

with letter 11/29/44
SCW to HW
See memo - RFE to JHW.
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THE RUSSIAN INSTITUTE

This discussion attempts, under the following headings, to define a major national need and to indicate what the University might do to meet it:

1. A National Need.
2. The Primary Objective of the Institutes.
3. A Two-Year Program for Regional "Majors".
4. Advanced Work for Regional "Majors".
5. The Secondary Responsibility of the Institute: Work for Non-Majors.

1. 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.

2. The Primary Objective of the Institute. The primary objective of the Institute is to perform a national service by doing all that an academic program can do to prepare a limited number of American specialists to understand Russia and the Russians, and to do work of authority and influence in the Russian field. This seems to 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 in international trade and finance (practice and research), in government service (current operations and research), and in the academic life (teaching and research).

3. A Two-Year Program for Regional "Majors". The program for regional majors should aim first of all at breadth and depth of understanding, and second, at preparing each student to take a post where this understanding can be made fully effective.* The studies of each major student may be grouped

* Each major will be required to master the Russian language as a tool before the beginning of his second year's work in the Institute. For first-year majors who have need of it, intensive instruction in the language will be provided. In the required Russian Research Seminar, in the second year, every major will use Russian materials in his research work.

under three heads:

Primary emphasis:

(a) Regional-functional -

A Russian specialty elected by the student from among the following: Russian history, economy, law and government, ideology, or 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 benefit greatly, in the scientific sense, by 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, a banking house or

an international air line might very well have need of a man who was well informed on conditions in Russia, and yet 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 Graduate School of Foreign Affairs, or the requirements for the Master's degree in the appropriate Department of the Faculty of Political Science. From the beginning of his work in the Institute, the major should have two faculty sponsors: one in the Institute, and one outside, in the appropriate curriculum of the Graduate School of Foreign Affairs, or in the appropriate Department of the Faculty of Political Science.

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

First Year

		Hours	
		1st Semester	2nd Semester
I.	Russian Language	10	8
II.	Courses on Russia (in Russian Institute)		
	Area Combination Course (combining History, economy, law and government, ideology, and foreign relations)	4	4
III.	Courses on Non-Russian Subjects (in School of Foreign Affairs or Faculty of Political Science)		
	Choice of courses in student's elected <u>functional</u> specialty (see "a" in text above)	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	Total Hours	16	16

Second Year

		<u>Hours</u>	
		<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
		<u>Semester</u>	<u>Semester</u>
I.	Courses on Russia (in Russian Institute)		
	Courses in student's elected specialty	2	2
	Choice of other courses on Russia	4	4
	Area Research Seminar (combining history, economy, law and government, ideology and foreign relations)	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	Total Hours	8	10
II.	Courses on Non-Russian Subjects (in School of Foreign Affairs or Faculty of Political Science)		
	Choice of courses in student's elected <u>functional</u> specialty	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	Total Hours	16	16

Now much ground is to be covered in the Russian Combination Course and how much in special courses offered in the Institute, is a matter that will require the most careful consideration and planning on the part of the staff. The following is a very tentative list of some of the special half-year courses that might perhaps be offered in the Institute. 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.

Law and Government

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.

Ideology

Conservative and Revolutionary Thought, c. 1900-1917.

Official Ideology since the Revolution, with special Emphasis on Recent Trends and on Methods of Indoctrination.

International Relations

Foreign Relations of the Empire, 1878-1917.

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

4. Advanced Work for Regional Majors. Because of the difficulty and importance of the Russian field, a 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 Institute, and one additional

adviser from the Faculty of Political Science), and that the student should become a candidate within the appropriate Graduate Department of the Faculty of Political Science.

5. The Secondary Responsibility of the Institute: Work for Non-Majors. Attention has thus far been confined to the chief responsibility of the Institute - the training of Russian specialists to meet a national need. But in so far as the fulfillment of this responsibility will permit, the Institute should 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 one of the non-Russian functional specialties already mentioned (in the School of Foreign 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 in Section 3 above will of course be regarded as a major of the Institute.)

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