



Text of the Hull Letter on Soviet

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8—Following is the text of a letter from Secretary Hull to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, commenting on a resolution asking the State Department to inform Congress whether Russia had lived up to the Litvinoff agreements:

I have received your letter of Jan. 19, 1940, inviting such comment as I may feel disposed to make on Sen. Res. 219 of Jan. 18, 1940, in which the President was requested to report to the Senate, if not incompatible with public interest, whether the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had fulfilled the obligations contained in the agreements entered into between that government and this government on Nov. 16, 1933.

Although the agreements of Nov. 16, 1933, between the two governments were concluded simultaneously with the establishment of diplomatic relations between them, the maintenance of diplomatic relations has not been made "wholly contingent," as the wording of the resolution would appear to indicate, on the fulfillment by the Soviet Government of the obligations set forth in these agreements.

Whenever this government has cause to believe that another government has failed to live up to agreements with it, it is accustomed to make use of the very channels which exist by virtue of diplomatic relations in order to bring this failure to the attention of the other government, to endeavor to effect an adjustment of resultant divergences of views, and to attempt to prevent similar differences from taking place in the future.

During the years which have elapsed since the establishment of diplomatic relations between

the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, this government on several occasions has had ground to believe that the Soviet Government was not fully living up to the obligations undertaken at the time of the establishment of such relations. On such occasions this government has made appropriate representations to the Soviet Government. In certain instances these representations have yielded constructive results; in others, they have disclosed divergences in the interpretation of the agreements in question.

It was the opinion of this government in August, 1935, that the Soviet Government had violated its obligations not to interfere in the internal affairs of the United States when it permitted the All World Congress of the Communist International to convene in Moscow.

Accordingly, on Aug. 25, 1935, the American Ambassador to the Soviet Union addressed a note of protest to the Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs.

On Aug. 27, 1935, the Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs presented a note in reply to the Ambassador in which it was denied that the Soviet Government had taken upon itself obligations of any kind with regard to the Communist International.

The Department of State on Aug. 31, 1935, issued a statement in which it maintained that the language of the agreement between the two governments "irrefutably covers activities of the Communist International." A copy of this statement is attached hereto as inclosure 3. There has been no further exchange of views or communications on this subject between the two governments.

In connection with the work of the American Embassy in Moscow

regarding the protection of American citizens and interests in the Soviet Union, a number of cases have come to the attention of this government involving the arrests or detention of American citizens by the Soviet authorities. In the opinion of this government, the Soviet Government in the handling of some of these cases was not living up strictly to its undertakings relative to the rights of citizens of the United States to legal protection.

Following representations made by this government, the American citizens under arrest were eventually released, and at the present time, so far as this government is aware, no American citizens are under detention in the Soviet Union except a number whom the Soviet Government considers to be citizens of the Soviet Union rather than of the United States.

This government has not had occasion to make representations to the Soviet Government for violations of any other obligations assumed by the Soviet Government in the agreements of Nov. 16, 1933.

In addition to concluding certain agreements at the time of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the American and Soviet Governments exchanged views with regard to methods of settling all questions of indebtedness and claims outstanding between them.

This exchange permitted the hope for a speedy and satisfactory solution of these questions. Subsequent negotiations, however, terminated unsuccessfully. On Jan. 31, 1935, the Department of State issued to the press a statement, pointing out that "there seems to be scarcely any reason to doubt that the negotiations which seemed promising at the start must now be regarded as having come to an end."

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