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National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, 1943.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, INC.

232 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 3-2082

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National Secretary

ALICE PRENTICE BARROWS

Executive Secretary

April 7, 1943

Rabbi Abba Hillel-Silver
19810 Shaker Street
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Hillel-Silver:

The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship has been formed at the urgent request of a number of sponsors of the Congress of American-Soviet Friendship and of other prominent individuals throughout the country. I enclose a brochure which describes the program and activities of the organization.

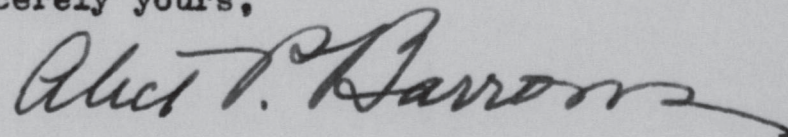
The purpose of the Council is the same as that of the Congress: To promote better understanding and strengthen friendly relations between the United States and the Soviet Union as essential for winning the war and establishing and enduring peace.

To carry out this purpose and to meet the great diversity of demands from people in all walks of life and from all parts of the country, we plan to make information available through motion pictures, exhibits, pamphlets and speakers.

We plan to launch the National Council with an event as important as the Madison Square Garden meeting. This will be a War Exhibit, which will include trophies and other material from the Russian front never shown before in this country.

We feel sure that you also will want to sponsor the continuation of this work so auspiciously begun by the Congress and so important to the successful prosecution of the war. Therefore, our chairman, Mr. Corliss Lamont, has asked me to extend to you a cordial invitation to be one of the sponsors of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. As we wish to complete the list of sponsors as soon as possible, may we hear from you at your earliest opportunity?

Sincerely yours,



Alice P. Barrows
Executive Secretary

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, INC.

232 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 3-2082

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

May 7, 1943

Dear Friend:

The present widespread anti-Soviet campaign in the United States has reached such dangerous proportions that the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship is initiating the enclosed Open Letter to the American People as part of its program of taking specific action against propaganda designed to divide the United Nations in their struggle against the Axis.

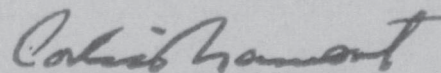
We are asking prominent Americans in every section of the country and in every walk of life to sign their names to this Open Letter, to which we shall then give the widest possible distribution and publicity. Thus we hope to arouse the American people to the great danger of the current anti-Soviet incitements interfering with American-Soviet cooperation and with the successful conduct of the war by the United States and the United Nations.

The Soviet-Polish crisis brings out very well the disruptive effects of anti-Soviet propaganda. We in America share the responsibility for this situation because, as Mr. Walter Lippmann stated in the New York Herald-Tribune, the support that the Poles received here misled "the Polish Government into taking risks it could not afford to take and to provoke the Russian Government into a showdown."

The following eminent persons have already sent in their signatures for the Open Letter: William Rose Benét, Van Wyck Brooks, William F. Cochran, Leo M. Davidoff, Jo Davidson, Albert Einstein, Frederick May Eliot, Stanley M. Isaacs, Helen Keller, Robert S. Lynd, Fritz Mahler, Kirtley F. Mather, William Howard Melish, Joseph A. Rosen, Kurt Rosenfeld, Vilhjalmur Stefansson and Mary E. Woolley.

Won't you join with the above signatories in this urgent matter and send in your name at once on the enclosed card, by air mail if possible?

Sincerely yours,



Corliss Lamont, Chairman

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AN OPEN LETTER *to the* AMERICAN PEOPLE

EVERY PATRIOTIC AMERICAN has reason to be alarmed over the new wave of anti-Soviet propaganda that has arisen in the United States during the first part of 1943. This campaign against Soviet Russia, reviving old fears and prejudices, threatens to undermine American-Soviet friendship, and to divide us from our great Russian ally in war and in peace.

Soviet Russia's severance of relations with the Polish Government-in-Exile, due to Polish encouragement of Nazi slanders against the Russians, plainly showed the danger to the United Nations and the advantage to Hitler of anti-Soviet calumnies wherever and whenever they appear. According to reliable news dispatches from abroad, the widespread support which the Poles received from anti-Soviet sources in America was a leading factor in precipitating the Soviet-Polish crisis. But the national interests of our country demand a halt to all actions that may bring disunity among the United Nations, especially now as the conflict against the Axis nears its climax.

