

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
Research and Analysis Branch

R & A No. 2915.1

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CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS
RELATING TO THE USSR

PART I

From American Recognition of the Soviet Union
to the Soviet-German Conflict
10 October 1933 — 21 June 1941

Washington
25 September 1945

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FOREWORD

Scope

This Chronology covers the period from the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Soviet Union to the end of World War II. It is divided into two parts: Part I. From American Recognition of the Soviet Union to the Soviet-German Conflict, 10 October 1933 - 21 June 1941; and Part II. USSR in the War, 22 June 1941 - 2 September 1945. Work is already in progress in the preparation of a third Part, covering the post-war period.

Arrangement

Part I: For reasons of convenience to the users and economy of space, Part I lists the events of a given day alphabetically under descriptive captions assigned to each item. Events involving the relations of the Soviet Union with other countries are generally entered under the names of countries involved. International conferences and conventions have been listed under their official designations wherever possible. Soviet internal affairs have most frequently been placed under the caption Soviet Union or under convenient catch-word titles.

Part II: While the above arrangement appeared adequate to cover both internal and external events during the years of increasing Soviet participation in international affairs, the complexities of the war years seemed to make a more elaborate arrangement advisable. A four column division was made. In the first column are listed the military highlights of the war. To the second column were consigned the general international events in which the Soviet Union participated or had an interest. The third column records the development of American-Soviet relations. Occasional use was made of the device of spreading some international gatherings or undertakings across columns two and three. In the fourth column the more important Soviet internal developments, and speeches by leading Soviet officials (including those on the war and world events) are indicated.

Sources

A large variety of sources has been used in compiling the data for this Chronology. For all parts the Bulletin of International News, the Department of State Bulletin, the Research Bulletin of the Soviet Union (with its various continuations), A. J. Toynbee, Survey of International Affairs, and J. W. Wheeler-Bennett, Documents on International Affairs, were basic references, supplemented as needed from Soviet and other sources. For the war years in Part II extensive use was made of the official Soviet compilation on foreign relations, Vneshnyaya politika Sovetskogo Soyuza v period otechestvennoi voyny, Volume I, to 31 December 1943. This was supplemented for 1944 and 1945 by chronologies issued in War and the Working Class and its successor, New Times. Among non-Russian compendiums steady use was made of Facts on File, the issues of the New York Times, and the volumes on The War (First Year through Fourth Year) published by Edgar McInnis. From time to time several other publications and monographs were consulted for special topics, controversial items, and dates in dispute.

Limitations

In this Chronology special attention was devoted to the foreign relations of the Soviet Union. For the great profusion of domestic developments a selective approach had to be made. The criterion used generally was the impact of a given internal event upon the outside world.

Lack of time and personnel precluded the preparation of an Index for the Chronology. It is hoped that the introductory words at the beginning of most entries will serve as a substitute, although recognizably inadequate, for an Index.

Despite the care and time expended on this Chronology, the participation of several individuals in the work of compilation and the lack of time for thorough editing made it impossible to achieve a complete consistency in the style of presentation.

It has been occasionally necessary to include references to unverifiable press accounts of events affecting diplomatic history. The words "report" and "allegation" have been used to note this condition.

As far as possible, events are listed under the exact date of their occurrence. When this could not be established with certainty, the event was entered under the date of its publication, this distinction being made clear whenever possible.

In all likelihood there are omissions and errors in this compilation, in spite of considerable efforts made to achieve accuracy. The supplying of omissions and the correction of mistakes would be welcome.

Future Installments

Should the publication of these two parts of the Chronology result in a significant extension of the considerable use to which it has already been put in manuscript form, the publication of further parts will be possible, covering the period beginning with 3 September 1945 and based upon a Chronology of daily events which is currently being compiled. This continuing Chronology, revised and edited in accordance with the longer perspective then available, could subsequently be brought together into a third Part at an appropriate time. In preparation for this, the compilers would be glad to receive any suggestions for improvement which users of the first two parts may wish to make.

1933

CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTSRELATING TO THE USSR

Part I. From American Recognition of the USSR
to the Soviet-German Conflict,
10 October 1933 -- 21 June 1941

October 1933

October

- 10 United States: President Roosevelt asked President Kalinin to send a representative to the United States for the purpose of negotiating normal relations between the two countries.
- 12 White Russians in Manchukuo: Exodus of White Russians from Shanghai to Manchuria reported as a result of call issued by Gen. Semenov, who said they would fight the Soviets if Japan would furnish arms and supplies.
- 13 Manchukuo: The Russian government issued statements to the press showing that the Manchukuo authorities had arrested further numbers of officials of the Chinese Eastern Railway, as a result of which great disorder was reported to prevail on the line.
- 20 United States: President Kalinin's telegram to President Roosevelt was published. Kalinin accepted the invitation and went on to say that there was no doubt that difficulties between the two countries could be settled if there were direct relations between them.
- 21 Poland: An official of the Soviet consulate in Warsaw was shot dead by a member of the Ukrainian National Organization who was arrested.
- 26 Turkey: An official Soviet delegation, headed by Voroshilov, arrived in Constantinople en route for Ankara for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the republic.
- 30 Germany: It was understood that, following conversations between the German Foreign Minister and the Soviet Ambassador, agreement had been reached to allow the Soviet press correspondents to resume their work in Germany and to readmit German correspondents into the USSR. The representatives of Tass and Izvestiya were to be allowed to attend the Reichstag fire trial again.
- 31 France: Litvinov, who stopped in Paris on his way to the United States, and the French Foreign Minister, Paul-Boncour, discussed the question of closer collaboration between France and Russia.

1933

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November 1933

November

- 6 Japan: Conversation on outstanding questions, including the Chinese Eastern Railway, between Japanese Foreign Minister, Hirota, and the Soviet Ambassador in Tokyo.
Japan: In an address at the celebrations in connection with the 16th anniversary of the Revolution Molotov spoke of Russia's desires for peace, but that one had to reckon with events in Manchuria and the fact that agreements with that country had been violated by it. He placed responsibility for that and for plans to seize Siberia squarely on the shoulders of Japan.
- 7 Germany: The Russian government protested statements made by Goering at the Reichstag fire trial.
USA: Litvinov arrived in Washington where he made a statement to the press in which he referred to the "artificial nature of the estrangement" between the American people and those of Russia. He was making the first breach in the barrier, he stated..
- 8 United States: Negotiations between Litvinov and President Roosevelt concerning the relations of their countries began and continued through 16 November.
- 10 United States: Following a conference between the President and Litvinov a statement was issued to the effect that they had reviewed questions between the two countries which had previously been discussed between the Secretary of State and Litvinov. Conversations with the President and the State Department were to continue.
Japan: Hirota proposed that the USSR and Japan mutually undertake to put an end to military activity along the Siberian-Manchukuo borders, thus extending provisions of the Portsmouth Treaty to this border.
- 16 Persia, London Convention: Ratifications of the London Convention for the definition of an aggressor, signed by the Shah of Persia, were deposited at the Foreign Commissariat by the Persian Ambassador.
United States: Exchange of notes effecting recognition of the Soviet government by the United States. Official relations established 11:50 p.m.
- 17 United States: Document issued to the American press letters dated 16 November in which Roosevelt announced his decision to establish normal diplomatic relations, Litvinov replied that his government was glad to take the complementary steps. Amongst other things the Soviet government made a pledge to abstain from propaganda in the United States.
Announcement that William Bullitt would be the United States Ambassador to Moscow.
- 18 United States: Troyanovsky appointed as Soviet Ambassador to Washington. B. Skvirsky to serve as Charge d'Affaires till Troyanovsky's arrival. Thereafter he would become counsellor of the Embassy.
- 27 Manchukuo: It was stated in Moscow, that the Consul-General at Harbin had made an energetic protest to Manchukuo authorities concerning the arrest of thirty-three Russian Workers on the Chinese Eastern Railway.

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December 1933

- December
- 2 Italy: Litvinov arrived in Rome.
- 3 Italy: Litvinov and Mussolini discussed possibilities of improving the general political situation in the spirit of the Italo-Soviet Pact of Friendship recently concluded.
- 4 Latvia: Trade agreement with Latvia signed in Moscow.
Communist Youth: The 15th anniversary of the Communist Youth Organization was celebrated.
- 5 Italy: Litvinov made a statement to the press in Rome stating that his meeting with Mussolini had sought to continue and to consolidate relations already existing and that the two governments had derived what was useful from their economic and political cooperation.
- 9 Internal control: Kalinin issued a decree placing responsibility for quality and efficiency of work and workers on executives. The latter would be made liable to criminal prosecution and prison sentences for lapses.
- 11 Far East: A decree was issued exempting the peasants of Eastern Siberia from grain deliveries, with a view to stimulating the flow of migration to the Far East. The pay of employees in Eastern Siberia was increased including that of soldiers stationed there.
- 13 United States: William Bullitt presented his credentials to the President of the Soviet Union.
Far East: The Communist Party opened a campaign in connection with the decree of 11 December, describing it as an epoch-making event designed to strengthen the defenses of the Far Eastern frontiers.
- 14 Manchukuo: The Consul-General reported that the Manchukuo authorities had appointed a manager to the Chinese Eastern Railway.
Lithuania: Ratifications were exchanged in Moscow of the Convention regarding the definition of an aggressor in the Non-Aggression Pact between the USSR and Lithuania.
- 15 Italy: Litvinov and the Italian Ambassador exchanged ratifications of the Pact of Friendship, Non-Aggression and Neutrality, signed on 2 September 1933.
- 16 France: J. Paul-Boncour invited to Moscow to discuss USSR-Franco Alliance.
- 18 Military Preparedness: It was announced in Moscow that a new drive was to be made to increase the military preparedness of the civilian population by a series of measures to be carried out by the Youth Communist League and the Osaviakhim. The latter was to recruit another two million members, and an additional 500,000 young men were to start military training; also 1,000 new gas detachments were to be raised before the 16th birthday of the Red Army in February.

1933

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December

- 19 Finland: Ratifications exchanged between USSR and Finland of the protocol prolonging the Non-Aggression Pact of 21 January 1932.
- 20 Siberia conscription: Classes of 1921-26 registered in Siberia in preparation for conscription.
- 23 United States: First contract to make films by Americans in the USSR signed between the Soviet Kino Trust and W. Field, Jr., L. Bigelow, and V. Withrow, Jr.
- 28 Japan: At the opening of the session of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Union in Moscow, Molotov accused Japanese militarists of provoking the USSR, because they feared the union of the USSR and the United States in the Far East.
- 29 Japan: Speaking at the meeting of the Central Executive Committee, Litvinov called Japan's policy in Manchuria the darkest and most threatening cloud on the international horizon. Manchukuo he called an "agency of the Japanese government and Japanese command." He went on to say that negotiations for the sale of the Chinese Eastern Railway would not be resumed while arbitrary acts on the railway continued. Japan should prove her peaceful intentions by signing a pact of non-aggression with the Soviet government.
- Germany: Litvinov continued and spoke of his dissatisfaction with the course of Russo-German relations, and cited Hitler's demand that Germany should acquire territory in the East, and Rosenberg's alleged intrigues with the Ukrainian counter-revolutionaries.
- League of Nations: He referred to the League by saying Russia had never refused international cooperation and that it was willing "to use some of the existing or projected international combinations and organizations" in the interest of peace.
- 30 Five-Year Plan: Politburo approved the program for completion of the Second Five-Year Plan, under which total industrial production was to increase 240% over 1932 by 1937.
- 31 Latvia: Ratifications exchanged between Latvia and the USSR of the Commercial Treaty of 4 December 1933 to come into force 1 January 1934, together with economic agreement of the same date.

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January 1934

January

- 1 Soviet Union; Communist Party: Structural changes in the organization of Communist Party, entailing alterations in the government, were approved.
- 2 Soviet Union (Tadjik SSR): N. Maksim, president of the Tadjik republic, was dismissed on grounds of bourgeois-nationalist deviation from party line.
- 5 Baltic States: It was reported that diplomatic representatives of Poland and the USSR had discussed with representatives of Finland, Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, a suggestion that a guarantee of security for the 4 Baltic States should be entered into. Finland refused on grounds that a Treaty of Non-Aggression already existed. Proposal for joint Russo-Polish guarantee of security of Baltic States had emanated from the USSR.
- Soviet Union: The Session of the Central Executive Committee closed after approving the budget for 1934, which showed revenue at one billion rubles more than expenditures.
- 7 Afghanistan: Commercial treaty with the USSR signed.
- 8 Japan: The Soviet Ambassador in Tokyo requested Japanese Foreign Minister's good offices in reviving negotiations for sale of Chinese Eastern Railway, and stated his government might reconsider the price. He also suggested that six Russian railway officials arrested at Harbin be released.
- Soviet Union: Official figures were published of the record grain harvest of 1933; 90,000,000 tons.
- United States: Soviet Ambassador Troyanovsky accredited to President Roosevelt.
- 11 France: Commercial agreement with the USSR signed at Paris. (Cf. 9 December)
- 14 League of Nations: Reports were current in Moscow that Litvinov and Molotov have represented to Stalin the importance to the USSR of its admission to membership in League of Nations.
- 15 Japan: Resumption of conversations in Tokyo regarding sale of Chinese Eastern Railway.
- Switzerland: Manager and five members of foreign staff of a Swiss firm operating in USSR arrested, together with 20 Russian employees, on charges of economic espionage.
- 16 France: In Senate, M. Paul-Boncour expressed satisfaction at the improvement of relations with the USSR and praised the "Eastern Locarno pacts" concluded by Russia.
- 21 Soviet Union; Far East: Speech in Khabarovsk by Lavrentiev, Party Secretary for the Far East reported in Moscow; it revealed that Japanese construction of strategic roads and airfields in Manchuria was being countered by double tracking the Trans-Siberian Railway and the construction of the new Baikal-Amur trunkline.
- Turkey: Protocol signed providing 8 million dollars credit to Turkey for industrial machinery.

1934

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January

- 22 Japan: A spokesman from the Foreign Office stated that the Soviet statements alleging that Japan was preparing to attack Siberia were creating an unjustified fear that war impended.
Soviet Union; Foreign relations: Kaganovich, at a party congress in Moscow, was reported to have stated that the relations with Japan were growing worse, that the USSR would be willing to re-establish relations with Germany on pre-Nazi basis, that the League of Nations might be useful. Soviet foreign policy was to mobilize all anti-war forces abroad, at the same time helping any revolutionary movement "which is the only serious way of opposing Imperialistic schemes."
- 24 United States: U.S. Treasury rescinded orders against the receipt of Soviet gold shipments, and anti-dumping orders on lumber, pulpwood, and matches.
- 25 Soviet Union: The 17th Congress of the Communist Party opened in Moscow.
- 26 Soviet Union: Stalin in his report to the opening sessions of the 17th Party Congress noted the establishment of 200,000 new collective and 5,000 new state farms. Industrial production was satisfactory although transport lags existed and stating that the party line proved victorious, Stalin said that Marxism did not mean levelling of all wages and indicated the necessity of a more effective Party Control Commission than the Workers' and Peasants' Inspection (RKI).
Soviet Union; Foreign policy: Stalin in his report to the 17th party congress on the state of the nation outlined Soviet foreign policy as one of preservation of peace and development of trade with all countries. He said the "unfriendly change" in Germany was largely responsible for the improvement of relations with Poland and France. Anglo-Soviet relations were less satisfactory, while relations with Japan were bad, the USSR standing ready to return blow for blow.
United States: Stalin's speech to the 17th party congress stated that resumption of relations with the United States would not only consolidate trade relations, but also marked the end of period when the United States was regarded in various countries as stronghold of all anti-Soviet tendencies.
- 28 Soviet Union; Foreign policy: The full text of Stalin's report (26 January) published. Stalin predicted a second war against the USSR which would lead to the complete defeat of the aggressors in Europe and Asia followed by the destruction of their bourgeois governments.

February 1934

February

- 1 Finland: Ratification of convention defining the aggressor deposited in Moscow by Finnish minister.
United States: President Roosevelt reported studying a proposal to create a banking corporation to serve as an intermediary in financing of trade with the USSR, South America and the Balkan countries. (cf. 12 February).

