

of
Soviet Documents
on
Foreign Policy

compiled by
JANE DEGRAS

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Compiled by
JANE DEGRAS

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Introduction

THIS calendar of Soviet documents on foreign policy is an attempt to provide students and research workers in this field with a comprehensive and reliable guide to available source material. It is to be followed by a series of three volumes, giving in English a selection of the more important documents here listed. In addition to what is normally understood by the term document—treaties and agreements, diplomatic correspondence, and statements of authorized spokesmen—the items listed also include speeches by leading Soviet statesmen and important articles, editorial and signed, from the Soviet press.

The classification of material by periods and subjects was not adopted without misgivings. It would have been easier to list all the items chronologically, thus avoiding doubts, ambiguities, and dual entries; but on consideration it was thought that the student, for whom this compilation was primarily made, would find the present arrangement more useful.

A number of gaps in the material used for this book are reflected in the calendar. In the absence of any official Soviet source for a document or statement, a source in another language has been cited, but the accuracy and authenticity of these 'other sources' (listed in the last column in the calendar) cannot be accepted without reservation, except where they consist of texts issued in other languages than Russian by the Soviet authorities, publications of the League of Nations, and such documents as Command Papers.

Inaccuracies can hardly have been altogether avoided in a work as laborious and exacting as this. Soviet sources are not always accurate in the dating of documents, and textual variations between different sources for the same document are not infrequent, especially in the early years of the Soviet régime when, in the absence of accredited diplomatic representatives in Moscow and of Soviet representatives in other countries, and with communications seriously disturbed by civil war and intervention, Soviet diplomacy was conducted largely by radio. Wherever incorrect dating in the source quoted has been detected, a note has been added; where the source of a Soviet document is known, but is not available in London, it is marked by an asterisk. Dates from November 1917 to February 1918 are given according to the Reformed Calendar.

Where the precise date of a document is not known, the relevant part of the entry in the first column is left blank; where one entry covers several known dates, the months are given, but the days omitted, in order to save space. Protocols and amendments to treaties and agreements are given immediately after the original entry.

All the books, papers, and periodicals given as references are to be found in one or other of the following libraries: The British Museum, the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, the London School of Economics

and Political Science, the London Library, the Foreign Office Library of Printed Books, and the Royal Institute of International Affairs. The Librarians and library assistants in all these institutions have been uniformly helpful.

I should like to acknowledge here my gratitude to Miss V. Conolly and Mr E. H. Carr who, as the 'Soviet Studies Sub-Committee' of Chatham House, have advised and helped me from the beginning of this work, and to my colleague Mrs M. Dewar.

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JANE DEGRAS

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