THE MEANING OF CASABLANCA

The historic decisions reached at Casablanca by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill called for "fighting hard on all fronts and ending the war as quickly as we can on the uncompromising terms of unconditional surrender." According to the Roosevelt-Churchill statement, the prime object of the Anglo-American strategy for 1943 is "to draw as much weight as possible off the Russian armies by engaging the enemy as heavily as possible at the best selected points."

The brilliant landing of American troops in North Africa, the superbly conducted campaign of the British Eighth Army in Libya, the magnificent fighting of the Anglo-American-French forces under Generals Eisenhower and Montgomery in Tunisia, have brought about the sure and steadily approaching doom of the Axis in Africa.

The next move in Allied strategy is the invasion of Europe. The whole world is awaiting this action, the opening of the long-expected Second Front on the European continent.

CONQUERED EUROPE AWAITS INVASION SIGNAL

All of conquered Europe seethes with anti-Nazi patriots harassing the foe through passive resistance, through acts of sabotage, through guerrilla fighting. Everywhere from France to Poland, from Norway to Yugoslavia, the people watch for the invasion signal to spring into a mighty army in Hitler's rear.

In the East our Soviet ally, still engaging the overwhelming bulk of the Nazi forces, consolidates the positions won back following the epic defense of Stalingrad and during the great winter offensive that liberated over 185,000 square miles of territory and put over a million enemy soldiers out of action.

Failure to take immediate advantage of the opportunities created by these events will return the initiative to Hitler and give him time to launch another offensive. It will lead to demoralization and despair among the long-suffering people of the occupied countries, allow Hitler to decimate their leaders and rob us of millions of fighting allies.

To prevent such failure, unity and understanding among the United Nations is the paramount necessity. But in direct proportion to the mounting Soviet successes and the possibilities of a general Allied offensive, leading to early victory, the anti-Soviet forces have increased their divisive activities.

These forces have never abandoned the disastrous and discredited policy that culminated at Munich. They include all those elements whose hatred of Soviet Russia is greater than their hatred of fascism. These circles are willing to prolong the war indefinitely, even to risk our own ultimate defeat, in the hope that Hitler will bleed to death the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. At the same time and for the same reason they seek to lay the groundwork for a negotiated peace with Hitler or his successor at the expense of the Soviet Union.

DANGER TO AMERICAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP

These forces have utilized every pretext to disrupt American-Soviet friendship and to stir up suspicion of our Soviet ally. They express fear that the Red Army will march to Berlin but express equal fear that it will stop at the border and conclude a separate peace with Germany.

They magnify disputes over post-war boundaries with the purpose of arousing distrust of the Soviet Union and embroiling it with its allies. They invoke the Atlantic Charter against the USSR, while seeking to subvert it themselves by creating states hostile to Russia along its borders.

They prejudge and play up every new accusation levelled at the Soviet Government by the diehard Russophobes among the Polish emigrés, deliberately provoking disunity over such issues as the Ehrlich-Alter case and the Nazi-inspired charge that the Russians murdered 10,000 Polish officers.

They have consistently opposed any strong measures against Hitler's satellite, Finland, whose troops are fighting the Russians and whose soil provides a base for Nazi bombers which destroy American ships and men carrying supplies to Murmansk.

They try to make capital out of the Soviet strategy of avoiding conflict with Japan and urge that America concentrate on the war in the Pacific. Yet a two-front Soviet war or such a concentration of American forces would be in direct contravention of the announced United Nations policy of defeating Hitler first as the prerequisite for final victory over all the Axis powers.

DIVIDING AMERICA FROM ENGLAND

The anti-Soviet campaign is also used in an attempt to divide the United States from England, which has cemented its Soviet alliance with a twenty-year treaty of mutual assistance. An editorial in the *London Times* urging a greater realization on America's part of the need for close cooperation with the Soviet Union was utilized for attacks on both England and Russia, and for hampering Anthony Eden's efforts to strengthen the Anglo-American-Soviet coalition.