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February

- 3 Soviet Union; Defense: Commissar for War and Marine Voroshilov told the All-Union Communist Congress that the Soviet army was well-equipped, increased in size and would defend the country.
- 4 Japan: In speech before 17th Congress, Commissar of War used expressions regarding Japan's policy in Manchuria which were interpreted as accusation that she wished to seize Maritime Provinces. He said he refused to give Japan the pleasure of finding Siberian borders defenseless.
- 5 Soviet Union (Far East): Pay of army in Siberia increased; Far Eastern districts built up and army morale strengthened.
A decree provided for special concessions to settlers in the Far Eastern region. West Siberian peasants were exempted from delivery of agricultural products, following the policy of strengthening the Soviet position in the East in the event of war with Japan.
- 6 Hungary: Treaty signed establishing diplomatic relations with the USSR.
Soviet Union: The main objectives of the Second Five-Year Plan were outlined to the Party Congress by M. Molotov. Improving transport was mentioned as the most important task.
Soviet Union; Eastern Siberia: A decree was issued extending to the inhabitants of Transbaikal area, including Buryat-Mongolia, the privileges granted to those of the Far East by the decree of 11 December, 1933, including exemption of peasants from compulsory grain deliveries and pay increases to soldiers and workers.
- 7 Soviet Union: The Communist Party Congress unanimously ratified the Second Five-Year Plan.
- 8 Italy: Ratifications exchanged with the USSR of the tariff agreement with the USSR of 6 May 1933.
- 9 Germany: Moscow office of Metallgesellschaft of Frankfurt closed; staff of Russian nationality arrested.
- 10 Soviet Union: The Party Congress closed after electing new officials. The Politburo was now composed of Stalin, Molotov, Lazarus, Kaganovich, Kalinin, Voroshilov, Ordzhonikidze, Kuibyshev, Kirov, Andreyev and Kossior. Kaganovich and Yezhov became chairman and vice-chairman of the Party Control Commission.
Soviet Union (Far East): In address to 17th Congress, General Blucher, Far Eastern Army Commander, stated that Japan was feverishly preparing for war and had 130,000 troops in Manchuria, and 500 airplanes there. According to him USSR, if necessary, could concentrate more planes than Japan.
- 12 Sinkiang: Former Chinese Governor of South Sinkiang, supported by Tungs, assumed control in Kashgar on behalf of the Chinese Republic.
United States: It was announced that a corporation to be known as the Export-Import Bank of Washington was being formed to finance trade with the USSR.

1934

- 8 -

February

- 13 Poland: Foreign Minister arrived in Moscow on official visit.
- 14 Sinkiang: Inkushgar, Andijanis and Kizghiz were attacking the Chinese-backed Tangans; the British Consulate was involved in the fighting.
- 15 Poland: Foreign Minister left Moscow. Joint Polish-Russian announcement stated that both governments were in full agreement as to many problems and expressed wish further to improve relations between the two countries. Polish-Soviet pact of definition of aggressor, already basis of Polish-Soviet relations, should be of a lasting character. Pact extended from 3 to 10 years.
- 16 Germany: Soviet Embassy in Berlin applied for release of Reichstag fire prisoners, Dimitroff, Taneff, and Popoff, following grant to them by Soviet government of Russian nationality.
Gt. Britain: Temporary commercial agreement with the USSR signed at London (Cf. 21 March).
- 17 Five Power Convention on Definition of Aggression (London, 3 July 1933).
- 19 Japan: Foreign Minister received Soviet Ambassador, who presented proposals for filling posts of six Russian officials of Chinese Eastern Railway who had been arrested by Manchukuo authorities on 24 September 1933.
Soviet Union: Troops reported as being sped to Manchurian border daily.
- 20 Japan: Dispute over fishery rights occurred at Vladivostok owing to local authorities declaring Japanese auction bids invalid because they were accompanied by deposits calculated at rate of exchange of one ruble to 32½ sen instead of 75 sen.
- 21 Soviet Union; Foreign policy: Notes from Soviet government received in Paris and London expressing view that conclusion of regional pacts was an essential element in organization of security in Europe.
- 22 Germany: USSR threatened reprisals unless Germany released Reichstag fire defendants.
- 24 Soviet Union: M. Bukharin was appointed editor of Izvestiya to replace M. Gronsky, who retired.
- 25 Japan: News reaches Moscow of release of six Soviet officials of Chinese Eastern Railway. Arrangements being discussed in Tokyo for appointment of New Soviet nominees to replace them.
- 27 Germany: The 3 Bulgarians, Dimitroff, Taneff, and Popoff, arrived in Moscow, on deportation from Germany, after Reichstag fire.
Soviet Union: The Central Committee of the Party and the Sovnarkom issued a decree on the remission of arrears on 1933 grain deliveries, and granted three years' delay in the repayment of grain loans.

1934

- 9 -

March 1934

March

- 1 Gt. Britain: Mr. Runciman stated in Parliament that the central feature of the Soviet British Trade Agreement was the Russian assent to the principle that after 1938 their exports to Great Britain should equal their imports.
- 3 Gt. Britain: Foreign Secretary signed ratification of Commercial Agreement of 16 February (Cf. 21 March).
- 7 Soviet Union; Communist Party: The Central Committee decreed a reorganization of primary party organizations. Cells were abolished and responsible party instructors were to replace the system of sectors and sub-sectors.
- 9 Japan: Official Soviet statement, outlining causes of dispute with Japan over fishing rights points out that paper yen of 1934 should not be considered equal to gold yen of 1931, and that the agreement concluded 1931 with Japan should be revised.
- 16 Soviet Union: A decree provided for measures to restore the principle of personal responsibility of leaders in industry and to combat inefficiency through strengthening of the one-man system of management, reductions in the number of trusts and liquidation of "collegiums" attached to the Peoples' Commissariats.
- 17 A decree of the Central Committee of the Sovnarkom on the calculation of wages in accordance with the quantity and quality of production abolished the minimum wage guarantee in cases of personal negligence.
Reform of organization of agriculture planned by Communist Party Congress: cooperation with industry keynote; simplification of system decreed.
- 19 Soviet Union: Foreign trade returns for 1933 showed in export surplus of 147 million gold rubles; imports valued at 348 million rubles and exports at 495 millions. The total for imports was only half that of 1932 and one third that of 1930 and 1931.
- 20 Postal Conventions, Cairo: USSR signed two of seven agreements: universal postal convention, and convention on insured letters and boxes.
- 21 Gt. Britain: Temporary commercial agreement with the USSR (16 February) ratified.
- 23 Japan: Government was informed by the Soviet Ambassador that USSR had agreed to satisfy application of Japanese fishing firm for additional bids at Vladivostok and to accept payments, during first half of 1934, at rates of exchange.
- 26 Austria: It was announced in Moscow that Austrian concession "RATAD" has been liquidated by mutual agreement.
Germany: Commercial agreement with the USSR regulating questions of foreign exchange, signed (Cf. 8 August).

1934

- 10 -

March

- 26 Soviet Union; Railways: Decree issued prescribing new rules for all railways in USSR, abolished number of ineffective organizations. Provided for stricter enforcement of individual responsibility. Managing directors were to appoint other directors of other lines and were to be influenced only by considerations of training and efficiency.
- 28 Baltic States, Germany: M. Litvinov proposed to the German Ambassador in Moscow that Germany should take part in protocol guaranteeing independence of Baltic States (Cf. 14 April). Soviet government proposed to the three Baltic States, Finland and Poland that validity of the Treaty of non-aggression to be extended for 10 years after its expiration in 1935. Consent of Latvia had been received.
- Soviet Union; Communist Party: Elaborate Central Committee instructions were issued on the structure and functions of party organizations in the Red Army in peacetime.

April 1934

April

- 3 United States: The first Soviet ship, the motorship Kim, arrives in New York.
- 4 Estonia: Protocol signed with the USSR prolonging non-aggression pact of 4 May 1932, for ten years, (Cf. 26 June).
- Latvia: Protocol signed with the USSR prolonging the non-aggression pact of 5 February 1932 (cf. 2 June).
- Lithuania: Protocol signed in Moscow prolonging the non-aggression pact of 28 September, 1926, for ten years (Cf. 4 June).
- Soviet Union; Agriculture: A campaign was launched to bring the remaining individualist farmers into collective units. Coercion was barred.
- 7 Finland: Protocol signed with the USSR prolonging of the non-aggression pact of 21 January 1932 (Cf. 19 December).
- Soviet Union; Foreign policy: In the course of signing of the Soviet-Finnish protocol, Litvinov stated that the USSR did not intend to demand revision of existing treaties, did not support racial or national prejudices, and did not desire expansion of territory or stimulation of military spirit, but only realisation of the ideal of a Socialist organization of society, in which it saw the whole meaning of its existence. He also pointed out that international relations were becoming more acute, and hardly anything was heard of means of averting war threat.
- United States: San Francisco Chamber of Commerce recognized the first Russian-American Chamber of Commerce on West Coast.
- 8 Chinese Eastern Railway: Soviet manager of the Railway in his annual report for 1933, stated that there were 11 intentional train wrecks, 39 attempts at wrecking, 38 armed raids on trains, 19 cases of arson, 60 murder of employees, 197 other cases of robbery and assault, 400 people had been kidnapped on or near lines.

April

- 9 United States: American-Russian Chamber of Commerce announced trade promotion tour of Russia.
- 10 Disarmament Conference: The Conference reconvened, after a recess since November 22, 1943. At the private session of the Bureau, M. Stein (USSR) and other delegates of the principal powers reported to hold the view that the best that could now be hoped for from the Conference was regional arrangements for limitation of armaments. These could be systematized within the framework of the League of Nations.
- 12 Soviet Union: Rescue of the Chelyuskin Party completed with American aid.
- 13 Soviet Union: New title, Hero of the Soviet Union, created for seven aviators who rescued Chelyuskin expedition; Order of Lenin and year's salary awarded to them and mechanics; Order of Red Star awarded to rescued persons.
- 14 Baltic States, Germany: Soviet proposal of 28 March for agreement or preserving independence and integrity of Baltic States rejected by Germany. (Cf. 25, 26 April)
- 16 Soviet Union; Finance: Central Executive Committee announced the issues of a domestic loan of 3,500 rubles.
- 17 Soviet Union; Defense: The Trade Union authorities reported to have come to an agreement with the Aviation and Chemical Warfare Society (the Osoviakhim) whereby 300,000 workers and peasants would be trained as sharpshooters, to form an organization called "Voroshilov's Sharpshooters."
- 19 Gt. Britain: Parcel post convention with the USSR signed.
United States: The Commissariat of Heavy Industry informed the State Planning Commission of the USSR that import plans, recently altered in favor of the United States would have to be revised because, under the Johnson Bill the Washington Export-Import Bank would not extend credit to the USSR until the latter agreed to pay its debt to the United States government and American nationals.
- 20 Soviet Union: Kalinin asked for militarization of rural districts.
- 23 Austria: Socialist refugees numbering about 350 reported to have entered USSR from Czechoslovakia with the permission of Soviet authorities.
Soviet Union; Education: A decree of the Central Committee of the Communist Party forbade overburdening school children and pioneers with civic and political training. It was ordered to stop immediately study of the 17th Party Congress resolutions and Marxist-Leninist Theory because they were beyond the understanding of children and made them antagonistic towards phenomena of social life which they could understand.
- 25 Baltic States, Germany: The Latvian telegraph agency had issued a statement on the German refusal to join the USSR in a protocol guaranteeing independence and integrity of Baltic States. (Cf. 14 April).
- 26 Baltic States, Germany: An official German statement connected Latvian report (25 April) of German refusal to join the USSR in guaranteeing Baltic independence, and reiterated the official position.

1934

- 12 -

April

28 Soviet Union; Komsomol: It was announced that the League of Young Communists was to receive military training.

May 1934

May

5 Baltic States: Soviet proposals of guarantee of security by Poland and the USSR turned down by the Baltic States on the ground that it was useless without the inclusion of Germany and that their non-aggression treaties with USSR were adequate so far as USSR was concerned, in Baltic viewpoint.

Poland: Protocol signed with the USSR prolonging the non-aggression pact of 25 July, 1932, for 10 years (Cf. 16 June).

United States: The Attorney General, referring to the Johnson Act and the USSR, stated that he was "aware of no principle in law under which previously existing default is waived or overcome because of the mere pendency of negotiations... although...the matter might be affected by the outcome...."

7 Soviet Union: Birobidzhan was declared the Autonomous Jewish Region.

United States: Attorney General Cummings rules that the Johnson Act applied to the USSR and therefore made impossible the functioning of the Export-Import Bank.

10 Soviet Union: Karakhan and Sokolnikov relieved of posts as Deputy Foreign Commissars. Litvinov in future to have only two deputies.

11 Soviet Union; Defense: Commissar Voroshilov appeals to men to participate in intensified physical training.

14 Manchoukuo: Commissioner for Foreign Affairs protested to the Soviet Consul-General in Harbin against action of Soviet troops who were alleged to have fired on a Manchoukuo steamer on the Amur on 13 May.

15 Soviet Union; Education: The establishment of common types of general schools throughout the USSR was decreed in order to secure "a clear organizational system and order" 4 year elementary schools, 7 year incomplete secondary schools and 10 year secondary schools, methods of appointment and qualifications of teachers were provided for.

16 Soviet Union; Education: Decrees ordered the revision of teaching of geography and history in the schools. Only the study of historical and chronological sequence (with names and dates) could lead to the Marxist conception of history. Elimination of dry statistical and economic geographical data and return to the "traditional" memorizing of geographic names was ordered. New text books were to be compiled in both subjects.

17 League of Nations: Litvinov arrived in Geneva and had conversations with M. Barthou and M. Aghnides.

The Soviet version of 13 May incident in Amur accused the Japanese of photographing shore defenses in the Russian side of the Amur. Blank shots fired as a warning were ignored by the steamer.

1934

- 13 -

May

- 18 East European Pact of non-aggression and mutual assistance: Meeting between M. Litvinov and M. Barthou at Geneva initiating the project of building East-European Pact to include provisions of mutual assistance in case of unprovoked aggression. Litvinov was understood to have initiated the idea. Barthou suggested as alternative that USSR join League. Litvinov reported to have intimated that this step might be arranged if the pact went through.
- 19 Japan: Agreement concluded with the USSR on Kamchatka fisheries.
- 23 Japan: The Ambassador to Moscow reported to have protested to the Soviet Government in connection with two cases of firing in front of the Consulate at Khabarovsk.
- 24 Spain: Foreign Minister stated that Spain would warmly welcome entry of USSR into League.
- 25 Finland: Convention signed with the USSR regarding fishing and sealing in Lake Ladoga (Cf. 21 November).
- 29 Disarmament Conference, Geneva: In a speech at the Conference, Litvinov reaffirmed the original Soviet doctrine that the total abolition of arms was the only true guarantee against the war. He said there was complete lack of agreement on any single concrete proposal, and even on a general formula. Conference should devise workable system of guarantees of security, after which they might reconsider disarmament in more favorable circumstances.
General renunciation of war cannot be effective without complete renunciation of armaments; so long as armaments exist the peace is only an armed peace, an interval between wars.
- 30 Manchoukuo: Reports were received from Khabarovsk confirming firing by Soviet guards on Manchoukuo steamers in Amur (cf. 14 May). It was also reported that these steamers had gone up the Suya river several times, in Soviet territory, taking photographs of shore.

June 1934

June

- 1 Disarmament Conference: At the meeting of the General Commission, Litvinov stated that he was in favor of a permanent disarmament commission; he thought it better to make the Conference permanent, and not a commission, which would be an offshoot of it. It could deal with security and guarantees of peace, and a limited disarmament commission could not do that.
- 2 Latvia: Protocol of 4 April, prolonging non-aggression pact, ratified in Moscow.
- 4 Disarmament Conference: Differences over the discussions in the Bureau split the delegations into two groups, those which put security first (France, Russia, the Little Entente), and those which wished first for an agreement on disarmament with German collaboration (Gt. Britain, the U.S., and the powers represented by the Swedish delegate). Litvinov proposed the appointment of a drafting committee to harmonize the views of the USSR, Turkey and the small powers, but the proposal was defeated.

