

It was, on motion,

RESOLVED that the sum of Two hundred fifty thousand dollars
RF 45034 (\$250,000), or as much thereof as may be necessary, be,
and it hereby is, appropriated to COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
toward the development of the Russian Institute in the
School of International Affairs during the five-year
period July 1, 1946 - June 30, 1951, not more than
\$50,000 to be available in any one year of the period.

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TIONAL
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The following were the considerations presented:

Social Sciences

Previous Interest: None.

General Description: For more than a year an ad hoc committee appointed by the Committee on Educational Policy of Columbia University has been exploring the desirability of establishing at the University a School of International Affairs. Their recommendation that such a School be created includes the setting up of six institutes designed to develop special knowledge and understanding of certain of the so-called power and problem areas of the world. It is proposed to assemble in these institutes groups of outstanding scholars who have specialized in some specific geographical area. A survey of the University suggests that a British Commonwealth Institute, a French Institute and a German Institute can be created from existing resources. There is an urgent need, however, for adequate training and research in Russian, East Asian, and Latin American affairs.

A Russian Institute at Columbia will have two interlocking objectives: first, the direct advancement of knowledge in the Russian field through the coordinated research work of faculty and students; and second, the training of students as American specialists equipped to do work of authority and influence in the Russian field. The basic requirements of the training program have been formulated. A specialty from among the following is to be selected by the student: Russian history, economy, government and law, official ideology, social and philosophical content of literature and foreign relations. The student will be required to take considerable work in the non-Russian aspects of his Russian specialty. Research during the first two or three years will have

secondary emphasis to training; but it is agreed that this aspect of the program will assume more importance as the program gets under way.

The University will have available as Director of the Institute, Professor Geroid T. Robinson, who has been head of the Russian Section of the Office of Strategic Services since its establishment in 1942, and is Professor of History in the University. Other specialists in Russian studies already on the faculty include an economist, two professors of literature and one of language. For a well-rounded faculty it will be necessary to add another economist, a political scientist, and specialists in social institutions, foreign relations and, possibly later, religion.

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(Continued)

Finances: The estimated budget for full operation of the Institute totals \$96,350, of which Columbia proposes to furnish \$41,250, and requests of the Foundation \$55,000. Of Columbia's share, \$22,900 represents present rate of expenditure which will continue, and \$18,350 is projected additions. The University also will assume responsibility for all increases in salary, for the usual 5% contribution to retirement pensions, and for tenure of all new major faculty.

While it is desirable that the Institute attain full operation as early as possible, it is agreed that in all probability annual assistance of \$50,000 here proposed will be adequate for this first period. Furthermore, the application included a request for increasing sums for fellowships, which the sponsors of the plan have now agreed to seek on a competitive basis through the program of the Social Science Research Council.

Aid requested of the Foundation includes \$32,500 for new faculty salaries and \$10,000 for expenses of research. It is the hope of Foundation officers that during the period the proportion of amount used for research expenses may increase.

Future Implications: If achievement in the first five years justifies, another five-year grant may be recommended, preferably with more Foundation support for research and less for training. The University, as far as it is possible to foresee at this time, expects to undertake full responsibility for the Institute at the end of the ten-year period.

Comment: It is important that this country not be content with half-knowledge about Russia. To meet the need it is important that there be agencies of understanding and training that are competent, objective, and adequate to the task. Most of the sources now open lack one or all of these characteristics. New York is a logical center for one such agency. Professor Geroid Robinson's scholarly competence and standards - plus his extraordinary opportunities for acquaintance with sources, materials, problems and personnel - make him a suitable leader for such a venture.

4/4/45