Most scandalous of all, while millions of Russians are fighting and dying in our common cause, a widespread whispering campaign, now finally noted in the public prints, is carried on in the United States to the effect that America must go to war with the Soviet Union after Hitler is beaten.

Since the declared policy of our government is that "the defense of the Soviet Union is vital to the defense of the United States," this anti-Soviet movement is also an anti-American movement, threatening our national safety and our successful conduct of the war.

This anti-Soviet movement has its representatives in both houses of Congress and even in some departments of our government. It is strong in the anti-administration forces within the Democratic Party and in the isolationist sections of the Republican Party. It includes, of course, the Christian Front and fascist circles represented by Father Coughlin, Gerald Smith and the like. It finds constant support and encouragement in many large newspapers throughout the United States, especially in the Hearst and McCormick-Patterson press.

AMERICAN-SOVIET COLLABORATION ESSENTIAL

A number of sincere and earnest citizens unconsciously give aid and comfort to the groups undermining American-Soviet friendship by letting disapproval of Soviet economic or political policies shape their attitude toward the USSR. Such persons should realize that everything they hold most dear, be it the Christian faith or racial freedom or democratic institutions, depends on a military victory and enduring peace which can only be obtained through collaboration with Soviet Russia.

Against all the divisive elements mentioned are ranged the great healthy mass of the American people, and the leaders of our country, who truly express the popular will. The American people have confidence in our Commander-in-Chief, President Roosevelt, and in the other men in high government position who are dedicated to the policy of strengthening the United Nations coalition and carrying through uncompromisingly the great 1943 offensive.

Beside them stand the patriotic forces in both major parties, the great majority of Democrats who loyally support the administration, the section of the Republicans represented by Wendell Willkie, Thomas W. Lamont, and others who take the realistic attitude voiced in the *New York Herald Tribune* and that part of the press which urges close cooperation with the Soviet Union and a speedy opening of the Second Front.

AMERICAN PEOPLE READY FOR SACRIFICE

The people of America have shown their readiness for any sacrifice to smash the Axis by their bravery on our fighting fronts, by their production efforts in the factories and farms and the entire economic life of our nation. Through their civic, trade union, church, fraternal and other organizations they have demonstrated overwhelmingly their conviction that our national interests demand the fullest measure of American-Soviet cooperation, now and in the future.

So it is that we urge the American people to be on guard against those forces in our midst who would divide us from one another and from our Allies. We appeal to the American people to be vigilant in identifying these elements, in exposing them, combating them, depriving them of influence and power by building an indestructible unity for the winning of the war and the peace.

Millions of Americans, millions of people everywhere, will live and breathe again the air of a free world because the Soviet Union has poured out its life and treasure so unstintingly in our common cause. Its military casualties already reach 6,000,000. Its civilian deaths in the occupied regions reach perhaps 10,000,000. Millions more are enduring the horrors of German occupation or have been shipped away into hideous slavery. It is to the great Soviet people that we so largely owe our chance of victory. Only in union with them is victory sure.

Let us do everything in our power to cement our alliance with the Soviet Union, and in cooperation with Great Britain and China to further the great coalition of the United Nations. Let us strengthen every joint action needed to win the war and in this process lay the lasting foundations of post-war peace.

With our country's own freedom and security at stake in these vital issues, we believe that every patriotic American will join us in calling for enduring American-Soviet friendship; the defeat of every attempt to disrupt Allied unity; the earliest possible invasion of Europe; the speedy victory of the United Nations over the Axis.



Initiated by the
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, INC.
232 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, INC.

232 MADISON AVENUE • NEW YORK, 16 N. Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-2082

June 22, 1943

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ALICE PRENTICE BARROWS

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Recently, as you undoubtedly remember, a statement was issued by 66 Americans criticizing the film, "Mission to Moscow." A considerable number of those who signed this statement could be readily identified as persons who have long held deep-seated prejudices against the Soviet Union, prejudices which they have publicly aired for years.

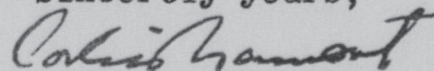
We of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship believe that "Mission to Moscow" is one of the greatest forces we have had in this country for creating true friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and the Soviet Union. We also believe, and we are sure that you do with us, that this friendship and understanding is absolutely essential to a speedy victory and to the establishment of an enduring peace.