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June

- 4 Lithuania: Ratifications exchanged at Kovno of Protocol signed 4 April prolonging for 10 years the non-aggression pact with the USSR.
- 5 Disarmament Conference: Soviet proposal for a permanent conference (1 June) was to be referred to the governments concerned, by a resolution submitted by Mr. Henderson, and accepted by Mr. Eden, but opposed by the French.
- 6 League of Nations: The Chairman of the Committee of three dealing with the Chaco dispute invited the governments of the USSR and Japan to take part in the embargo on the export of arms. (Cf. 8 June).
United States: Tydings resolution introduced in the Senate to empower and direct the President to enter into negotiations "with those Governments owing to the United States obligations contracted during or immediately after the World War, for the purpose of accomplishing the settlement of such inter-governmental obligations with the United States on a lump sum and final basis."
- 8 Disarmament Conference: Compromise resolution adopted by the General Commission recognized that the Soviet proposals for a permanent conference (1 June) called for careful study, and requested the President to submit that proposal to the governments. Mr. Litvinov did not oppose the resolution, but stated that it did not go far enough, and hoped the proposal to transform the conference into a permanent peace conference would not be pigeon-holed.
Greece: Commercial exchanges agreements signed with the USSR, in force from 10 April to 31 December 1934.
League of Nations: The Soviet Government informed the Committee on Gran Chaco dispute that it agreed to associate itself unconditionally with the arms embargo. (Cf 6 June)
Soviet Union: The Central Executive Committee issued a decree altering Criminal Code so as to make the relatives of traitors liable to punishment.
- 9 Czechoslovakia: Exchange of notes with the USSR establishing diplomatic relations.
Rumania: Exchange of notes with the USSR establishing diplomatic relations.
- 10 Rumania: The resumption of diplomatic relations with the USSR was welcomed by the Rumanian press especially because of the undertaking given by both parties, which definitely established the right of Rumania to Bessarabia.
- 11 Disarmament Conference: In the course of the General Commission meeting to set up various Committees, Litvinov stated that the Soviet Government did not regard European regional agreements as a final solution of the problem of security, but thought that the way should be kept open for the extension of pacts of security to other parts of the world. Mr. Henderson said in a closing statement he would submit the Soviet proposal to convert the Conference into a permanent conference.

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June

- 13 , Disarmament Conference: In the course of the meeting of the Committee to study guarantees of execution, Japanese delegate pointed out that the several reservations made by Mr. Sato in November, 1932, would apply to guarantees of execution. Soviet Delegate Stein stated that the Soviet government, though willing to be represented on the Committee, considered that all undertakings relating to supervision and guarantees of execution must be universal, and they could not accept them unless they were accepted by their neighbors including Japan. They were, however, strongly in favor of automatic control of the most stringent character.
- Germany: Baron von Neurath rejected Litvinov's offer to Germany of mutual assistance pact.
- 16 Poland: Ratifications exchanged of 5 May protocol prolonging the non-aggression pact of 1932.
- 20 Little Entente Conference: At the final meeting the conference noted with satisfaction the resumption of diplomatic relations between the USSR, and Rumania and Czechoslovakia, decided to support the organization of security and take part in the regional conventions for mutual assistance.
- Soviet Union: Abolition of Revolutionary Military Council and the reorganization of Department for Defense. Name of Commissariat for War and Navy changed to Peoples' Commissariat for Defense of USSR. Power centralized in hands of Gen. Voroshilov and two deputies.
- 22 Poland: Exchange of notes with the USSR concluding customs agreement.
- 23 Gt. Britain: The First Lord of the Admiralty in a speech at Spetchley Park quoted figures to show that while during the past eight years Britain had decreased her armament expenditure by 16 percent, the USSR had increased them by 197 percent.
- 25 Soviet Union; Foreign policy: In speech of National Peace Congress at Birmingham, M. Maisky, Soviet Ambassador referred to insistent "peace offensive" of Russia, whose people did not believe that war was inevitable, but was the result of defective organization of society. The Soviets did not harbor any aggressive intentions, and had neither motive nor inclination for aggression. The government would make its decision as to entry or non-entry into the League of Nations solely and exclusively according to the measure in which the League in existing conditions could play the part of a real factor in reinforcing peace.
- 26 Estonia: Ratification exchanged of protocol prolonging non-aggression pacts of 4 May 1932. (Cf. 4 April).
- 29 France: Trade agreement with the USSR ratified by the Chamber of Deputies.

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July 1934

July

7

Germany, Comintern: The Executive Committee of the Comintern issued a manifesto, "Program of Emancipation for the German working class", proclaiming the intention to destroy Hitler's State Machine, create a "German Soviet Republic under Communist leadership fraternally allied to the USSR", and create a German Red Army linked with the USSR and revolutionary elements in Poland, France, and other countries.

United States: It was reported that the State Department had declared that negotiations by Litvinov for a non-aggression pact had been terminated by U.S. refusal.

9

Baltic Pact: A conference at Kovno between representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania reached an understanding on the principle of a Baltic Pact. (Cf. 29 August and 12 Sept.)

United States: It was reported that the Soviet government had denied that Litvinov had proposed a non-aggression pact to the United States.

10

Soviet Union: OGPU was abolished and merged into the new Commissariat of Internal Affairs (NKVD) with control of the entire police, frontier guard services and labor camps. M. Yagoda, chief of the OGPU was appointed Commissar of Internal Affairs. All cases of treason were transferred to the jurisdiction of military tribunals while ordinary criminal cases were to be handled by the regular courts.

13

League of Nations: Sir John Simon declared in Parliament that in the British government's opinion the entry of the Soviet Union into the League of Nations was an essential part of the scheme for European security which included the project for an Eastern Pact, and that the United Kingdom would welcome an application for membership by Russia.

15

Soviet Union: The Council of People's Commissars and the Central Committee of the Communist Party jointly decreed a 10 percent increase in wages paid at "works having military importance."

18

Eastern Pact: The Soviet Ambassador communicated to the British Foreign Office the Russian government's Agreement with the views expressed by the British on the proposed Eastern Pact and its willingness to give guarantees of security to Germany as well as to France.

Sinkiang: General Ma Chingying, Tungan Chief and leader of revolt in Chinese Turkestan reported to have been forced after defeat to cross the Soviet frontier, where he was disarmed and interned.

21

Eastern Pact: The Soviet Ambassador in Berlin informed the German government of his government's willingness to become a co-guarantor of the Locarno Treaty, and that the French guarantee under the proposed Eastern Pact should extend to Germany's Eastern frontiers.

23

Bulgaria: The Bulgarian Minister to Turkey and the Soviet envoy signed a proposal for the opening of diplomatic relations between the two countries (cf. 5 Aug.).

1934

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July

- 23 Poland: Two Polish warships left for Leningrad on an official visit to the Soviet Navy.
Soviet Union; Purge: One hundred railway workers were tried and sentenced on charges of neglecting their railway duties and sabotage on the railways between European Russia and the Far East.
- 25 Convention for mutual protection against dengue fever (Athens): The USSR a signatory.
United States: Negotiations between Secretary of State Hull and Ambassador Troyanovsky began on the debt and commercial situation.
- 26 Soviet Union: The Central Committee of the Communist Party decreed a ruthless campaign against cheating in weighing and measuring and infringements of regulated retail prices.
- 27 Soviet Union; Purge: During the trial of "wreckers," begun at Sverdlovsk the chief charge was made against a "foreign machine-making company," alleged to have worked for destruction of the Ural machine works. Neither name nor nationality of the firm was announced.
- 28 Poland: An air squadron left Poland to return the 1933 visit of the Polish Air Commander-in-Chief to Moscow.
- 29 Eastern Pact; Baltic States: Litvinov received both from the Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs and from the Latvian Minister statements on the Eastern European Pact, which were released to the press on the following day.
- 30 Eastern Pact; Baltic States: The Estonian Foreign Minister issued a declaration in Moscow declaring that the Estonian government was favorably disposed toward the Eastern Pact project but that it reserved the right to suggest amendments to the text. An identic statement was issued by the Latvian Minister.
- 31 Eastern Pact; Lithuania: The Lithuanian Foreign Minister left on an official visit to Moscow to discuss the Eastern European Pact.
Soviet Union; Purge: All the accused in the Sverdlovsk "wreckers" trial were condemned to death.

August 1934

August

- 1 Soviet Union: Rakovsky, formerly Soviet Ambassador in London and Paris was appointed to his first post since his re-admission to the Communist Party in February. He was appointed head of the Soviet delegation to the International Red Cross Conference to be held in Tokyo in December.
- 2 Eastern Pact; Lithuania: Lozoraitis, Lithuanian Foreign Minister visited Moscow and had an interview with Litvinov, during which both statesmen expressed the conviction that the proposed Eastern European Pact was the best method of preserving peace.
- 5 Bulgaria: Text of the protocol establishing diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and the USSR was published simultaneously in Moscow and Sofia.
France, Italy: Soviet military planes left for Rome and Paris to return visits paid in 1933 by Marshal Balbo and Cot.

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August

- 6 Soviet Union: The Council of People's Commissars issued decrees cancelling promises made in January over the signatures of Stalin and Molotov, that if peasants cultivated more land than was provided for in official plans, the additional area would not be taxed. New decrees, signed by Molotov, ordered collection of a State levy from these newly cultivated areas.
- 7 France: The Russian air mission arrived in Paris.
- 8 Germany: Further protocol of commercial agreement between the USSR and Germany signed. (Cf. 26 March).
- 10 Chinese Eastern Railway: The Soviet Ambassador in Tokyo communicated to the Japanese Foreign Office the final decision of the Soviet Government not to accept the Japanese offer of 25 July, regarding the transfer of the Chinese Eastern Railway to Manchukuo. The Soviet government resubmitted for the consideration of Manchukuo authorities the counter-proposal it had made 31 July.
Soviet Union: Union Republic commissariats of local industries were established.
- 15 Japan: Twenty Russian employees of the Chinese Eastern Railway were arrested on charges connected with recent attacks on trains. They were also accused of taking part in an anti-Japanese and anti-Manchukuo campaign.
Provisional agreement reached on payment by Japan for fishery rights in Russian waters.
Soviet Union: The First All-Union Congress of the Union of Soviet writers opened in Moscow, uniting all "loyal fellow travellers", condemning the forceful "proletarianization" of art in the preceding period, proclaiming Stalin's slogan of "social realism" and accepting Stalin's formula to become "engineers of the human soul."
- 16 Chinese Eastern Railway: Soviet authorities stated that they had authentic information that the military forces at Harbin had begun preparations for proclamation of martial law along Chinese Eastern Railway, as preliminary to seizure of the railway.
- 18 Chinese Eastern Railway: The Soviet government issued a statement giving particulars of negotiations for sale of the Chinese Eastern Railway to Manchukuo.
- 20 Convention on the unification of certain rules concerning international air transport (Warsaw, 12 October 1929): Ratified by the USSR.
- 21 Turkey: Provisional commercial convention concluded by exchange of notes.
- 22 Japan: The Soviet government sent a note to Tokyo protesting against the continued arrests of Soviet employees of the Chinese-Eastern Railway. Actions of Manchukuo authorities were called a "rude infringement of treaty rights of the Soviet."
Manchukuo claimed that attacks on the railway were the result of Soviet instigation.
- 25 Japan, Manchukuo: Reports were received in the USSR of arrest of nine more Soviet employees of the Chinese Eastern Railway, some of whom were ill-treated with a view of extracting confessions from them.

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August

26. Manchukuo: A Joint Soviet-Manchukuo Commission reached an agreement regarding navigation of the Amur, Sungari, Ussuri, and Argun Rivers.
29. Baltic Pact: An agreement for the formation of a "Baltic States Union" was initialled at Riga by representatives of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia. (Cf. 9 July and 12 Sept.)

September 1934

September

1. Japan: The Foreign Commissar of the USSR handed the Japanese Ambassador a note protesting against the "inhuman tortures" to which Soviet citizens, arrested in Manchukuo, were alleged to have been subjected. Those allegations were stated to have been confirmed by the Soviet Consulate at Harbin. The Japanese government was asked to take steps to stop practice adopted to wring confessions from prisoners that they had organized attacks on the Chinese Eastern Railway.
3. Italy, Turkey: The USSR welcomed Turkish and Italian military missions as an aid to peace prospects.
4. Manchukuo: Agreement concluded between Manchukuo and the USSR regarding river buoys.
Japan: The Japanese Foreign Minister replied to the Soviet note of 1 September and said that the men concerned had issued directions to bandits for blowing up the Chinese Eastern Railway and furnished them with the necessary explosives.
5. Japan: Tass stated that the bandits who had attacked the Chinese Eastern train on 30 August had been armed with Japanese rifles.
8. League of Nations: The Soviet government made a declaration to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations Council, contained in a note sent to the British, French and Italian governments accepting the principle of arbitration and the minority clauses by which Poland was bound (Articles 4,5 and 7 of the Treaty of Riga in 1920).
10. Germany, Eastern Pact: The Germans were understood to have declined to participate in the East European Pact and to have communicated their views to the governments of France, Gt. Britain, Italy and the USSR.
11. League of Nations; Ukraine, Georgia: The Secretariat of the League of Nations received protests from deputations from the Ukraine and Georgia, against the admission of the USSR to the League, unless it should have first withdrawn its troops from the Ukraine and recognized the independence of Georgia. The Ukrainians claimed their country should be permitted to reconstitute its nationality.
12. Baltic Pact: The Treaty of Understanding and Collaboration, concluded in Riga on 29 August, between Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, was signed in Geneva. It was to remain in force for ten years. (Cf. 9 July and 29 August)

1934

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September

- 12 League of Nations: A private letter from the Council of the League to the Soviet government inviting it to become a member of the League was sent to Litvinov.
- 14 League of Nations: Letter of invitation approved by Litvinov. Draft for Litvinov's reply approved by the signatories of the letters of invitation.
- 15 League of Nations: Thirty nations signed a formal invitation for the USSR to join the League of Nations. Litvinov accepted saying: "The Soviet government, which has made the organization of peace the main task of its foreign policy, and has never been deaf to proposals of international cooperation in the interests of peace considering that...this invitation represents...a recognition of the necessity of cooperation with the USSR, is willing...to become a member of the League."
- 17 Albania: Exchange of notes in Rome establishing diplomatic and consular relations.
- 18 League of Nations: The Soviet Union was formally received as a member of the League of Nations. The Assembly approved the Council's resolution to award the USSR a permanent seat on the Council.
- 21 Chinese Eastern Railway: Agreement reached for the transfer of Chinese Eastern Railway from the USSR to Manchukuo at a price of 170 million yen, this price to include 30 million for retiring Soviet employees.
- 23 Comintern: The World Congress of the Comintern was postponed from October or November to the beginning of 1935.
- 27 Soviet Union: A government money tax on private farms, applicable only to individualist peasants was decreed to speed collectivization.
- 28 United States: The U.S. government initiated two lawsuits to gain possession of funds held in New York banks in the name of Russian insurance companies which had been nationalized by decree in 1918.
- 30 Soviet Union: The Central Executive Committee restored the franchise to Kulaks who had repented.

October 1934

October

- 3 Japan: The Soviet ambassador in Tokyo handed a note to the Japanese Foreign Minister stating that the Soviet government was lodging fresh protest against arrests and tortures of Soviet workers on the Chinese Eastern Railway and was demanding the release of all guiltless Soviet employees under detention.
- 6 Turkey: Protocol signed with Turkey prolonging frontier conflicts convention of 6 August 1928.
- 11 Japan: Reports were published in Moscow that Japan had arrested a number of Soviet employees of the Chinese Eastern Railway and had occupied premises belonging to Soviet citizens.

1934

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October

- 13 Soviet Union (Moldavian ASSR): The 10th anniversary of the creation of the autonomous republic of Moldavia was celebrated.
- 18 Spain, Comintern: The Executive Committee of the Comintern, and the Young Communists International were reported to have decided to continue to give "concrete assistance" to Spanish rebels against the Lerroix government.
- 22 Germany: The Military Collegium announced the discovery of a plot by a German organization for military and economic espionage in Leningrad and Murmansk. The chief organizer, a German, was sentenced to 8 years at hard labor, an Austrian to 6 years. A Soviet citizen was condemned to death.
- 31 Estonia: A trade agreement with Estonia was signed to supplement the agreement of 1929. It was to remain in force for 3 years.

