

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Pamphlet Accompanying
Microcopy No. 39

NOTES FROM THE RUSSIAN LEGATION
IN THE UNITED STATES TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 1809-1906



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON: 1962

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On the 12 rolls of this microcopy are reproduced 14 volumes that consist, for the most part, of notes from the Russian Legation (Embassy after June 20, 1898) in the United States to the Department of State between July 2, 1809, and August 14, 1906. On Roll 1 of this microfilm publication are reproduced selected pages from 11 State Department registers of correspondence which, taken as a unit, comprise a register of notes from the Russian Legation from December 19, 1827, to August 14, 1906. The notes dated before December 19, 1827, were not registered.

The notes, with few exceptions, are arranged in chronological order. Among the enclosures accompanying the notes are letters of complaint against United States officials and citizens, pamphlets, newspapers, and other printed matter. The communications are in French; many are accompanied by English translations prepared by the Department of State.

Included in the volumes are some communications from Russian consular officials in the United States and from the Chancellor of Russia, copies of a few letters from the Secretary of State to the Russian Minister, memoranda by State Department officials commenting on the notes, and drafts and texts of agreements between Russia and the United States.

The notes and their enclosures concern a wide range of subjects affecting relations between the United States and Russia on such matters as the changes in the Russian Government; births, marriages, and deaths of members of the royal family; suits against Russian officials stationed in the United States; claims of Pulaski's heirs for compensation for his service in the American Revolution; treatment of Jews in Russia; cession of the Floridas by Spain to the United States, 1819; attitude of Russia toward the Slave Convention between the United States and Great Britain, 1822; participation by Russia in the conferences at Aix-la-Chapelle, 1818, and at Laibach, 1821; affairs of Poland; views and policy of Russia toward intervention in the affairs of Switzerland, 1848; Russian intervention in the Austrian Empire, 1849; Russian Army in Hungary, 1849; induction of Russian nationals into the Federal and Confederate Armies; Trent Affair, 1861; possible purchase by Russia of cotton from the Confederate States, 1864; difficulties between Russia and the United States over "Russian America," position of the Greek Orthodox and Moravian churches in Alaska, and purchase of Alaska, 1867; and the Fur Seal Arbitration and "open sea" question.

Other communications concern the reciprocal cession of the Kurile Islands by Russia to Japan in exchange for N. Sakhalin Island, 1875; Russo-Turkish dispute over the protection of Christians in Turkey and granting of certain privileges and immunities to the Russo-Greek Church regarding the Holy Places; Russo-Turkish wars; attitude of Russia toward the establishment of a dynasty in Bulgaria, 1893, and the revolution in Hawaii, 1893; Russian extraterritoriality in Zanzibar, 1895; Sino-Russian relations, including such matters as economic penetration, possible participation by Russia in the Chinese coolie trade, leasing of Port Arthur (Manchuria) and Talienwan to Russia by China, 1898; Boxer Rebellion, 1899-1900; and settlement of the Manchurian question, 1903; Sino-Japanese differences over Korea, 1894 and 1898; and the Russo-Japanese War, including such matters as Chinese neutrality, 1904.

There are also communications on matters of neutrality when Russia or the United States were involved in war or when war seemed imminent. Some of the notes concern subjects relating to the internal affairs of both nations, such as the attempted revolt in Russia, 1825; the assassination of Alexander II, 1881; the famine in Russia, 1890; the assassination of President Garfield, 1881; and the explosion of the Bennington, 1905.

Many of the notes concern such matters as duties and tariffs, requests for exequaturs for Russian consular officials, consular jurisdiction, extradition, exchange of scientific and technical information, arbitration, reciprocity, international expositions, and conferences and congresses relating to the physical and social sciences, communication and transportation, and cultural affairs.

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.

In the same record group in the National Archives are several other series of records on relations between Russia and the United States. Complementary to the notes from the Russian Legation are the notes to foreign ministers and consuls in the United States from the Department of State, 1810-34 (Rolls 2-5 of Microcopy 38), and notes to the Russian Legation in the United States from the Department of State, 1834-1906 (Rolls 82-84 of Microcopy 99). Also related to these are copies of instructions from the Department of State to the United States Ministers to all countries, 1808-33 (Rolls 2-8 of Microcopy 77), to United States Ministers to Russia, 1833-1906 (Rolls 136-140 of Microcopy 77), and to special agents, 1823-86 (Rolls 152 and 154 of Microcopy 77); and despatches from United States Ministers to Russia to the Department, 1808-1906 (Microcopy 35) and from

special agents (Roll 4 of Microcopy 37 and volumes 32 and 48 of the same series of records).

In addition there are despatches from United States consular officials at Amur (Amoor River), 1856-74, Archangel (Arkhangelsk) 1811-89, Batum (Batumi) 1890-1906, Helsinki (Helsingfors) 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. There are also instructions to consular officials at these posts. All 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 the State Department Decimal File, 1910-29, also in Record Group 59, are records relating to internal affairs of Russia and the Soviet Union (Microcopy 316), to political relations between the United States and Russia and the Soviet Union (Microcopy 333), and to political relations between Russia (and the Soviet Union) and Other States (Microcopy 340).

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 are the American whaling and sealing claims that were settled by a protocol signed on August 26, 1900.

In Record Group 84, Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, in the National Archives, are records originally kept at United States consular posts. Among these are records of the United States Legation (later Embassy) in Russia, 1807-1919, and in the Soviet Union, 1934-38, as well as those of most 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 prior to its purchase by the United States in 1867. The records, maintained by the company in Russian longhand, were transferred to the United States Government in accordance with the provisions of the treaty of cession.

CONTENTS OF MICROCOPY 39

The volumes of notes received by the Department of State from officials of the Russian Legation in the United States between July 2, 1809, and June 17, 1898, and of the Russian Embassy in the United States between June 20, 1898, and August 14, 1906, are distributed on the rolls of the microfilm publication as follows:

<u>Rolls</u>	<u>Volumes</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Price</u>
1	Register 1	December 19, 1827 - August 14, 1906 July 2, 1809 - July 7, 1826	\$ 6
2	2-3	April 12, 1826 - December 11, 1849	6
3	4-5	March 21, 1850 - December 31, 1864	6
4	6	January 19, 1865 - July 11, 1870	6
5	7	August 24, 1870 - May 28, 1874	5
6	8	June 8, 1874 - December 31, 1878	5
7	9	January 6, 1879 - November 23, 1882	5
8	10	January 16, 1883 - August 22, 1889	4
9	11	September 12, 1889 - December 25, 1895	6
10	12	January 7, 1896 - December 27, 1899	6
11	13	January 8, 1900 - December 31, 1903	6
12	14	January 1, 1904 - August 14, 1906	4
Total			\$65