No American conscious of the extreme importance of maintaining cordial relations with the Soviet Union could allow to go unanswered a statement which, regardless of the disinterested motives of some of the signatories, was permeated with ill-will toward the Soviet Union, and was bound to arouse dangerous anti-Soviet feeling. Certainly the masses of the people must be told the other side of the story--the side that believes "Mission to Moscow" deserves wide support as a strong and potent force for Allied unity.

The National Council is therefore initiating a statement to be signed by 166 prominent Americans representing every field of endeavor. A copy of the statement is enclosed. We are asking you to sign this statement and thereby to cooperate in what we believe is a very significant and necessary contribution to American-Soviet friendship. The signed statement will be issued promptly as a news release, and perhaps subsequently in the form of a paid advertisement.

Would you be good enough to sign your name on the line on the bottom of the statement and return it to us in the enclosed stamped and addressed envelope? We are most anxious to publish this statement as quickly as possible and would appreciate your immediate consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Corliss Lamont
Chairman

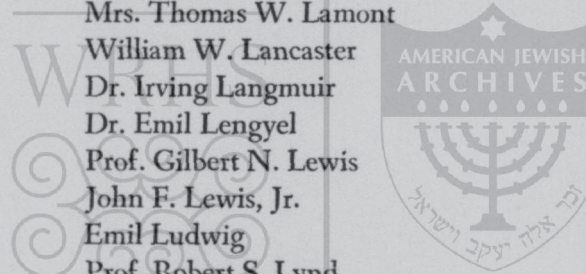
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The production of the film "Mission to Moscow", based on ex-Ambassador Joseph E. Davies' book, is an epoch-making event for America. This picture will be shown to millions of our citizens. Its tremendous importance lies in the fact that a film produced under American auspices expresses wholeheartedly and unreservedly the faith of America in the courage, integrity and the devotion to the cause of world peace of our great Soviet ally.

A statement signed by 66 Americans takes exception to this film on grounds of alleged historical inaccuracies. A number of prominent individuals who have seen the film have made similar criticisms. Other prominent individuals have publicly rebutted these criticisms.

In considering the controversy over "Mission to Moscow" it is of great importance to note the fact that a large number of the Committee of 66 have long been public and frequent attackers of the Soviet Union. We state our honest conviction that criticisms of this film, in the spirit in which they have been made, have done a distinct disservice to the cause of American-Soviet unity during the war and afterwards. Such criticism levelled at "Mission to Moscow" must have given the greatest satisfaction to Hitler and his Axis colleagues. Our enemies have ever been ready to seize on every opportunity to trot out the threadbare "Bolshevist bogey" in order to weaken the war spirit and the war effort of Americans.

"Mission to Moscow" is more than a motion picture; it is a gesture of international friendship made at the most crucial period of American history with the highly laudable and important object of promoting trust instead of distrust in the Soviet Union. It is based on the experiences of our accredited Ambassador to that country who in his book set down faithfully and honestly his impressions of the Soviet people and their government. To have widened the audience for Mr. Davies' conclusions by translating them into the medium of the motion picture was a signal patriotic service. The picture is an effective rebuke to the forces in this country and abroad who would try to disrupt American-Soviet friendship.

It is in this spirit that the film should be appraised. "Mission to Moscow" should be welcomed by all Americans who sincerely desire that the ties between ourselves and the Soviet Union be strengthened for a speedy victory over the Axis powers. Viewed in this light, the film completely transcends the type of criticism which has been made of it.

We urge all Americans who believe that American-Soviet friendship is a basic part of winning the war to welcome "Mission to Moscow" to their communities for what it is - a tribute from the American people to our great Soviet ally.

.....
(signature)

National Council
of
AMERICAN-SOVIET
FRIENDSHIP, Inc.



"It is my belief that the American and Russian people can and will throw their influence on the side of building a new democracy which will be the hope of all the world."

—VICE-PRESIDENT HENRY A. WALLACE

"Without Russia, our common victory would have been seriously jeopardized. Without the cooperation of the Soviet Union, there can be no permanent and durable peace projected."—HON. JOSEPH E. DAVIES

PURPOSE

The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Inc., was formed: To promote better understanding and strengthen friendly relations between the United States and the Soviet Union as essential to the winning of the war, and the establishment of world-wide democracy and enduring peace.