November 1934

November

- 1 Soviet Union; Elections: During November 90,000,000 people participated in the elections to local Soviets. Molotov, in an election speech, said: "There could be no question of any opposition party trying to show its face."
- 3 Soviet Union; Army: Soviet commanders were ordered to learn dancing and other social accomplishments.
- 4 Gt. Britain: Agreement signed in Moscow settling the dispute between the USSR and the Lena Goldfields, Ltd., of Gt. Britain. The company was to receive 3 million pounds for the mines and the whole of its business in Russia.
- 5 Soviet Union: Death sentence imposed in absentia on S.V. Voronkov for desertion from the battleship Marat. His relatives faced prison terms under a new hostage decree.
- 11 United States: American manufacturers in Moscow conferred with Soviet officials for possible accord on credits.
- 21 Finland: Ratifications exchanged between Finland and the USSR of convention on fishing rights. (Cf. 25 May)
- 23 Soviet Union; Defense: Advisory Military Council formed, to be attached to Commissariat of Defense. It was to be known as the War Council, with Voroshilov as chairman.
- 28 Soviet Union; MTS: A decree authorized the reorganization of the political sections in Machine Tractor stations into regular party organizations.

December 1934

December

- 1 Soviet Union: Kirov, Politburo member and secretary of the Leningrad branch of the Communist Party, was assassinated. This precipitated arrests and trials throughout the whole country. Subsequently A. Zhdanov was appointed to take Kirov's place.
- 2 Soviet Union; Purge: Kirov's murderer, L.V. Nikolayev was arrested. Others were arrested in Moscow and Leningrad as class enemies who were connected with terrorist plots against Soviet officials.
- 3 Soviet Union; Purge: Leningrad officials of the Commissariat of Internal Affairs (NKVD) were removed for alleged negligence in connection with Kirov's murder. The widespread purge was begun.
- 4 Soviet Union: A decree was published amending the criminal code, to provide for immediate trial and execution without right of appeal for those accused of terrorism.
- 5 France: Laval and Litvinov signed a declaration by which both countries undertook not to enter any bilateral agreements without consulting each other so long as the question of the Eastern Pact remained undecided.
Soviet Union; Purge: It was announced that 66 persons had been executed during the previous few days for "counter-revolutionary" activities. No mention was made of any connection with Kirov's murder.
- 8 Czechoslovakia: The Czechoslovak government announced its adherence to the Franco-Russian agreement of 5 December. (Cf. 11 December).
- 9 France: Commercial agreement signed in Paris.
- 11 Czechoslovakia: According to a statement of Laval made on 18 December, Czechoslovakia acceded to agreement of 5 December as of 11 December (cf. 8 December).
- 22 Soviet Union; Purge: Seven "old guard" communists, including Zinoviev, Kamenev and Safarov, were arrested by the Commissariat of Internal Affairs and banished: the evidence against them was insufficient for trial. Eight others arrested were being examined by the Commissariat.
- 23 Hungary: A. Beksadian, first Soviet minister to Hungary in 20 years was received by Regent Horthy.
- 25 Soviet Union: The Central Committee issued a decree on the procedure of reinstatement of purged Party members and candidates.
- 26 Soviet Union: The indictment against Kirov's murderer was published implicating the consul of a foreign country who was alleged to have promised aid to "an underground counter-revolutionary terrorist group" of former followers of Zinoviev.
- 29 Soviet Union; Purge: The Supreme Court of the USSR pronounced sentence on Kirov's assassins. Fourteen persons charged with complicity were officially stated to have been shot. The official indictment described the prisoners as guilty of working for foreign powers proposing to change the regime in the USSR by armed force from abroad.

1935

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January 1935

January

- 1 Germany: Agreement initialled on 26 September 1934, regarding export of wheat and flour to Germany came into force.
- 6 Soviet Union (Secret Ballot, etc.): Congress of Soviets of All-Russian Republics adopted the secret ballot, equal representation of town and city voters, and direct elections.
- 7 Afghanistan: Commercial treaty with the USSR signed.
Soviet Union: Stalin elected member of Presidium of Central Executive Committee and head of constitutional committee, to frame amendments.
- 15 Soviet Union: Congress of Soviets of All-Russian Republics opened in Moscow.
- 16 Eastern Pact: French note presented in Berlin in reply to German memorandum of 10 September 1934 on Eastern Pact proposal. Conversations at Geneva between Laval, Col. Beck, and Litvinov.
Soviet Union (Purge): Soviet Government published formal indictment of Zinoviev, Kamenev, Yerdokimov and 16 others, charging them with complicity in anti-Stalinist and terrorist plot, including murder of Kirov.
- 17 Soviet Union (Purge): Zinoviev, Kamenev and other "Old Guard" Communists sentenced to imprisonment for counter-revolutionary activities and "moral and political responsibility" for murder of Kirov. 47 people banished to remote regions of the USSR.
- 18 Soviet Union (Purge): Safarov and 76 others "tainted with the Zinoviev mentality" banished from central regions of the USSR.
- 19 Eastern Pact: Continuance of conversations at Geneva between Laval, Col. Beck, and Litvinov.
- 22 Japan: Negotiations for the sale of Chinese-Eastern Railway concluded. Management of the line to be taken over by the South Manchuria Railway.
Soviet Union; 1935 Budget: Budget estimates for 1935 gave the total for the unified State Budget as 65,700 million roubles for revenue and 65,200 millions for expenditure.
- 23 Soviet Union (Purge): The head of the secret police in Leningrad at the time of Kirov's murder and eleven of his assistants were sentenced to prolonged terms of imprisonment in concentration camps, after a secret trial.
- 25 Soviet Union; Obituary: Death of V.V. Kuibyshev, vice-president of Council of Commissars and a member of the Politburo.
- 28 Eastern Pact: Speaking at opening of 7th All-Union Congress, Molotov said that relations with Great Britain were satisfactory. Judging by Germany's reluctance to join the Eastern Pact, USSR must draw own conclusions that policy of territorial conquest on the east formulated in Mein Kampf remained in force, and take their measures accordingly.

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January

- 30 Soviet Union; Defense: Vice Commissar of Defense, Tukhachevsky, announced that the strength of Soviet armed forces had been increased from 600,000 to 940,000 men. The Red Army had almost doubled its fighting power in the last 4 years. Regular defense budget for 1934 was 1,665 million roubles. 5 million had been already spent, and a further 6,500 million were to be spent in 1935. This expenditure was necessitated by situation in the Far East.
- The air fleet had been increased by 330% during the 4 years, and tanks by 760%.
- In the army, machine gun sections had been increased by 700%. In the navy, submarines by 435%, and torpedo craft by 370%.

- 31 Japan: At the 7th Congress, Molotov discussed the Portsmouth Treaty and Japanese intentions with regard to the USSR and, especially her actions regarding the Soviet-Manchurian frontier.
- United States: Breakdown of negotiations between the two countries concerning pre-Soviet debts and other financial claims announced by the State Department.

February 1935

February

- 1 Soviet Union; Politburo: Mikoyan and Chubar appointed members of the Politburo in place of Kirov and Kuibyshev.
- Soviet Union; Secret Ballot: The Central Committee of Communist Party decided to alter the electoral law and introduce the secret ballot with direct elections. Peasants and workers were to have equal representation.
- United States: Secretary Hull announced end of talks and breakdown of negotiations concerning the debt question.
- 2 Soviet Union; Heavy Industry: Ordzhonikidze's report to the 7th Congress on the state of Heavy Industry said that as a whole the past year exceeded the 1933 plan by 26.7%. However, railway transport remained an impediment in the general progress. Greater stress on consumers' goods was to be given during the coming year.
- 6 Soviet Union: The All-Union Congress ended after electing Stalin as chairman of a committee for drafting reforms of the constitution, to be composed of Molotov, Voroshilov, Kaganovich, Chubar and Litvinov. Molotov in introducing the measure commented that since the class system had been completely destroyed certain changes in the constitution were out of date. The USSR, he said, emphatically disapproved of government by terrorism, which was being adopted in bourgeois countries.
- United States: The State Department announced that the Consulate-General in Moscow was to be abolished and a number of other officials in the USSR withdrawn.
- 14 Manchukuo: It was officially announced that the Rivers Navigation Agreement concluded 27 December 1934 in Hsinking was reached between the Amur River State Shipping Company of the USSR and the Harbin Water Department of Manchukuo, and not between the USSR and Manchukuo.

1935

- 25 -

February

- 18 Soviet Union (Collective Farming): "Model Statute" published regulating tenure of land, and ownership of live stock and machinery. All land was State property and could not be bought or sold even by collective farms, but their land would belong to them permanently on those terms.
- 19 Eastern Pact: In a speech in London, Soviet Ambassador Maisky made a plea for collective planning of world peace, and said that equal security was needed for all parts of Europe. It was, therefore, unfortunate that Germany and Poland did not welcome the proposal of an Eastern Pact.
- 20 Gt. Britain: The Soviet Ambassador tendered a note replying to the British communication in which the Soviet government was advised of the results of the Franco-British conversations in London. Soviet note expressed general approval of the proposals and hoped that full acceptance of all points would help to consolidate peace.
Veterinary Conventions relating to (1) campaign against contagious diseases of animals; (2) transit of animals and animal products; (3) import and export of animal products (other than meat and dairy). Geneva: USSR a signatory.
- 23 Soviet Union: Mordvinian and Udmurt Republics established as autonomous.
- 25 Gt. Britain: Invitation conveyed to the British government to send a representative to visit Moscow.
- 28 Soviet Union: Kaganovich appointed Commissar of Communications, with a view to carrying out a thorough reorganization of the transport system.

March 1935

March

- 4 USSR (Transcaucasia): M. Yenukidze appointed President of Central Executive Committee of Transcaucasian Republic. He is succeeded as secretary of Central Executive Committees of USSR and RSFSR by M. Akulov.
- 5 Greece: Commercial exchanges agreement signed with Greece to remain in force until 31 December 1935.
- 7 Germany: Parcel post agreement signed with Germany.
- 11 Japan, Manchukuo: The agreement for the purchase of the Chinese Eastern Railway by Manchukuo was initialled in Tokyo. The document contained no mention of recognition of Manchukuo by the Soviet government. The Japanese Foreign Office spokesman said Japan was content to let international lawyers decide whether the Soviet's action was tantamount to recognition.
China: The Chinese government protested to the Russians against the sale of the Chinese Eastern Railway.

1935

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March

- 14 Japan: Litvinov, referring to the agreement for the sale of the Chinese Eastern Railway, objected to talk of the "demilitarization" of the Soviet-Manchurian frontier. He considered that friendly discussions between Japan and the USSR could lead to good results in the withdrawal of some of the forces on both sides of the Soviet-Manchurian frontier.
- 17 United Front: The Executive Bureau of Profintern (Trade Union International) published a document dated 7 March, ordering Communist agents abroad to organize non-Communist trade unionists for united onslaught on the "common enemy," Fascism.
- 18 Soviet Union; Purge: Over 1,000 persons were reported to have been arrested in Leningrad, some of whom were to be tried for anti-Soviet activities and for working on behalf of foreign states. A large number were sent to Siberia for being in the privileged zone (around Leningrad) without passports.
- 22 Gt. Britain: Soviet People's Committee confirmed the agreement of 4 November 1934 with Lena Goldfields, Ltd.
- 23 Japan, Manchukuo: Agreements signed between Manchukuo, Japan and the USSR regarding transfer of Chinese Eastern Railway to ownership of Manchukuo. Manchukuo Minister handed the Soviet Ambassador a check for one-sixth the purchase price.
- 24 Czechoslovakia: Conventions signed with Czechoslovakia regarding commerce, navigation, and industrial property. Ratifications exchanged 8 June.
- 26 Gt. Britain: Pravda published an interview with Sir Austin Chamberlain wherein he said there was no doubt about the necessity of cooperation of Soviet Russia in any complete system of European security.
Soviet Union; Foreign Trade: Publication of foreign trade figures for 1934 showed exports to be valued at 418 million gold roubles and imports at 233 millions.
- 28 Gt. Britain: Eden arrived in Moscow and was met by Litvinov. He subsequently discussed with the Soviet Foreign Commissar and Maisky the four points set out in the London Declaration of 3 February and gave an account of the Berlin discussions. Litvinov outlined the progressive deterioration of Russo-German relations during the past 2 years. Later he described Eden's visit as a milestone in Soviet-British relations.
- 29 Gt. Britain: Eden was received by Stalin who was accompanied by Molotov and Litvinov.
- 31 Gt. Britain: Eden left Moscow for Warsaw. A joint Anglo-Soviet communique issued referring to conversations held stated that representatives of the two governments were confirmed in their opinion that the cooperation of the two countries in the general work for collective organization of peace and security was of "primary importance for furtherance of international efforts to this end."

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April 1935

April

- 1 **Gt. Britain:** Russian press praised Eden's visit and said it had achieved most important results. Eden had convinced them that the British method, of seeking information by personal contact with Britain, was sound.
 Lithuania: Economic agreement signed between Lithuania and the USSR.
- 2 **Germany:** Representatives of several German steel companies expelled from the USSR.
- 7 **Trade Union International:** The Executive Bureau of the Trade Union International (Profintern) decided to transfer one of its chief departments to Paris, where the general activities in Europe would be directed.
- 9 **France:** It was understood that agreement had been reached with the Soviet government as to the terms of a proposal for a Franco-Prussian system of mutual guaranties within the framework of the League. Le Journal stated that the plan contemplated controlled limitation of armaments simultaneously with guaranties of mutual military assistance.
 Germany: Signature of a commercial agreement between Germany and the USSR in Berlin. The USSR to place new orders in Germany (in addition to their normal requirements) to the value of 200 million marks.
- 10 **Baltic States:** Soviet government is understood to have sounded the governments of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia on the subject of a mutual assistance pact, which would be on the lines of the one just arranged with France and might be linked with it.
- 11 **Baltic States:** Representatives of the governments of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania met in Riga to discuss the Russian governments suggestion.
- 15 **Manchukuo:** The River Navigation Convention of 25 December 1934 came into force.
- 21 **France:** A communique published in Moscow stated that negotiations with the French government had been temporarily interrupted, and Litvinov had been called to Moscow to make a report to the Council of People's Commissars.
- 26 **Postal conventions (Cairo, 20 March 1934):** Conventions of the Universal Postal Union and on insured letters and boxes ratified by the USSR.
- 27 **France:** Further discussions in Paris between the Soviet Ambassador and Laval. Fresh Soviet proposals were submitted and the French suggestions were transmitted to Moscow. It was understood that satisfactory progress had been made as a result of the new start.
- 28 **Comintern; Germany:** The Comintern decided to supplement Litvinov's policy of peace pacts by a chain of "proletarian pacts" encircling Germany. Instructions issued to Comintern's sections in certain countries bordering on Germany (except the Netherlands and Switzerland) to organize anti-German committees.

1935

- 28 -

April

29 France: After further discussion between Laval and the Soviet Ambassador it was stated that the main points had been settled. Final conversations were being directed towards achieving agreement upon a text capable of only one interpretation.

May 1935

May

- 1 May Day: May Day demonstration in Moscow was signalized by formation flying of 660 military planes over Red Square. War planes and tanks took part in the parades in Moscow and other cities. 800 planes demonstrated in the Manchurian frontier zone.
- 2 France: Franco-Soviet mutual assistance pact was signed in Paris. It was based on articles 10, 15, and 16 of the Covenant. They involved the obligation of both parties to consult together in case of a danger of aggression or give each other mutual assistance in case of unprovoked aggression.
- 5 Soviet Union; Bond Floatation: The issue of 3,500 million rubles as an internal loan was announced, with ten years as the period of redemption.
- 6 Soviet Union; Air Force: The Aircraft Yearbook, published by the U.S. Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce, gave USSR combatant strength in planes as 3,000.
Spitzbergen Convention: Acceded to by the USSR.
- 13 France: Laval arrived in Moscow and was met by Litvinov and a number of other officials. In speeches, both Laval and Litvinov emphasized that the pact of 2 May aimed solely at reinforcing peace and said the door remained open to all those who sincerely sought the same goal.
- 14 France: Stalin received Laval to study application of the Eastern Europe Pact, including the question of propaganda by the 3rd International.
- 15 France: Laval left Moscow for Warsaw, after further discussions about which an official statement said that the statesmen had expressed their satisfaction about the East European Pact.
Hungary: The Regent of Hungary authorized creation of a legation in Moscow. He appointed Dr. Jungerth-Arnoldy as Minister.
Soviet Union; Communist Party: The Central Committee of the Communist Party divided the cultural and propaganda department into 5 divisions to increase control.
Czechoslovak-Soviet mutual assistance treaty signed at Prague.
- 17 Communications and Transit Conventions (Barcelona, 20 April 1921): Acceded to by the USSR.
- 23 Germany: Pravda described Hitler's speech of 21 May as a collection of fairy tales about German peacefulness and Soviet aggressiveness. Hitler's objection to collective pacts was due to his hope of separating the Powers and destroying them singly. His program was not one of peace but of war; war both in the East and in the West.

