

O 2005
Columbia Univ.
Russian Institute

Columbia University
in the City of New York
[NEW YORK 27, N. Y.]

NAVAL SCHOOL OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

February 27, 1945

431 WEST 117TH STREET

Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York, New York

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Seen in all
SS.
H.S.

Dear Sirs:

For considerably more than a year an ad hoc committee, appointed by the Committee on Educational Policy, has been exploring the desirability of establishing at Columbia University a School of International Affairs and Regional Studies. After extended deliberations, the Committee unanimously recommended the creation of such a School and its recommendation has been accepted by the University Council. The full text of the Committee's Report is appended herewith.

The purpose of this letter is to ask whether the Rockefeller Foundation would be willing to assist the University in the development of a Russian Institute by making an annual grant for this purpose for a five year period beginning July 1, 1946, starting at \$61,000 for 1946-47, and rising to \$67,000, \$73,000 and \$79,000 for 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51, respectively. If such a grant were made, it would be the hope of the University that upon the expiration of the first five year period, an application for a renewal of the grant for another five years would receive favorable consideration. During this time the University would make every effort to raise an

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How
about
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endowment to place the Institute upon a permanent basis.

A National Need

The Russian Institute is designed to meet one of the country's urgent needs. The United States and the Soviet Union will emerge from this war as the two strongest powers in the world. But besides its great strength, the Soviet Union will have two other distinguishing characteristics of the first importance: an extraordinary degree of uniqueness in the major elements of its life and thought, and an exceptional integration of these distinctive elements to form the Soviet unit of power and policy with which Americans must deal.

The power of Russia will make it indispensable that a certain number of Americans shall have a special understanding of that country. The uniqueness and the close integration of the Russian pattern will require a corresponding specialization and integration of Russian studies. These considerations call for the creation of the Russian Institute, and will give form and guidance to its program.

Primary Objectives

The Institute will have two interlocking objectives of national importance: first, the direct advancement of knowledge in the Russian field, through the coordinated research work of faculty and students; and second, the training of

these students (a limited number) as American specialists who will understand Russia and the Russians and will subsequently do work of authority and influence in the Russian field.

The preparation of these specialists will require a very thorough training in the pure and applied sciences of human conduct, with special emphasis on Russian subject matter. Obviously such training must be neither exclusively "regional" nor exclusively "functional", but an integrated combination of the two. Any man who seeks, for example, to find an understanding of Russian foreign-trade policy within the limits of "economics" is defeated before he begins.

The opportunities that will be open to Russian specialists, adequately prepared, will be found chiefly, though certainly not exclusively, in international trade and finance (practice and research), in government service (current operations and research) and in the academic life (teaching and research).

Curriculum

Although many of the details of the curriculum remain to be worked out, the broad outlines and basic requirements of the training program have been formulated.

All candidates for a degree under the Russian Institute will be required to register with the Institute for a minimum period of two years.

The program of studies will be designed, first, to produce a breadth and depth of understanding, and second, to prepare each student to take a post where this understanding can be made fully effective.

Each major will be required to master the Russian language sufficiently to use it as a tool, before beginning his second year's work in the Institute. (For majors who have need of it, intensive instruction in the language will be provided during the first year, with an additional Summer course between the first and second years, when necessary.)

The program of each major student will normally be organized under three heads:

- (1) a Russian regional-functional specialty;
- (2) supplementary Russian regional studies; and
- (3) functional studies outside the Russian field.

Primary emphasis will be upon the regional-functional specialty, i.e., the Russian specialty selected by the student from among the following: Russian history, economy, government and law, official ideology, social and philosophical content of literature, foreign relations. All the regional studies just mentioned, other than the one selected by the student as his regional-functional specialty, will be covered by each major student, with secondary emphasis. In addition to the regional-functional specialty and the supplementary Russian studies just described, each student will be required to take a considerable amount of

work in the non-Russian aspects of his Russian specialty. For example, if the foreign relations of Russia is chosen as the regional-functional specialty, additional work will be required outside of the Institute on the broader aspects of international relations.

This program may, perhaps, be made clearer if presented in tabular form, as follows:

Primary emphasis:

(a) Regional-functional -

A Russian specialty elected by the student from among the following: Russian history, economy, government and law, official ideology, social and philosophical content of literature, foreign relations.

