims Commissions and Arbitrations, are various small groups of documents relating to the settlement of United States-Russian claims. Among these is a protocol signed at St. Petersburg in 1900 for the settlement of American claims for damages resulting from the Russian seizure of United States sealing vessels.

In Record Group 84, Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, are records originally kept at United States diplomatic and consular posts. Among these are records of the United States Legation (later Embassy) in Russia, 1807-1919 and 1934-38, as well as those of various consular posts in that country.

In Record Group 261, Records of Former Russian Agencies, are the records of the Russian-American Company, 1802-67 (Microcopy 11). The company, established in 1799, had economic and political control of Alaska before its purchase by the United States in 1867. The records, which were maintained by the company in Alaska and are in Russian longhand, were transferred to the United States Government in accordance with the provisions of the treaty of cession.

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The documents reproduced in this microcopy are distributed by roll as indicated below. For each roll are given the decimal file number span of the documents and the subjects covered by those documents.

<u>Roll</u>	<u>File Number and Description</u>	<u>Price</u>
LISTS OF DOCUMENTS		
1	711. 61 - 711. 61a14 Brief abstracts of documents reproduced in this microcopy that serve as a finding aid to the documents.	\$1
DOCUMENTS		
<u>RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA</u>		
2	<u>711. 61/2-120</u> June 7, 1910 - May 2, 1927	\$4
3	Collection of documents, transmitted by letter of June 25, 1927, concerning the attitude of the Soviet Government toward the United States (5 volumes, including an index volume): 711. 61/121(part)	4
4	711. 61/121(part)	5
5	711. 61/122-179 October 10, 1927 - December 18, 1929 <u>Political Relations</u> 711. 611 Report dated June 27, 1922, with enclosures consisting of press items, attempting to demonstrate that public opinion in the United States was in favor of entering into diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. <u>Arbitration, conciliation</u> 711. 6112 Correspondence concerning an arbitration treaty, 1911-15; negotiations concerning the Kellogg-Briand Pact, 1928-29. <u>Commerce and Navigation</u> Abrogation of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation of 1832 between the United States and Russia: 711. 612/14-55	6
6	711. 612/56-171	5
7	711. 612/172-271 <u>Consular functions</u> 711. 6121 Correspondence concerning the Treaty of 1832 with reference to consular functions.	4

<u>Roll</u>	<u>File Number and Description</u>	<u>Price</u>
	<u>Regulation of corporations</u>	
	711. 6124	
	Correspondence concerning the Treaty of 1909 for the regulation of American and Russian corporations.	
	<u>Naturalization</u>	
	711. 614	
	Correspondence pertaining to a proposed treaty of naturalization between the United States and Russia, 1911-17.	
	<u>Siberia (Far Eastern Republic)</u>	
	711. 61a14	
	Proposal by an American citizen for the United States to annex Siberia.	
		Total <u>\$29</u>