PROGRAM

The program of the National Council is designed to carry out the above purpose (1) by meeting the demand of the American people for reliable information on all aspects of Soviet life, (2) by giving them an opportunity to express their admiration and friendship for our Russian Ally, and (3) by taking specific action against anti-Soviet propaganda aimed at dividing the United Nations.

1. Educational Services

To organizations or individuals the National Council can furnish the following:

★ *Exhibits*

Numerous photographic exhibits on many phases of Soviet life.

★ *Films*

A wide variety of features and shorts, both 16 and 35 mm, silent and sound.

★ *Pamphlets and Books*

A reading list selected according to importance, popular price and availability. In preparation: A series of pamphlets under the Council's imprint.

★ *Speakers*

Authoritative speakers available through a Speakers' Bureau.

2. Special Activities

★ ***American-Soviet War Exhibit***

Trophies captured from the Nazis by the Red Army, superb new photographs, cartoons, posters and other graphic material from the war fronts, both American and Soviet, dramatically presented, make this a *different* exhibit. Opening in New York in the spring, it will be toured throughout the country.

★ ***Tokens of Friendship***

The people of American communities are invited to send tokens of friendship to people of corresponding Soviet communities. For example, Detroit might select Stalingrad. Different groups in that city—youth, trade unions, professionals, etc.—could send useful or artistic tokens of friendship to similar groups in the city of adoption. *It is imperative that the National Council, which will take charge of forwarding the tokens, be consulted about any proposed token before work on the project is begun.*

★ ***Correspondence***

The National Council has prepared attractive postcards which American citizens may use for initiating correspondence with Soviet citizens. The National Council will forward these messages to individuals in the Soviet Union.

★ ***Friendship Pin***

Artists throughout the country have been invited to compete for the best design for an insignia symbolizing American-Soviet friendship. The winning design will be made into a pin, available to everyone.

★ *Essay Contest*

"Why is American-Soviet Friendship Important to the United States and how can it be maintained and strengthened?" Contest open to the young people of America. Prize: A free post war trip to the Soviet Union, or its cash equivalent.

3. How You Can Take Part

Any individual or any organization interested in promoting American-Soviet friendship may participate in this program.

The National Council will assist in establishing councils in all the chief cities of the United States. These local councils, which are not dues-paying membership organizations, will be representative of various sections of the community and will bring the Council's program to existing organizations.

The National Council will set up special interest committees for trade unions, youth, women, nationalities, religious groups, professional groups, etc., which will cooperate with similar committees in councils throughout the country.

If you are interested in any aspect of our national or local work please write for further details.

If you care to help the work of the National Council financially, please send your contribution to the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Inc., 232 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY.....STATE.....

Amount of contribution enclosed \$.....

National Council of
AMERICAN - SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, Inc.
232 Madison Avenue New York, N. Y.

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 Mme. Pierre Monteux
 William Morris, Jr.
 Senator James E. Murray
 Dr. Philip C. Nash
 Prof. Robert Hastings
 Nichols
 Eugene O'Neill
 Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam
 Dr. Frederick Douglas
 Patterson
 Senator Claude D. Pepper
 Dr. E. C. Peters
 Dr. John P. Peters

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 Henry W. Pope
 Carl Randau
 Wallingford Riegger
 Paul Robeson
 Earl Robinson
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 Herman Shumlin
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 Raymond P. Sloan
 Vilhjalmur Stefansson
 Maxwell S. Stewart
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 Raymond Gram Swing
 Mills Ten Eyck
 Senator Elbert D. Thomas
 R. J. Thomas
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 S. A. Trone
 Rt. Rev. Henry
 St. George Tucker
 Mary van Kleeck
 Bishop W. J. Walls
 Prof. Leroy Waterman
 Max Weber
 Franz Werfel
 Dr. Mary E. Woolley
 Dr. Max Yergan
 Dean Mary Yost
 Art Young
 Dr. J. F. Zimmerman
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 Leane Zugsmith
 V. K. Zworykin