1935

- 29 -

May

31 Soviet Union: The Central Committee of the Communist Party decided to disband the Society of old Bolsheviks.

June 1935

June

- 3 Czechoslovakia: An agreement was signed in Prague by which a group of banks extended credit of 250 million crowns to the Soviet government to finance exports to the USSR.
- 6 Finland: Shifting of population of Finnish extraction from the Finnish border to Central Russia neared completion. The Finnish government ordered an investigation into Soviet policy concerning this.
- 7 Bulgaria: The USSR government protested to Bulgaria against alleged anti-Soviet activities by Russian refugees.
Soviet Union; Purge: The Central Committee of the Communist Party deprived Yenukidze, an "Old Guard" Bolshevik, of all his party posts and expelled him from membership for "political degeneracy and rotten liberal habits."
- 8 Czechoslovakia: Benes arrived in Moscow and exchanged ratifications of the Mutual Assistance Pact, and of the Trade Agreement signed on 25 March.
- 9 Czechoslovakia: Conversations between Benes, Stalin and Molotov.
- 10 Czechoslovakia: An official statement acknowledged that the pacts and the agreements concluded by both Governments created a firm basis for continuation of collaboration, as well as successful development of economic relations.
Finland: The Soviet government rebuffed Finland's inquiries into the deportation of Finnish born inhabitants near the frontier.
- 11 Belgium: Diplomatic relations established between Belgium and the USSR.
Japan: The Soviet government demanded from the Japanese government the release of several Russian soldiers alleged to have been captured on the Manchukuo frontier.
- 15 Italy: Export credits agreement concluded between Italy and the USSR.
Telecommunications Conventions (Madrid, 9-10 December 1932) ratified by the USSR.
- 22 Gt. Britain: A Soviet government spokesman informed the foreign press that he believed English public opinion was being deceived by certain moves represented as steps toward international collaboration and security. He said the English must understand that bilateral agreements which were incompatible with the League were a screen for the principle of localization of war which was proclaimed by Hitler and was being put into practice by China and Japan.

1935

- 30 -

June

26. Japan: The Japanese Foreign Minister received the Soviet Ambassador in connection with his government's protest on 11 June against the shooting of a Russian soldier near Lake Khanka. Mr. Hirota was understood to have received his proposal for the establishment of a joint commission to deal with frontier disputes.

Soviet Union: The Society of Political Ex-Convicts and Exiles was disbanded, according to a government decree. The society had been formed after the Revolution by revolutionaries condemned by the Tsarist regime.

July 1935

July

1 Japan: Protest to Japan regarding incidents on the Amur of 27 June. Manchukuo gunboats alleged to have intruded into Soviet territorial waters.

3 Road Traffic Conventions (Paris, 24 April 1926; Geneva, 28-30 March 1931) acceded to by the USSR.

5 Japan: The Soviet government was understood to have accepted the proposal of the Japanese Foreign Minister that a joint Soviet Manchukuo-Japanese commission should be set up to deal with frontier incidents.

7 Soviet Union: The Constitution Committee, established by the Congress, began its work of framing a new constitution. Two sub-committees out of twelve were placed under Stalin's personal supervision.

8 Japan: The Soviet Ambassador informed the Japanese Foreign Minister that his proposal for a frontier disputes commission was acceptable in principle, but, the commission should not deal with boundaries, as these had already been fixed, but only with incidents. Its membership should be dual, i.e., Russia and Japan, or Russia and Manchukuo; not Russia, Japan and Manchukuo.

Obscene Publications Convention (Geneva, 12 September 1923) acceded to by the USSR.

10 Bulgaria: Parcel post agreement signed by Bulgaria.

11 United States: Exchange of notes (July 11-15) regarding value of goods to be purchased under reciprocal trade agreement of 13 July 1935.

12 Belgium: Exchange of letters providing for recognition of the Russian government by Belgium.

13. United States: Reciprocal-trade agreement signed in Moscow, to remain in force one year. The Russians undertook to purchase American goods to a value of 30 million dollars, in return for which the U.S. undertook to extend to Soviet goods all tariff concessions resulting from reciprocal trade agreements with other foreign countries (except Cuba).

19 Soviet Union; Defense: Infantrymen dropped from planes in war games near Moscow.

1935

- 31 -

July

20

Japan: The Japanese Foreign Minister replied to the Soviet note of 1 July about frontier violations. He categorically denied all charges and said no Japanese armed units have ever crossed the frontier.

Soviet Union: All property of workers' cooperative organizations which had been nationalized was ordered to be returned to owner.

25

Comintern: The 7th World Congress of the Comintern began at Moscow, and was scheduled to last through 21 August 1935. It was the first since 1928 and was attended by some four hundred delegates from fifty countries.

29

Soviet Union; Amnesty: A decree cancelled all civic disabilities for peasants resulting from penalties for counter-revolutionary crimes and premeditated failure to carry out obligations, if such peasants had since become useful collective farm workers. Another decree proclaimed an amnesty to persons imprisoned in 1932 and 1933 for crimes against socialist property. All trials for such offenses were to be stopped.

United States; Communist Party: Ambassador Troyanovsky denied connection of the U.S. Communist Party with the USSR. Browder reported to the Comintern on the activities of the Communist Party in the U.S.

August 1935

August

2

Comintern: The Congress voted to formulate basic policies which, however, would avoid interference in the internal work of independent parties. Plans were made for the training of new leaders. A united front with moderates was approved to fight Fascism.

3

Manchukuo: Moscow Foreign Office denied a report from Darien that 160,000 troops had been moved to Irkutsk ready to advance on the Mongolian border should any trouble arise out of Manchukuo's demands to Outer Mongolia.

7

Germany: Ratifications exchanged between Germany and the USSR of the Parcel Post Convention of 7 March.

Soviet Union; Foreign Trade: The government announced that in the future foreign business will pass from the Commissariat of Foreign Affairs and Soviet trade agencies into the hands of ordinary export, import and transport organizations, which were empowered to make contracts and to give and receive bills of exchange.

14

Soviet Union; Amnesty: Amnesty announced to ex-prisoners, chiefly wreckers, who had joined collective farms. The order was issued by the Central Executive Committee in order to stimulate grain harvest workers.

19

Gt. Britain; Comintern: Complaint made to the USSR by the British Ambassador regarding propagandist speeches made at Comintern Congress.

Italy, Latvia; Comintern: Italy and Latvia protested to the Soviet government against subversive activities of the Comintern in their respective countries.

Soviet Union: Moscow correspondent of Gazeta Polska expelled owing to article in which he linked Brest and Toulon riots with Communist activities in Moscow.

1935

- 32 -

August

- 21 Comintern: Comintern Congress closed in Moscow.
- 22 Comintern: The New Executive Committee of Comintern announced the appointment of Dimitrov as the first general secretary of the political secretariat.
- 23 Czechoslovakia: Russian military delegation arrived in Prague to attend the Czech army maneuvers.
- 24 Iran: A commercial treaty was signed with Iran.
- 25 United States: Ambassador Bullitt presents a note from the State Department on propagandist speeches made at the Comintern Congress protesting them as violation of anti-propaganda pledge made at the time of negotiations for diplomatic recognition November 1933.
- 26 Gt. Britain: It was learned that the British Ambassador had protested verbally on 19 August against the subversive activities of the Comintern in Great Britain.
- 27 United States, Gt. Britain: Reply from the Soviet government to the U.S. and Great Britain regarding their protests against propagandist speeches. The Soviet government declared that no pledge had been violated and declined responsibility for any actions by the Comintern.
- 31 United States: Mr. Cordell Hull issued a statement regarding the Soviet reply and reiterated the charge that the Russians had violated their pledge of non-interference in American internal affairs. He emphasized that friendly relations between the two countries depended upon Russian adherence to the pledge.

September 1935

September

- 5 Belgium: Provisional commercial treaty signed by Belgium, the USSR, and Luxembourg.
Italy, League of Nations: Litvinov in speaking before the League Council affirmed that he could not approve the attitude of the Italian delegate who suggested that the council should dissociate itself from the Italo-Abyssinian dispute, for in so doing he invited other states to violate their international obligations and the Covenant.
- 6 Japan: Protest to Japanese government against the arrest of Soviet citizens in Manchukuo.
Manchukuo: The Manchukuo government was revealed to have lodged over 100 protests with the Soviet government over frontier incidents; 91 of these were still unsettled.
Road Traffic Conventions (Geneva, 28-30 March 1931): Agreement between customs authorities regarding undischarged or lost triptychs signed by the USSR.
- 8 Belgium: A commercial agreement was signed with Belgium.

1935

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September

- 14 League of Nations: Litvinov made a plea at Geneva for the establishment of a permanent peace conference and for fresh consideration of his proposal for total disarmament. He regretted the lack of universal recognition of what constitutes aggression.
- 22 Soviet Union; Army: An officers' corps created for the first time since the Revolution. Commanders received individual ranks. The title of Marshal was introduced.
- 25 Young Communists International: The 6th world congress of the Young Communists' International opened in Moscow and was addressed by Dimitrov. The last congress had been held in 1928.

October 1935

October

- 7 Soviet Union: OGPU re-titled State Security Department. Its officers were accorded ranks similar to those of the Red Army.
- 13 Japan: Protest to Japan against violation of the Soviet frontier by Japanese and Manchurian troops several times since 1 October. On 12 October fifty soldiers had attacked two Soviet frontier guards in Soviet territory near Pogranichnaya, with loss of life.
Manchukuo: Reports reached Harbin that during the previous week three Russian cavalry detachments had crossed frontier into Manchukuo and attacked Manchukuo troops.
- 16 Rumania: The Rumanian Foreign Office issued a statement denying that any negotiations with the USSR for a pact of mutual assistance were or had ever been in progress.
- 25 Japan: The Japanese government handed a note of protest to the Soviet ambassador about frontier incident of 12 October. It alleged that a Soviet patrol had fired on and killed six Japanese and Manchukuo scouts.
- 28 Italy, League of Nations: It was understood that the Soviet government had informed the League Secretariat that it accepted all proposals for sanctions against Italy.
- 31 Opium Conference, 2d (Geneva, 19 February 1925): Convention only, acceded to by the USSR.
Manufacture and Distribution of Narcotic Drugs Convention (Geneva, 13 July 1931) acceded to by the USSR.

November 1935

November

- 7 Turkey: Protocol signed by Turkey and USSR prolonging until 1945 the friendship and neutrality treaty of 17 December 1925, together with protocol of 17 December 1929 and naval agreement of 7 March 1931.

1935

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November

- 12 France: Ratifications exchanged with France of commercial agreements of 11 January 1934. International Exhibitions Convention (Paris, 22 November 1928) ratified by the USSR.
- 14 Soviet Union: Decree issued abolishing payments in foreign currency in the USSR. Torgsin to be liquidated 1 February 1936. After that date, everything to be paid for in roubles at new fixed rate of exchange of 24 roubles to the sterling.
- 16 Czechoslovakia: Consular convention signed with Czechoslovakia.
United States: Second anniversary of recognition of USSR by U.S.
- 19 Italy: USSR protested against anti-Soviet demonstrations in Italy.
- 22 Italy: The Soviet government transmitted reply to the Italian government of its note of 11 November, stating that Russia had no hostility towards Italy and no interest in the Italo-Abyssinian conflict but "all members of the League must enjoy full equality in the event of attack, regardless of racial and other distinctions." Similarly, "no member of the League, with all its sovereignty, has the right to evade obligations resulting from Article 16."

December 1935

December

- 18 Sinkiang: The Tungan leader, Ma Chung-Ying, who was in Moscow, received a deputation of five Tungan representatives.
- 19 Japan, Manchukuo: Reports reached Moscow that Japanese-Manchukuo forces had attacked a frontier post near Dolonor Lake and killed the vice-commandant in Mongolia.
- 22 Japan: Reports from Urga, capital of Outer Mongolia, stated that troops responsible for the incident near Dolonor were Japanese, not Mongolians. They had crossed frontier and made an unprovoked attack on the post. This was stated to have followed breakdown of negotiations to create a joint commission to settle frontier incidents on the spot. Japanese were accused of being responsible for breakdown by insisting Mongolia admit Manchukuo agent to protect interests at Urga. Mongolia had refused.
- 25 Manchukuo: The government of Mongolia protested to the government of Manchukuo against frontier incidents, warning it that consequences might be serious unless steps were taken to prevent them. Full responsibility would fall on Manchukuo and Japan, since Japanese troops were taking a most active part in the attacks.
- 27 Uruguay: The Uruguayan government severed diplomatic relations with the USSR on the ground that Soviet diplomatic representatives had been connected with Communist activities, both in Uruguay and elsewhere in South America (cf. 5 January 1936).

- 35 -

December

28 Uruguay: The Soviet Minister to Uruguay protested against the decree severing relations with his government. He stated it had been based on unproved Brazilian allegations and on speeches at 7th Congress of Comintern in Moscow. He denied that the Soviet legation had helped to finance Brazilian rebels.

Uruguay: The Foreign Minister of Uruguay rejected Soviet note of 28 December on the ground that the mission of the Soviet Legation was terminated.

31 Uruguay, League of Nations: The Foreign Commissar of the USSR sent a complaint to the League Secretariat that Uruguay's action in severing relations was a violation of Article 12 of the Covenant. The Soviet government ordered reprisals, forbidding trade organizations to make purchases from Uruguay.

1936

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January 1936

January

- 1 Convention on the publication of customs tariffs, Brussels, 5 July 1890: acceded to by the USSR with effect from 1 January.
- 5 Comintern: The Executive Committee published an announcement of the degradation of Torgler, Tanev, and Popov for unworthy behavior during the Reichstag trial.
League of Nations, Uruguay: Soviet note to the League protesting against the action of Uruguay (27 December 1935).
- 6 France: Agreement concluded prolonging commercial agreement of 11 January 1934 (cf. 11 January, 17 December).
Soviet Union: New regulations to control the movement of all foreigners put into effect.
- 10 Japan: Soviet Ambassador lodged a protest with the Foreign Minister against eight cases of trespass by Japanese military aircraft across the Soviet frontier.
Soviet Union: The Chairman of the Council of Commissars Molotov, at the meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party stated that the threatening war danger on the Eastern and the Western frontiers caused by the aggressive policies of Germany and Japan demanded an augmented military budget for 1936.
- 11 France: Additional agreement prolonging commercial agreement of 11 January 1934 (cf. 6 January).
Japan: Soviet Ambassador discussed with the Foreign Minister Hirota the rumors of a secret Japanese-German alliance.
Soviet Union: Construction begun on sixteen new giant planes, successors to ill-fated "Maxim Gorky."
- 12 Soviet Union: Tests made of glider-aeroplane capable of carrying $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons or sixteen passengers.
Soviet Union: Announced standing army for 1936 increased to 1,500,000; military budget for 1936 14 billion rubles.
- 14 Greece: Commercial agreement signed with USSR with effect from 1 January to 31 December.
- 15 Lithuania: Trade agreement concluded.
Soviet Union: Central Executive Committee (Communist Party): Vice Commissar of Defense reported that the Red Army consisted of 1,300,000 men (77 percent with completed training and under arms). Commissar of Finance reported a surplus of 700,000,000 rubles of revenue over expenditures at the end of the fiscal year.
- 16 Soviet Union: Budget figures for 1936 published; of 78.5 millions rubles; 14.8 millions placed for defense; as against 6.5 millions in 1935.
Foreign Trade: Council of People's Commissars approved a decree forbidding all exports to countries whose currency restrictions prevented the receipt of full payment.