Secondary emphasis:

(b) Regional -

The remaining Russian specialties listed under "a", and the regional integration work;

(c) Functional -

The more general non-Russian aspects of the Russian specialty elected under "a" (for example, if Russian economy is chosen under "a", additional work will be required, outside the Institute, on the broader aspects of economics).

The entire argument for the existence of the Institute is an argument for the specialization and integration described under "a" and "b" above. But the requirement, under "c", for special functional training outside the Institute may call for an explanation. The first argument in favor of plan "c" is

that the student who centers his work on, say, Russian economy, will urgently require, in the scientific sense, a broader training in economics than the Institute itself can provide. A second and very practical consideration is that a graduate who is primarily a regional specialist may find it much easier to put that specialty to practical use if he can supplement it with a functional specialty. For example, an exporter or an international air line might very well have need of a man who was well-informed on conditions in Russia; yet the company might not feel justified in employing an adviser who would deal exclusively with Russian affairs.

Under "c", the regional major should if possible complete enough work outside the Institute to satisfy the requirements of the appropriate two-year functional curriculum of the School of International Affairs, or the requirements for the Master's degree in the appropriate Department in the Faculty of Political Science or elsewhere in the University. From the beginning of his work in the Institute, the major should have two faculty sponsors: one in the Institute, and one in the appropriate functional Department.

A two-year curriculum for a major in the Institute might, consequently, take the following form:

First Year

| | | <u>Hours</u> | |
|------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | <u>1st</u> | <u>2nd</u> |
| | | <u>Semester</u> | <u>Semester</u> |
| I. | <u>Russian Language</u> | 10 | 10 |
| II. | <u>Courses on Russia</u> (in Russian Institute) | | |
| | Russian Combination Course (Combining history, economy, government and law, official ideology, social and philoso- phical content of literature, foreign relations) | 4 | 4 |
| III. | <u>Courses on Non-Russian</u> <u>Subjects</u> (in the School of International Affairs, the Faculty of Political Science, or elsewhere in the University) | | |
| | Choice of non-Russian courses in student's elected <u>func-</u> <u>tional</u> specialty (see " <u>c</u> " above) | <u>4</u> | <u>4</u> |
| | Total Hours | 18 | 18 |

Second Year

| | | <u>Hours</u> | |
|----|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | <u>1st</u> | <u>2nd</u> |
| | | <u>Semester</u> | <u>Semester</u> |
| I. | <u>Courses on Russia</u> (in Russian Institute) | | |
| | Courses in Student's elected specialty (see "a" above) | 2 | 2 |

Second Year (Cont'd.)

| | Hours | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 1st Semester | 2nd Semester |
| Choice of other courses on Russia (see "b" above) | 4 | 4 |
| Russian Research Seminar (combining history, economy, government and law, official ideology, social and philosophical content of literature, foreign relations) | <u>2</u> | <u>4</u> |
| Total Hours | 8 | 10 |

II. Courses on Non-Russian
Subjects
 (in the School of International
 Affairs, the Faculty of Political
 Science, or elsewhere in the
 University)

| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| Choice of non-Russian courses in student's elected <u>functional</u> specialty (see "c" above) | <u>8</u> | <u>6</u> |
| Total Hours | 16 | 16 |

How much ground is to be covered in the Russian Combination Course and how much in special courses offered in the Russian Institute is a matter that will require the most careful consideration and planning on the part of a staff that is still very largely unformed. The following is a very partial and tentative list of some of the subjects that might be covered in the Combination Course or in half-year special courses. Depending on the size of the teaching staff and on the individual

obligations involved in sharing the responsibility for the two combined courses (the Russian Combination Course and the Russian Research Seminar), some special courses will probably be offered only every second year.

History

The old Russia of Kiev and Muscovy.

Imperial Russia; the 18th and 19th centuries.

Revolutionary Russia: the 20th century.

Economy

The Organization and Output of Soviet Agriculture and Industry.

Financial Policy and Accounting Methods in Soviet Production and Exchange.

The Standard of Living, c. 1900 to date.

Government and Law

Structure and Function of the Central Government in the Last Years of the Empire.

Same, for the contemporary Soviet Government.

Legal conceptions of the Rights and Duties of the Individual, at the End of the Empire and Today.

Official Ideology

Ideology of Absolutism, c. 1860-1916.

Revolutionary Ideology, c. 1860-1916.

Official Ideology since the Revolution, with special emphasis on recent trends and on methods of indoctrination.