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January

- 18 League of Nations: The Secretariat circulated to all members of the Council the correspondence between the Soviet and Uruguay Governments which attended the breach of diplomatic relations. (cf. 27 December 1935, 5 January).
Mongolian Republic: Heilumoto in Manchoukuo reported captured by outer Mongolian troops (cf. 20 January).
- 20 Mongolian Republic: Exchange of protest and warning between governments of outer Mongolia and Manchoukuo.
- 22 League of Nations, Danzig: Following Mr. Eden's report on Danzig, Soviet and other delegates pointed out that the responsibility for the normal working of the Danzig Constitution lay with the Council.
- 23 League of Nations, Uruguay: Litvinov's speech on the dispute with Uruguay; answered by the Uruguayan delegate with instances of Soviet interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, and averring that the Third International was not independent of the Soviet government.
- 25 Japan: Five alleged Japanese agents sentenced to death by Soviet authorities in Khabarovsk for espionage.
- 27 Mongolian Republic: Manchoukuoan government demanded withdrawal of troops from its territory.
- 29 Japan: Manchurian troops reported seeking refuge on Soviet side of frontier after mutineering.
Mongolian Republic: Urga reports of frontier incidents on the Manchoukuo border every day since 23 January.
- 30 Japan: Frontier incident on Soviet territory near Pogradichnaya.
- 31 Czechoslovakia: Ratifications exchanged of parcel post agreement of 8 June 1935. Came into force 1 March.
Japan: Deputy Commissar for Foreign Affairs protested to the Japanese Ambassador in Moscow against the frontier incident of 30 January.

February 1936

February

- 1 Soviet Union: New rate for ruble of five to the dollar went into effect for internal trade; State bank closed out accounts in foreign currencies.
Soviet Union: Decree closing Torgsin shops went into effect.
- 2 Japan: The Kwantung Army headquarters alleged that Soviet influences were behind the mutiny of the Manchoukuo soldiery (29 January).

1936

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February

- 4 France: Agreement concluded regarding tax on importation and transit of Soviet products.
Soviet Union: Staff of Special Far Eastern Red Army offered to give fullest aid to any unbiased commission inquiring into recent incidents on Soviet-Manchurian border.
- 8 France: The Finance Minister, in the discussion of a proposed credit to the USSR, revealed that the Minister of Commerce in the Laval cabinet had promised an "insurance credit" of 300 millions to the USSR, but that the Caisse des Depots et Consignations had refused to advance the funds. Assistant Commissar of War, Tukhachevsky, reported in Paris consulting on military cooperation between France and the Soviet Union.
Soviet Union: Trial of thirty-nine persons accused of carrying on private trade opened in Leningrad.
Soviet Union: Yaroslavsky, E., Pres. Union of Militant Atheists, spoke at tenth anniversary of the organization; announced seven million members, two million of school age, operated from fifty thousand "cells."
Soviet Union: Communist Academy merged with Academy of Sciences.
- 9 Estimated 25 percent of 1936 films to be for children.
It was disclosed that the doubling of the track of the Trans-Siberian Railroad had been completed as far as Khabarovsk.
- 10 Soviet Union: Progress reported in construction of Black Sea-Caspian Sea Canal.
United States: Senator Pittman's speech in the Senate; seen as saying in effect that Tokyo could not afford to count on U.S. neutrality in the event of a war with China or with the USSR.
- 11 Finland: Protocol signed modifying railway transport convention of 13 June 1924 (cf. 13 April).
France: Debate in the Chamber on the pact with the USSR; Flandin asked for its ratification, made it clear that the pact would apply only to unprovoked attack.
Japan (Manchoukuo): Protest from the Manchoukuo government asking for satisfaction for frontier incidents, charging Moscow with subversive activities in Manchuria.
Soviet Union: Bukharin, N., chief of editorial board of Izvestiya, attacked in Pravda editorial for statement oblomovism most characteristic trait of Russian people in pre-revolutionary days.
- 12 Belgium: Trade agreement with the USSR ratified by the Senate.
France: The Moscow press, referring to the French Pact, stated that European peace and system of collective security rested upon it.
Japan (Manchoukuo): Breakdown of conference at Harbin. Kwantung Army reported driving out 200 Outer Mongolians occupying Olohodka near Buirnor. Reports from Hailar of Soviet bombing of Japanese troops.

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February

- 13 Japan (Manchoukuo): Foreign Office spokesman described the Buirnor incident as "tantamount to an act of war without a formal declaration." The Foreign Minister of Japan instructed the Ambassador in Moscow to propose that a joint commission be set up to investigate the incident.
Soviet Union: Government increased price to be paid for grain delivered to State by collective farms.
- 14 Japan (Manchoukuo): A Soviet version of the Buirnor incident, accusing Japanese of violating Mongolian frontier.
- 15 Japan (Manchoukuo): Soviet Consulate General in Mukden closed.
Rumania: Clearing convention concluded. Came into force 1 March.
Soviet Union: Bukharin, N., in a signed article in Izvestiya rejected views attributed to him, and apologized for having used phrases which could be misconstrued.
Press attacked "Leftist art"; Shostakovich's ballet "Limpid Stream" removed from repertory of Bolshai Theater.
- 16 Japan: The Asahi suggested that the proposal of a non-aggression pact with Russia be revived.
Soviet Union: National advertising campaign started as part of movement to improve State-controlled retail stores.
- 17 Japan: The Foreign Office denied that the Government were considering a non-aggression pact with the USSR.
Rumania: Trade agreement signed in Bucharest; provided for a system of barter.
- 19 Comintern: The Executive Committee issued a progress report on the realization in various countries of the program adopted by the World Congress in August 1935. France led in membership increase, degree of control in the trade unions, and establishment of party schools.
- 21 Soviet Union: Pravda editorial attacked kitchenless apartments as "Leftist attempt artificially to introduce communal living" and termed entire Leftist school of architecture as "monstrous trick architecture."
- 22 Japan (Manchoukuo): It was reported that the Soviet Government had abandoned its claim for neutral representatives on the commission to inquire into the fighting on the Manchukuo frontier on 30 January. Japanese Ambassador Ota informed that the Soviet Government viewed with serious concern the frequent clashes on Outer Mongolian-Manchoukuoan border.
- 23 Soviet Union: Mizhlauk, V.I., Chairman Gosplan, awarded Order of Lenin.
New operas "And Quiet Flows the Don" and "Komarinski Muzhik" opened.
Defense: Pravda editorial on the 18th anniversary of the Red Army stated that the country was ready to fight both Japan and Germany, and claimed that even the railway system was ready to handle all strategic problems.

1936

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February

- 24 Mongolian Republic, Japan: Vice Commissar for Foreign Affairs was understood to have suggested to Tokyo the setting up of a second frontier commission to investigate the incidents on the frontier of Outer Mongolia, and to have stated that the Soviet Union was obliged to protect the Mongolian People's Republic.
- 25 France: Debate on the Franco-Soviet pact continued; chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee pointed out the pact was a link in a chain of collective security.
Japan: Military coup d'etat in Tokyo (cf. 1 March).
- 27 France: The Soviet Pact ratified by the Chamber, 353 votes to 164.
Soviet Union: New school of propaganda established - connected with Communist University of Moscow.
- 28 France: The Soviet press (Izvestiya) pointed out that the Pact with France was only a means of making Germany disposed to join the collective system; Pravda stated frontier incidents in the Far East had been provoked in order to prevent the ratification of the pact by the French.

March 1936

March

- 1 Japan: Soviet press stated the Tokyo events (25 February) were likely to hasten the beginning of a war in Asia, described Gen. Araki as a bitter enemy of the USSR.
Soviet Union: Reported that large numbers of submarines shipped across Siberia for assembly at Vladivostok.
Gold ruble abolished and paper ruble stabilized for external and internal trade at five to dollar as of 1 April 1936.
School gave course on Communist propaganda - important in transition period "toward Communism."
Word "competition" to describe Soviet enterprise banned - word meaning "friendly contest" to be used.
- 2 League of Nations: Eden stated that the British Government favored the imposition of an oil embargo against Italy; Potemkin intimated that the USSR agreed with Mr. Eden's proposal.
Soviet Union: Report Moscow greeted with relief defeat of militarist group and triumph of more moderate elements in Tokyo insurrection.
Standard of living reported decidedly above past winters.
State Bank ordered by decree to recalculate the ruble on the value of all foreign currency in its possession.
- 3 Poland: Tariff agreement signed.
Soviet Union: Soviet statistics showed average wage in 1935 for industrial and office workers increased 22.6 percent over 1934.

1936

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March

- 4 France: Soviet Pact approved by the Senate Committee.
Soviet Union: Stalin's interview with Roy W. Howard. Stalin stated that Mongolian Republic would be defended in the case of an attack by Japan; that although Poland had protested her unwillingness to permit any foreign troops to use her territory as a basis for operations, this would be no barrier to an aggressive state; intimated the possibility of Hitler's invasions in Europe; denied expansionist ambitions on the part of the USSR, or any plans for bringing about a world revolution.
Soviet Union: High trade union officials in Ukraine dismissed; to be tried for embezzlement.
- 5 Japan: Litvinov stated to have been assured by the Japanese Ambassador that the events in Tokyo would have no effect on Japanese foreign policy.
Soviet Union: Decree organized new administration for highway work in NEVD; peasants required to contribute six days labor annually on highways.
Reports of troop concentrations in the Volga Basin and the Soviet Far East.
- 7 Germany: Hitler denounced the Treaty of Locarno, and announced that the Treaty had practically ceased to be, by reason of the conclusion of the Franco-Soviet Pact
- 9 France: Parcel post agreement signed (cf. 30 June).
Germany: Soviet interpretation of Hitler's Reichstag speech was that it clearly showed his aggressive designs in Eastern Europe.
Japan: Soviet communication containing conditions for frontier mixed commissions (cf. 17 March).
- 10 Gt. Britain: Lord Cranborne told by the Soviet Ambassador that the USSR could not regard the German denunciation of Locarno as an isolated action; the occupation of the Rheinland zone was viewed as one in a chain of aggressive acts, and should not be condoned; the danger of war might be prevented if a resolute stand were made now. Soviet Government was strongly opposed to negotiations, and at Geneva it would recommend, and support to the full, a most resolute action.
Soviet Union: Serious spoilage of cotton crop (1935) due to early picking; investigating committee sent to Uzbekistan.
- 11 France: Senate Foreign Affairs Commission reported favorably on the Franco-Soviet treaty.
- 12 France: Soviet Pact (2 May 1935) ratified by the Senate.
Germany: Reports that Soviet Government had intimated that the negotiations for the credit of \$200,000,000 for Soviet purchases of German goods were at an end.
Japan: Protest to the Japanese government against the arrest of Japanese employees of the Soviet Embassy.
Mongolian Republic: Mutual assistance protocol signed.

1936

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March

- 16 Mongolia, Manchoukuo: Publication of notes setting up a mixed commission to investigate border incidents.
Soviet Union: Pravda published official figures to show higher standard of living among individual collective farm members.
Turkey: Ratifications exchanged of protocol of 7 November, 1935, prolonging friendship and neutrality treaty of 17 December 1925.
- 17 Czecho-slovakia: Prague denied that the Soviet Union was preparing for the establishment of air bases in Slovakia.
Japan: Soviet Government welcomed Japanese proposals for frontier commission in Manchoukuo (cf. 9 March); inquired whether such commissions would be set up for the Mongol-Manchoukuo frontier.
League of Nations: Litvinov criticized severely the violation of Locarno, disclaimed the idea that Germany was being encircled, and stated the USSR was ready to take part in all measures decided upon.
Soviet Union: Communist Party and government leaders demanded strengthening Stakhanov movement; threatened serious consequences for directors sabotaging the movement implied.
- 19 Soviet Union: Cossacks, now Sovietized, pledged support to Soviet State.
- 24 France: Editor of Le Temps told by Molotov France would be aided by the USSR if attacked by Germany.
Japan: Ambassador in Moscow instructed that Japan accepted the Soviet proposals of a mixed frontier commission, but only for the section of the frontier of Manchoukuo between Lake Khanka and the Korean frontier.
Soviet Union: Commissariat of Foreign Trade figures showed Soviet grain exports increased; 1934 - 760,400 metric tons, 1935 - 1,516,400 metric tons.
- 25 Japan: Prime Minister stated that Japan's policy was still based on the Imperial Rescript of 27 March 1933, Japan expecting to cultivate friendship with the USSR, the US, and Great Britain. Vladivostok reported frontier incident in the Hunchun area near the frontier of Korea, where firing was begun by Japanese troops. Soviet Ambassador in Tokyo instructed to lodge an energetic protest with the Japanese government.
- 26 France: USSR Central Executive Committee ratified mutual assistance treaty.
Soviet Union: Railroads completed ten day Stakhanov test with great success.

1936

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March

- 27 France: Ratifications exchanged of mutual assistance treaty of 2 May 1935. Came into force 28 March.
 Japan: Three further frontier incidents at Buirnor; Soviet patrol also attacked on the Argun River; Soviet Government protested to the Japanese Ambassador, averring that the conflicts were being engineered by certain Japanese elements in Manchoukuo.
 Soviet Union: Decision of the Council of People's Commissars appropriated 2,500,000 rubles for new factories for food and light industry plants; increased output reported.
- 28 Mongolia: Mutual assistance pact with the USSR reported ratified.
 Soviet Union: Income from Internal State Securities for 1936 predicted at 1,800,000,000 rubles; more than 50 million bondholders reported.
- 29 Afghanistan: Agreement signed with USSR prolonging neutrality and non-aggression treaty of 24 June 1931, for ten years. Ratifications exchanged 3 September.
- 30 Mongolia: Two border violations by the Japanese reported.
- 31 China: Sovereignty claim over Outer Mongolia reaffirmed by China, in connection with the Soviet-Mongolian pact (cf. 7 April).
 Japan: Soviet government protested against the detention of two Soviet steamers in the port of Minaya.
 Japan, Mongolian Republic: Urga report stating that a Japanese force had invaded Outer Mongolia.
 Poland: Harbor dues arrangement with the USSR.
 Soviet Union: Resclusion of directorate of the Communist Party rebuked a local leader for discriminating against the daughter of an exiled Kulak.

April 1936

April

- 1 Japan: Ambassador to Moscow informed of the Outer Mongolian-Soviet protocol of 12 March.
 Japan, Mongolian Republic: Manchoukuoan troops sent to investigate an air raid by Outer Mongolian forces bombed by Mongolian planes.
- 2 Soviet Union: Announcement that 4,000 miles of new airlines were to be added in 1936.
- 3 Belgium: Commercial agreement with the USSR ratified by the Chamber.
 Manchoukuo: Warning to "cease provocations" reported sent to the Outer Mongolian government.
 Soviet Union: Institute of Labor of the Commissariat for Light Industry, designed to set production norms, abolished as bureaucratic.
 Pravda scored illegal privileges of Party member students and their relatively poor scholastic training.

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April

- 4 International Institute of Agriculture: Convention on the creation of (7 June 1905), and Protocol (5 October 1926) acceded to by the USSR.
Soviet Union: Heavy industry production for first quarter of 1936 increased 40 percent over first quarter 1935. Average planned increase for year 26 percent.
- 5 Soviet Union: Two collective farm officials in Volga region sentenced to two years imprisonment for renting land.
Mine managers in Donets Basin coal fields replaced by Stakhanovite workers with good results.
- 6 Germany: Radek, in Izvestiya, advocated complete equality for Germany and a strong collective system of security under a strengthened League of Nations.
Manchoukuo: Foreign Office spokesman stated that Soviet Mongol pact of 12 March represented a strengthening of Red influence, which increased greatly the menace to Manchoukuo.
- 7 China: The government protested to the Soviet government against the Soviet-Mongol mutual assistance pact, claiming that it violated the agreement between China and the USSR of 31 May 1924, whereby Mongolia was recognized as part of China. Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs assured the Japanese Consul General in Nanking that no secret or other understanding existed with Moscow regarding Outer Mongolia.
Japan: Local press reported that Nanking had concluded a secret agreement with Moscow against Japan.
Soviet Union: Agreement signed between USSR, Czechoslovakia, and Rumania for new airline from Moscow to Prague via Rumania.
- 8 Mongolian Republic: Details published in USSR of the Protocol of Mutual Assistance of 12 March.
Soviet Union: Teachers, parents, play-writes not to discuss plays suitable for children.
- 10 China: Litvinov's reply to Chinese government's protest (7 April) declaring the Sino-Soviet Agreement of 1924 as unviolated and binding, and that the Russo-Mongol Pact did not signify any Soviet territorial pretensions.
League of Nations: The press stated that the Soviet stood for the reorganization of the League into "a real international organ for defense against aggression", stated Germany must be offered a place in the new defense system on strict basis of equality.
Mongolia: Premier Gendun arrived in Moscow.
- 11 Japan: Patrol attacked on the Ussuri River by the Soviet forces.
Soviet Union: 10th Congress of the Komsomol opened in Kremlin.
Decree provided raise in teachers' salaries as of 1 April 1936.

April

- 12 Soviet Union: Komsomol Congress set as immediate objective training of every member in specialty useful for military defense. Decree abolished State subsidies in several branches of heavy industry and timber industry.
- 13 Finland: Ratification of protocol modifying railway convention (cf. 11 February). Came into force 12 June.
Soviet Union: General Secretary of the Komsomol announced 46 percent of Soviet population born since Revolution of 1917.
Moscow's twenty-eight remaining churches filled by worshippers celebrating Easter.
- 14 Soviet Union: Komsomols urged to train 8,000 aviators in 1936.
- 15 China: Renewed protests to Moscow against the Soviet-Mongolian pact.
- 16 Turkey: Soviet press reported that the USSR would support Turkey's plea before the Council of the League for the right to fortify the Straits.
- 17 Soviet Union: Litvinov predicted growth of foreign travel by Soviet citizens.
- 18 Soviet Union: Enrollment of new members in the Communist Party resumed after three year lapse.
- 19 Soviet Union: Reported at Railway Conference service and efficiency steadily improving; system may begin earning dividends.
- 20 Soviet Union: First flight to Franz Josef Land completed.
The Central Executive Committee formally removed the disabilities attached to Cossacks serving in the Red Army.
- 21 Soviet Union: Industry to set aside 4 percent of ordinary profits to improve workers' living conditions; 50 percent of profits above plan to go to fund mainly for housing.
- 22 Japan: The Hochi attacked the Soviet Embassy by accusing it of maintaining a spy network for preparing war on Japan.
Japanese employees of the Soviet Embassy were accused of planning to reconstruct the Japanese Communist Party.
Soviet Union: Secretary Central Committee of the Communist Party stated that in 1936 98.5 percent of all production socialized; agriculture almost completely collectivized; only one class in Soviet Union workers; Soviet State largely achieved first goal of march towards Communism.
- 23 Soviet Union: New rules issued for the Komsomol provided for compulsory training of members in some branch of technical military knowledge, for denunciation of all disloyal persons, and for "patient" anti-religious propaganda.
Decree giving names to various Cossack divisions issued by the Commissar of Defense.

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April

- 24 Italy: Moscow reports indicated lukewarm Soviet attitude toward sanctions against Italy, unless effective sanctions were to be applied against any aggressor in the future.
- 25 Soviet Union: Transportation of blood to aid wounded on battlefield announced as practical possibility by the Commissariat of Health.
- 26 Japan: Soviet military officials invited to exchange visits with the Japanese by Ambassador Ota, at a banquet in the Japanese Embassy.
- 27 Baltic States: Estonian and Latvian general staff officers reported in Moscow. Visits seen as Soviet attempts to revive the Eastern Locarno project.
Japan: Foreign Minister informed by the Soviet Ambassador that Moscow had accepted his suggestions as to the two joint commissions, one to investigate frontier disputes, another to redemarcate the frontier.
- 28 Soviet Union: Proposed draft of new marriage law included a tax on divorces and further restrictions on abortion.
- 29 Bulgaria: Ratifications exchanged of parcel post agreement of 10 July 1935. Came into force 29 May.
Germany: Convention concluded regarding trade and clearing during 1936. Came into force the same day.
Japan: Ambassador Yurenov requested that measures be taken to control the activities of White Russians in Manchoukuo.
- 30 Great Britain: Soviet Ambassador informed the Government that the USSR was ready to discuss naval questions. A copy of the naval treaty had been earlier supplied the Soviet Government.
Soviet Union: Census of the Soviet Union to be taken 6 January 1937. No questions were to be asked on social origin for first time.

May 1936

May

- 1 Soviet Union: May Day parade demonstrated latest type military equipment, including 750 planes of diverse type, and 30,000 troops.
- 9 Soviet Union: Ordjonikidze, Commissar of Heavy Industry, announced meeting of All-Union Conference of Engineers' Wives to discuss improvement of community living conditions.
All-Union and Ukrainian VOKS societies sent 60,000 books abroad and received 137,000 in 1935.
- 10 Soviet Union: Commission for Liquidation of Child Vagrancy announced plans to encourage adoption by collective farms of orphanages and homeless children.
- 11 Japan: War Minister was reported to have admitted at a secret session of the Diet that the Army had rejected a non-aggression treaty with the USSR.

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- May
12 Vatican: The Pope, opening an exhibition of the Roman Catholic press, lamented the absence of the USSR and Germany where "by an artificial confusion and identification of religion and politics, the existence of a Catholic press is undesired."
- 13 Japan: Provision made for six months extension of Soviet-Japanese fisheries convention expiring 27 May.
- 15 Gt. Britain: Soviet Ambassador Maisky spoke to the Anglo-Russian Parliamentary Committee; declared that the Soviet Government believed that collective security was the best and cheapest system of defense; stated that although the USSR had no objections in principle to negotiations with Germany, they believed that Hitler's peace plan could not be regarded as promising real peace.
Soviet Union: Nineteen former executives Ukrainian Trade Union Council accused of embezzlement of 5 million rubles of social insurance fund.
- 16 Gt. Britain: Soviet Union announced its policy for the negotiation of the bilateral naval treaty with Great Britain; stated unwillingness to accept limitations which were not also binding on Germany and Japan.
Soviet Union: Moscow celebrated first anniversary of subway; carried nearly 77 million persons during year.
- 17 Manchoukuo: New incident on Soviet frontier reported.
Soviet Union: Draft of new Constitution of USSR completed.
- 18 Japan: Firmer policy toward China attributed in Tokyo to the rumors of a secret treaty between China and the USSR.
- 21 Gt. Britain: Naval negotiations with the USSR opened in London.
- 22 Japan: Soviet Government protested the arrests of Soviet Embassy employees in Tokyo, and the anti-Soviet campaign in the Japanese press.
Soviet Union: Izvestiya censured consumers' goods industries for poor quality of production.
- 23 Czechoslovakia: Ratifications exchanged of consular convention of 16 November 1935. Came into force 6 June.
Soviet Union: Pravda attacked tipping as fostering servant and master psychology; blamed trade unions for failure to prevent it.
Plans revealed to construct 250 planes capable of transporting entire division with equipment.
- 24 Soviet Union: Simenchuk, ex-chief of Wrangel Island polar station, sentenced to death on charges of murder, banditry, and wrecking Soviet prestige in the Arctic.
- 25 Japan: Soviet Government reiterated that it must preserve freedom of action as regards building of its Far Eastern navy until an agreement was reached with Japan.

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May

26. Soviet Union: Projected law on family, marriage, and divorce put up for discussion by workers and farmers. Abortion was to be made a criminal offense, and premiums were to be offered for large families.
27. Japan: Soviet vessels refused landing permits in Formosa; Japanese fishery inspection ships barred from a Siberian port.
28. Soviet Union: Nation-wide discussion of projected family welfare law raised various objections; bill expected to be modified in accord with public criticism.

June 1936

June

1. Gt. Britain: Soviet Government refused to exchange information on naval building plans for fear that Japan might obtain this knowledge.
2. Soviet Union: Announcement that new Constitution was to provide reorganization of judicial system to protect civil rights and personal dignity of Soviet citizens.
4. China: The Tokyo Nichi Nichi Shinbun published a report that a Russo-Chinese alliance had been concluded early in the year by which Soviet interests in Outer Mongolia and Sinkiang were recognized in return for Russian support of China against Japan.
Soviet Union: The Central Committee of the Communist Party ended its session in Moscow after deciding to summon the All-Union Congress of Soviets to consider the draft of the reformed Constitution.
6. International Labor Organization: Soviet Government informed the Organization that it was sending a worker-delegate to the annual conference in Geneva, in addition to usual government delegate.
8. Iran: Ratifications exchanged of conventions of 27 August 1935 regarding (1) commerce, establishment and navigation; (2) plant diseases and insect pests; (3) locusts; (4) veterinary regulations.
Soviet Union: Moscow began anti-noise campaign in face of new construction and 30,000 automobiles.
10. Afghanistan: Report of a trade agreement with the Soviet Trade Agency providing for the barter of commodities.
11. Switzerland: A motion to resume diplomatic relations with the USSR defeated in Parliament.
United States: Large shipments of aviation gasoline from California to Siberia reported.

- June
- 12 Soviet Union: Text of new Constitution approved by Presidium of All-Union Central Executive Committee, and published. Special session of All-Union Congress of Soviets convoked to meet 25 November to pass on Constitution.
- 14 Gt. Britain: Compromise reported in Anglo-Soviet naval talks, whereby USSR agreed not to exceed British tonnage unless Japan increased present fleet.
Soviet Union: Public discussion of proposed new Constitution began with publication of text throughout the USSR.
- 15 Soviet Union: Announcement that carloading doubled in past eighteen months; in first five months of 1936 as against 1935 consumers' goods increased 29 percent, heavy industry 37 percent.
- 16 Soviet Union: Announcement that substantial increase in credits were to be made by Soviet Housing Corporation to aid private home building.
- 17 Soviet Union: Announcement of the intention to reduce bank credits from 6%-8% to 1%-4% interest, savings accounts from 8%-3% interest. This understood to foreshadow conversion of internal State loans to long-term bonds and possible establishment of ruble on international exchange.
- 18 Soviet Union: Maxim Gor'ky died at age of 68 in his country house near Moscow.
United States: Imports of \$35,000,000 American goods since July 1935 revealed by the Soviet Government.
- 21 Soviet Union: Gor'ky's funeral in Red Square attended by highest officials and thousands of Soviet citizens.
- 22 Geodetic convention of Baltic States of 31 December 1925: Protocol renewing the Convention signed by USSR. Montreux Convention regarding the regime of the Straits opened (cf. 20 July).
- 23 Convention for mutual convention against dengue fever, Athens, 25 July 1934: Ratified by the USSR.
Montreux Convention: Litvinov stated that Russia should be free to transfer her naval forces at will from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean and that free passage must be assured in order to permit the carrying out of decisions of the League of Nations.
- 25 Montreux Convention: Litvinov issued a statement on the Soviet proposals concerning the Black Sea.
Soviet Union: Barrier between Volga and Moscow Rivers blasted for Moscow-Volga Canal scheduled for completion in Spring of 1937.

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June

- 27 Soviet Union: Family law approved by Central Executive Committee; law, including prohibition of abortion, passed without change (cf. 26 May).
- 28 Soviet Union: Soviet Gold Trust announced first half year program completed ahead of schedule; production up 25 percent over 1935.
Extensive salvage program announced for raising sunken vessels in USSR seas, rivers, lakes - including some from Russo-Japanese War.
- 29 Denmark: Parcel post agreement with the USSR signed.
Japan: Soviet press angered by a provocative speech by the Japanese delegate Makiyama at the Interparliamentary Union meeting in Budapest.
Soviet Union: Ordzhonikidze, Commissar of Heavy Industry, stated heavy industry expected to complete second Five-Year Plan in December 1936, attaining level fixed for end of 1937 by that time.
The head of the aviation industry stated at the All-Union Industrial Congress in Moscow that the Soviet aircraft factories were now bigger than any in Europe or America.
- 30 France: Parcel post agreement of 9 March ratified. Came into force 14 August.
Soviet Union: Bukharin, in Izvestiya, suggested government convert internal loan bonds to new issue with lower interest and twenty year rather than ten year maturity.

July 1936

July

- 1 League of Nations: The neutral powers issued a statement reserving the right to refrain from applying sanctions until steps had been taken towards disarmament. Litvinov defended the Covenant, stated that what was necessary was confidence that in all cases of aggression sanctions would be applied by all member states.
Soviet Union: New consolidated internal loan bonds totalling nineteen billion rubles announced for issue 1 September 1936; interest rate 4 percent, maturity 20 years. The conversion of all existing 10 year loans made compulsory. The Commissar of Finance explained that a temporary sacrifice had to be made, since the armed forces required a very large expenditure for "defense against the alert capitalist countries."
- 2 Japan: Soviet Government demanded that Japan stop fishing vessels from poaching off the coast of Kamchatka.
Montreux Convention: Soviet delegates objected to the Turkish desire to limit the right of passage of Soviet warships through the Straits.
Soviet Union: Central Council of Trade Unions issued notice that holiday and recreation privileges hitherto available to only certain workers to be extended to rest of employed population.

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July

- 5 Japan: Japanese Ambassador protested the arrest of a Japanese cavalry patrol on Soviet territory near Manchouli; stated that the Tsitsikhar Treaty of 1911 was not recognized by Manchoukuo.
Soviet Union: Central Committee of the Communist Party and Soviet press launched attack on pedagogy as "pseudo-science", and harmful influence in elementary education.
- 6 Montroux Convention: The British draft of a new convention to replace the Lauzanne Convention of 1923 discussed. Soviet delegates objected to tonnage limitation as too high.
Soviet Union: Mass sports demonstration in Red Square, Moscow.
- 7 Soviet Union: Georgi Vassilyevich Chichorin, former Commissar for Foreign Affairs, died in Kremlin Hospital, Moscow, of diabetes.
- 9 Japan: It was stated officially, as regards the new Straits Convention, that Japan sought equality with the Russian Black Sea Fleet in the passage of the Straits by warships.
Soviet Union: New internal loan of 4 billion rubles subscribed 87 percent in first five days; reported savings accounts totaled 3,106,000,000 rubles with 14 million holders.
- 11 France: French Air Minister, in the Chamber of Deputies, explained communicating plans of aircraft guns to the USSR as application of "principles of technical collaboration to all states participating in collective security."
United States: Exchanges of notes of 11 July and 9/13 July regarding prolongation of commercial agreement of 13 July 1935.
- 13 Soviet Union: Academician Bogomolets published in Pravda an attack on "traditions of servility" referring to undue deference of some Russian scientists to foreign scientific authorities.
- 15 Czechoslovakia: A Soviet Air Force mission, headed by the commander in chief of the Red Air Force, arrived in Prague.
- 16 Soviet Union: Commissar of Food-Industry Mikoyan announced average production of all Commissariats increased 33 percent during first five months of 1936 as against 1935 - same period. Recommended that the USSR study American marketing and advertising methods.
- 17 Rumania: A statement by Titulescu said that a rapprochement with Russia was the best way of enabling Rumania's existing alliances to have their full value, but denied that permission had been given to Soviet troops to cross Rumanian territory.
Soviet Union: Litvinov awarded Order of Lenin on 60th birthday for "outstanding merit in struggle for peace."