Literature

Social and philosophical content of the works of Lermontov, Pushkin, Gogol, Turgenev, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, and Gorky (down to 1917).

Same for the chief literary works produced since the Revolution.

Foreign Relations

Foreign Relations of the Empire, 1878-1917.

Foreign Relations of the USSR, to date, with Special Emphasis on Relations with Germany and China.

Advanced Work for Regional Majors. Because of the difficulty and importance of the Russian field, a considerable number of the major students of the Institute will no doubt wish to continue the work in their specialty for more than two years, and to become candidates for the Doctor's degree. It is believed that in such cases the advanced work should be sponsored by two faculty advisers (one within the Russian Institute, and one additional adviser from the appropriate Graduate Department).

A Secondary Responsibility of the Institute: Work for Non-Majors. Attention has thus far been confined to the chief responsibilities of the Institute - the development of research and the training of Russian specialists to meet a national need. But insofar as the fulfillment of these responsibilities will permit, the Institute will make provision for graduate students whose major interest lies elsewhere, but who are

prepared to profit by a special knowledge of the Russian field or of some particular part of that field. Such applicants may include students with a major interest in the non-Russian aspects of one of the functional specialties already mentioned (in the School of International Affairs and the Faculty of Political Science) as well as students whose chief interest centers, for example, in philosophy, religion, aesthetics, anthropology, law, journalism, engineering, education, public health, social service, etc., etc.

(Any qualified student with experience or training in one of these fields who wishes to undertake the full program described above, however, will be regarded as a major of the Russian Institute.)

University Resources in the Russian Field

At the present time the University has, and for a good many years past has had, items in its budget for work in the Russian field which have totalled from twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars annually. Most of this money has been spent on work in language, literature and history, and in building up the rich Russian collection in the library. In addition, mention should be made of the fact that one of the members of the economics department has for the past half-dozen years been devoting all of his research and half of his teaching to Russian subjects. Thus there are attached to the University at the present time the following specialists on Russian

subjects:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Professor Gerold T. Robinson | History |
| Dr. Michael T. Florinsky | Economics |
| Professor C. A. Manning | Literature |
| Professor Andre Von Gronicka | Literature |
| Mrs. E. T. Mogilat | Language |

There are, quite obviously, others on the staff who by virtue of the subject matter with which they deal, e.g., comparative government, or sociology, have a definite interest in particular aspects of the Russian field. They can not, however, be classified as specialists in Russian studies.

Needless to say, the Russian Institute will make full use of the experts in various aspects of Russian affairs now at the University. Some will undoubtedly become full-fledged members of the Institute; others will have a more tangential relationship.

Additional Money Necessary

To put into operation the educational program outlined in the preceding pages, however, will require an expenditure of money far in excess of the twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars per year the University is now spending, more in fact than the University will be able to appropriate out of existing funds for a good many years to come.

Perhaps the simplest way to present the financial problem which the proposed Russian Institute raises is to indicate in

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tabular form the subject-matter specialties to be covered, the posts the University is carrying or is prepared to carry, and the amount of money needed per year for the remaining specialties:

SpecialtyAppropriation

History

Because of the additional duties which will be imposed upon him as Director of the Institute, Professor G. T. Robinson's work should in all probability be supplemented by the addition to the staff of a younger man. This, however, would appear to be a University responsibility.

Whitney 3600

Economy

Despite Dr. Michael Florinsky's work in this field, an additional staff member is imperative; two would be desirable.

(1 man) 7,500.00

Government

7,500.00 Hazard

Law

This field can be handled by the specialist on government

Official
Ideology

This field will be handled by Professor Robinson

7500 + 1500

Robinson

Literature
(Social and
Philosophic
content)

Despite the work now given at the University in language and literature, the addition of a scholar primarily interested in the social and philosophic content of Russian literature would be highly desirable. In view of the fact that such a person need give only half of his time to the Institute, and could devote the balance of it to the Department of East European Languages, the University could and would carry half of his salary on the income from the general endowments.

Lang. Majors 3000
Lit. Majors 4500
Prof. J. M. 3600

3,750.00

1/2 Simmons

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| <u>Specialty</u> | | <u>Appropriation</u> | |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| ✓ 7500. <i>Rel. Inst.</i> | Social Institutions | (As soon as practical) ^{signed out} _{1000 + 50} | 3,750.00 <i>vice White</i> |
| ✓ 5000 | Foreign Relations | | 7,500.00 { <i>Mosely</i> <i>Kissitzyn</i> |
| | Religion | (Postpone) | ----- ✓ |
| ✓ 2500 | Visiting Professor | | 5,000.00 |
| ✓ 2000 | Librarian | | 2,500.00 |
| | Additional money needed immediately for staff salaries | | <u>37,500.00</u> <i>" above items</i> |
| 10000 | Administrative expenses and Research Assistance | | 10,000.00 <i>Sep.</i> |
| 5000 | Travelling expenses for staff | | 5,000.00 <i>in future</i> |
| 5000 | Supplementary financing for library materials | | <u>2,500.00</u> ? |
| 48600 - 5 <i>Rel</i> 43600 | <u>Grand total exclusive of fellowships</u> | | <u>\$55,000.00</u> |

Residence Fellowships

4 Residence Fellowships at \$1,500.00 6,000.00 *SSM*

Travelling Fellowships

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 2 | Travelling Fellowships at \$3,000 | (1947-48) | 6,000.00 |
| 4 | " " " " | (1948-49) | 12,000.00 |
| 6 | " " " " | (1949-50) | 18,000.00 |
| 6 | " " " " | (1950-51) | 18,000.00 |

Grand Total Including Fellowships

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| (1946-47) | 61,000.00 |
| (1947-48) | 67,000.00 |
| (1948-49) | 73,000.00 |
| (1949-50) | 79,000.00 |
| (1950-51) | 79,000.00 |

Thus, if a Russian Institute of the character envisaged in the earlier pages of this letter is to be created, additional financing which will range from \$61,000 for 1946-47, to \$67,000, \$73,000 and \$79,000 for 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51, respectively, will be necessary.

The figures which have been presented in tabular form in the paragraphs immediately preceding are to be taken as an approximation of the expenditures which will be necessary, rather than a line by line transcript of the budget of the Russian Institute once it is in operation. Until the University has begun and concluded its negotiations with the scholar-specialists who will make up the staff of the Institute, exact salary figures will not be available.

For this reason, and for the further reason that considerable flexibility of plan will be necessary in assembling the staff of an Institute of this character, we would suggest that if financial aid is given, it be given for the general purposes of the Institute in a lump sum, rather than in the form of a line by line appropriation.

Further comment upon the problem of fellowships is probably necessary. Although Columbia University, like other universities, has a limited number of fellowships at its disposal, these fellowships are for the most part ear-marked for certain disciplines or else are open to Faculty-wide or even University-wide competition. It may well be argued that, for the following

reasons, a special arrangement should be made for residence fellowships in the field of Russian studies: first, American scholarship has lagged so far behind the national need that rapid expansion is necessary; second, both because of its importance and because of its pioneering character, the field demands students of exceptional ability; third, because of the risks involved in entering upon a career in this experimental field, some very able but financially insecure students may hesitate to undertake this work. The Columbia Committee that considered the problems of the Institute believes that the desired quantitative and qualitative development will be possible only if, at least during the early years of the work, a limited number of residence fellowships are created especially for the Russian field.

In addition to these residence fellowships, the establishment of a number of travelling fellowships is equally imperative. However thorough the training given at the Russian Institute may be, it will not be adequate unless it is supplemented by one year or two years spent in the Soviet Union itself. It seems very probable that in most cases two years rather than one will be necessary.

Conceivably all these fellowships (both Residential and Travelling) might be administered by the Social Science Research Council, instead of the University - in which case the sum of \$55,000 annually would be adequate for the needs of the

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University in connection with the Russian Institute. It should be repeated, however, that it is absolutely imperative for the success of this or any other Russian Institute which may be established that a substantial sum of money be made available for fellowships for study both in the United States and in the Soviet Union.

The Russian Institute, as the Report of the Committee on the School of International Affairs and Regional Studies indicates, is one of six regional institutes to be established at Columbia. From the point of view of the urgency of the country's need, the establishment of the Russian Institute stands first, in the opinion of the Columbia committee.

In view of the immediacy of the national need, and of the inability of the University to create out of current resources a satisfactory instrumentality with which to meet this need, we are submitting this request for financial aid. We do this with complete confidence that in the course of the next ten years the University will be able to raise sufficient additional endowments to place the proposed Russian Institute upon a permanent basis.

Very truly yours,

Sehuy L. C. Waller