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July

- 18 Montreux Convention: Unanimously adopted, as England compromised on the Straits control issue.
Soviet Union: Coal deposit, estimated to contain 7,500,000 tons opened near Chelyabinsk in eastern Ural Mountains.
- 19 Soviet Union: Academy of Sciences discussed in detail development of new Ural-Emba oil field in Kazakhstan; production to be increased greatly.
- 20 Montreux Convention regarding the régime of the Straits: Signed (cf. 9 November).
Soviet Union: Astronomers criticized for unnecessary "servility" evidenced by publication of reports in foreign scientific journals before Soviet publication.
- 21 Soviet Union: Criticism made of food shortage in Moscow due in large part to bad marketing and distribution.
- 22 Czechoslovakia: Gen. Alkmis, chief of Red Air Force, visited Czech aircraft factories.
- 24 Soviet Union: Non-stop Arctic flight from Moscow to Nikolaevsk, Siberia.
- 25 Finland: Helsinki press reported removal of Finns in Northern Ingria to Soviet areas more distant from the Soviet-Finnish frontier.
- 26 Soviet Union: Public Prosecutors Office reported making new drive on private speculators charged with buying goods from State stores and reselling at a profit.
Commissariat of Finance to provide facilities for holders of new internal bonds to borrow up to 30 percent of bond holdings from savings banks.
- 27 Gt. Britain: USSR Commissar for Foreign Trade revealed that a credit offer from Great Britain had been received, but added that the Soviet had no intention of lessening restrictions on imports.
Japan: Two frontier incidents on USSR boundary reported.
- 28 Soviet Union: Curtailment of Soviet purchases from abroad announced by the Commissar for Foreign Trade. Reduction of foreign debt to 75,000,000 reported.
- 29 Soviet Union: Increased production ordered of champagne, wines, liquors, as step providing "more abundant life" for people.
- 30 Canada: Early renewal of Soviet-Canadian relations seen as result of conference in Moscow between Minister of Trade and the Soviet Foreign Trade Commissar.
Gt. Britain: The terms of Anglo-Russian naval understanding reached during the current conversations in London were communicated to foreign representatives.
Gt. Britain: Lord Runciman revealed that the Export Credit Guarantee Department of the Board of Trade had agreed to provide guarantees up to ten million pounds in connection with Soviet orders for British goods.

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August 1936

August

- 1 Gt. Britain: Ambassador Maisky, speaking in Oxford, said the principles of Soviet foreign policy were self-determination of nations and peace; described pacts with France and Czechoslovakia as additional buttresses to non-aggression pacts; stated USSR needed peace; claimed League Covenant should contain the definition of the aggressor.
- 3 Spain: A levy on the wages of all employees of USSR announced, to form a fund for aid to the Spanish government.
- 4 Spain: Soviet press published many articles in support of Spanish Communists; trade unions organized demonstrations of solidarity throughout the USSR.
- 5 Spain, France: USSR Foreign Commissariat, answering French representations that the USSR should accept the principle of non-interference in Spain, stated that the USSR was ready to take part in the proposed agreement, but desired that Portugal should join also, and that certain States should immediately discontinue aiding the rebels against the legal government of Spain.
- 7 Spain: State Bank of USSR to hand to the Spanish government 36,435,000 French francs collected for the Defense of the Spanish People Fund.
- 10 Soviet Union: The chairman of the Soviet of the Far Eastern territory stated that the Far Eastern Red Army and Fleet were now ready to repulse the enemy, if they attack the USSR frontier. Large roadbuilding campaign in the area announced.
Spain, France: USSR Government informed the French government that they were willing to give their adhesion to the text of the French proposals regarding non-intervention in Spain.
- 11 France: Agreement signed regarding transmission of judicial and notarial acts and execution of rogatory commissions (cf. 8 October).
Soviet Union: Decree lowering the draft age from 21 to 19 years. It would not take full effect until 1939.
- 13 Japan: Ambassador Ota returned to Tokyo, stated to the press there was no motive for either Japan or the USSR resorting to war.
- 14 Finland: Reported to have protested to the USSR Government against Soviet press reports alleging that Finland, by building airfields, was preparing to assist foreign aggression against the USSR. The Soviet Foreign Commissariat declined government's responsibility for press comments.

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August

- 16 Soviet Union: Leon Trotsky, in Norway, issued a statement branding Soviet press accusations that he was the leader of a "Zinoviev group" responsible for the death of Kirov as "one of the greatest fakes in political history."
- 19 Soviet Union: Trotsky, following the seizure of his papers by Norwegian Nazis, exonerated by Norwegian police of his complicity in political activities.
In Moscow, the trial began of Zinoviev, Kamenov, and 14 others charged with leading a terrorist group. An accused revealed the complicity of the German Secret Police.
- 20 Soviet Union: Moscow trials: Statements made by the accused implicated Sokolnikov, Arcus, Bulharin, Rykov, Radok and Tomsky, some of whom were reported under arrest. In his evidence Zinoviev declared that Trotsky was the organizer of the plot.
- 21 Volgium: Ratification exchanged with USSR of provisional commercial convention (including Luxembourg) of 5 September 1935. Came into force the same day.
Soviet Union: Moscow trials: The press reported the arrests of leaders of the alleged terrorists in many cities, including Tiflis, Baku, Batum and Erivan. Many Georgian Mensheviks and White Guards were among those arrested.
- 22 Soviet Union: Moscow trials: Death penalty for all the accused demanded by the Prosecutor. Suicide of Tomsky revealed.
- 23 Soviet Union: Moscow trials: All the accused sentenced to death by shooting.
- 25 Japan: Government informed by the Soviet Ambassador that the USSR agreed to the Japanese proposal for setting up of a joint commission for the settlement of disputes on the Manchoukuo frontier.
Soviet Union: Moscow trials: The death sentences were carried out. The press reported the apprehension of numerous groups of wreckers, described as Trotskyist, and arrests of leaders throughout the country.
Spain, France: Notes exchanged with the French Charge d'Affaires in Moscow, providing for Soviet adherence to the French non-intervention plan, subject to the adherence of Germany, Italy, and Portugal.
- 26 Maritime Law Conventions (Brussels, 23 September 1910) (Collisions at sea; Assistance and Salvage) acceded to by the USSR with effect from this date.
Opium and other Drugs: Convention for the suppression of the illicit traffic in dangerous drugs (Geneva) signed.
- 27 Soviet Union: Moscow trials: Military Attaché in London, Gen. Putna, recalled to Moscow and arrested. A number of Finnish-born Communists also arrested.
Spain: Russian Ambassador arrived in Madrid and was warmly welcomed by the press.

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August

- 28 League of Nations: Soviet proposals for the reform of the Covenant transmitted to Geneva.
Norway: Trotsky interned following his refusal to accept more stringent conditions for his continued stay in Norway.
- 29 Norway: Soviet note asserting that Trotsky had organized terrorist activities on Norwegian territory, and stating that continued permission of asylum for him would damage friendly relations between the two countries.
Soviet Union: Moscow trials: "Trotskyist nests" reported discovered in the State Publishing Office and in the Commissariat of Agriculture.
- 30 Germany: Law increasing the period of military service denounced as a provocative act in Izvestiya.
Norway: Foreign Minister's statement on Trotsky, defending the principle of asylum and stating that Norway "would not be overawed by anyone."
- 31 Soviet Union: Moscow trials: Further Trotskyist nests discovered in the State Bank, in the Komsomol in Tiflis, and in the trade unions in Kiev.

September 1936

September

- 1 Japan: Ambassador to Manchoukuo Gen. Nyeda, asserted that a secret understanding between Chiang and the Chinese Communists was being fostered by the USSR. Soviet Union was accused of sending war materials to China by way of Outer Mongolia and Sinkiang.
Norway: Department of Justice announced that Trotsky would be interned in a villa.
Soviet Union: Soviet officials unconditionally denied report of Ryazan mutiny which had appeared in Voelkischer Beobachter.
Defense: 1914 class and half of 1915 class called up together with all men who had been exempted in 1935.
- 2 Afghanistan: Ratification of agreement of 29 March.
Germany: German press reports of a mutiny in Ryazan denied by Soviet officials.
Rumania: Antonescu's statement on foreign policy averred desire to continue to maintain friendly relations with the USSR. Soviet government expressed anxiety over the removal of Titulescu from office.
Soviet Union: Komsomol staged large parades to celebrate International Youth Day.
Director of State Bank Tumanov and Vice-Commissar of Agriculture Muralov dismissed from office.
- 3 Norway: Note-memoire to the Soviet Government on Trotsky deploring the unfriendly tone of the note of 29 August, and pointing out that Kirov had been murdered in 1934, whereas Trotsky arrived in Norway in 1935.
- 4 World Youth Congress, Geneva: Soviet delegates stressed the importance of race equality as a basis for world peace.

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September

- 5 Japan: Soviet Government formally notified Japan that the intolerable situation on the Soviet-Manchoukuo frontier was endangering peace, and that Japan would be held strictly responsible in the event of future border incidents.
- 7 Soviet Union: Moscow trials: Tumanov and Muralov arrested (cf. 2 September). Further Trotskyites apprehended in Gorki trade union council, also in Omsk, Tomsk (Political Police), Rostov, and in Leningrad factories.
- 8 Soviet Union: Commissar of Light Industry Lubinov attacked lagging output and inferior quality of consumers' goods; dismissed numerous factory managers.
Yugoslavia: Belgrade rumors saw anti-Soviet move in Stoyadinovich's visit in Rumania, which might be directed against the Czech-Soviet pact; this was seen as the success of German attempts to weaken the Little Entente.
- 9 Germany: Hoss' speech attacking the USSR.
Soviet Union: Soviet Army announced holding gigantic maneuvers in Belorussia to demonstrate defensive powers; British, French, Czechoslovak observers reported.
Chief Prosecutor's office announced Bukharin, editor of Izvestiya and Rykov, i., Commissar of Communications, exonerated of any complicity in Trotskyist conspiracy.
Spain: The International Committee for the application of the agreement regarding non-intervention in Spain met in London and was attended by representatives of 26 countries, including the USSR.
- 10 Germany: Goebbels' speech attacking the USSR.
- 11 Finland: Announcement of denunciation of telephonic agreement of 18 June 1924, with effect from 30 September.
Germany: Violent attacks on the USSR in speeches by various German officials; assertions that the USSR government was controlled by Jews were seen by the London Times as a deliberate Nazi attempt to rupture German-Soviet relations.
Soviet Union: 36 Refrigerator Trust employees reported on trial charged with wasting 1,700,000 rubles of State funds.
- 12 Germany: Hitler's two addresses attacking the USSR.
Soviet Union: War Commissar speaking to the troops engaged in maneuvers in the West, stated that "the invincible Red Army is ready at any moment to destroy the enemy in his own territory."
- 13 Germany: Hitler's speech attacking Soviet Union.
Norway: The Government received from the Soviet government a note expressing dissatisfaction with the Norwegian reply of 3 September.
Soviet Union: Levanovsky and Levchenko completed 12,000 mile flight from Los Angeles to Moscow.

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September

14. Canada: Resumption of trade with the USSR, as embargo on Soviet goods, imposed in February, 1931, was cancelled. A similar action was taken by the USSR which undertook to limit anthracite exports and to fix the price at the world level.
- Germany: Hitler's speech at the closing of the Party Congress at which he reiterated his determination not to negotiate with Bolshevism or enter into any kind of bargain with the Bolshevik outlook. Moscow press used violent language in its references to Hitler's statements.
16. Soviet Union: Pravda contrasted "bombs, bullets and poison gas" sent by Fascists with Communist Party's open sponsoring of nationwide campaign among Soviet women to provide relief for Loyalist Spain women and children.
- War Commissar, speaking at army maneuvers in Kiev, stated that the capitalists were preparing war against the Soviet Union, but that the USSR was ready for war.
17. Soviet Union: Publication of Soviet import figures revealed Soviet purchase of cotton declined from 26,000 tons in first six months of 1935 to 12,000 tons in same period of 1936.
18. Gt. Britain: Note of proposals to hold a five-power conference, not including the USSR, handed to various western European diplomatic representatives in London.
19. Soviet Union: Over-zealous Party leaders ordered to desist from expelling members for trivial or imaginary reasons in connection with Trotskyist purge.
20. Soviet Union: Capt. Liddell Hart, in dispatch to New York Times, commented on significance of parachute maneuvers of the Red Army.
- Spain: German press report that 200 Soviet planes, manned by Russians, had arrived in Barcelona. Gen. de Llano stated that 47 Soviet planes had landed in Spain, 37 of them at Valencia. New diplomatic representative appointed to Moscow to replace the Minister who had resigned.
- United States: Hearst press accused the USSR of taking an active part in the Presidential campaign on the side of the New Deal.
21. Soviet Union: Announcement that Red Army officials in Gorki, scene of autumn maneuvers, urged more careful teaching of Communist theory to soldier-candidates of Party; reported about 50 percent of Army personnel Party members.
- It was announced Party may again accept new members.
- Yaroslavsky, head of the League of Militant Atheists, approved Constitutional grant of suffrage to priests.
22. Rumania: Minister in Berlin protested German allegations that a railroad was being built to transport Soviet troops to Czechoslovakia.
- Spain: Pravda revealed the dispatch of food-stuffs via Odessa as a first installment in aid of Spanish women and children.

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September

- 23 Convention concerning the use of broadcasting in the cause of peace, Geneva: Signed by the USSR with reservations.
- Czechoslovakia: Charge d'Affaires in Berlin protested against Goebbels' allegations concerning Czechoslovak airports for the Soviet Air Force.
- Gt. Britain: Reports that Great Britain had decided plans for a new Locarno pact with France and Germany, in order not to jeopardize the Franco-Soviet pact.
- Soviet Union: Red Army, during maneuvers near Moscow, dropped by parachute behind "opposing forces" 2,200 men with fighting equipment.
- 25 League of Nations: German and anti-government French presses charged the USSR with deliberate fomenting of confusion in the League Assembly in connection with Ethiopia's presence and Italy's absence.
- Soviet Union: Trade unions urged by the Central Committee to facilitate easing of household duties for workers' wives.
- Marshal Voroshilov stated at army maneuvers in Moscow that the Red Army was intended solely for defensive purposes; Russia might at any moment become the object of military assault, but was ready to meet the enemy.
- 26 Soviet Union: J.G. Buell, Oklahoma oil producer, recently returned from visit to Soviet oil fields, stated Soviet oil production developing rapidly but exports decreased due to higher domestic needs.
- United States: Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau revealed Soviet State Bank offered a million pounds sterling in New York, implied that this was a raid against the Three Power Monetary Agreement.
- 27 Soviet Union: NKVD: Commissar of the Interior Yagoda succeeded by N.I. Yezhov; Yagoda made Commissar of Communications in place of Rykov (cf. 20 August).
- United States: Commissariat of Foreign Affairs denied, without explanation, Secretary Morgenthau's charges (cf. 26 September).
- 28 League of Nations: Litvinov deprecated a postponement in the discussion of League reform. There was no need for new blocs. Question of Covenant application should not wait on universality and referred to the appropriate committee, while individual members should negotiate bilateral or regional pacts of mutual assistance. Explained Soviet adherence to the non-intervention agreement because a friendly country feared the possibility of an international conflict.
- Soviet Union: Foreign experts in the Soviet Union calculated 1936 grain harvest just below 1935 level, far below calculated level.
- United States: Soviet press revealed that the sale of pounds sterling in New York (cf. 20, 27 August) was a routine business transaction for the purpose of making a dollar statement to Sweden.

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September

- 29 Germany: Izvestiya editorial alleged that Germany was scheming to obtain Swedish, Finnish, and Polish cooperation.
- Soviet Union: Baltic and Pacific Fleets held simultaneous maneuvers to test defenses of Kronstadt and Vladivostok naval bases.

October 1936

October

- 1 Gt. Britain: Provisional draft of the new Soviet-British naval treaty agreed upon in London.
Soviet Union: Central Committee of the Communist Party issued instructions for acceptance of new members into Party; ban on admissions since December, 1932 terminated.
The Commissar of Timber Industry and the Chief of Radio Broadcasting replaced.
Spain: Dispatch of further food supplies from Odessa revealed.
- 2 Spain: Gen. Franco's proclamation on the "New Spain" which would maintain friendly relations with all countries except the USSR.
- 3 Japan: Agreement reached on the main points and text of a new fisheries convention. The establishment of a Soviet-Manchoukuo frontier commission pressed by the USSR.
Soviet Union: Record wheat harvest reported in the Ukraine.
- 4 Soviet Union: Two former Tsarist officers reported brought to trial in Ashkhabad, accused of involvement in the execution of twenty-six Baku Commissars in 1918.
- 5 Soviet Union: Three year task of renovating and restoring St. Basil's Church in Red Square begun.
- 6 Soviet Union: Pravda editorial indicated USSR embarking on large naval building program.
Liquidation of many state farms reported because of bad management. Land was distributed among the collective farms.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Soviet note suggesting a committee of investigation be sent to the Spanish-Portuguese frontier.
- 7 League of Nations: Funds voted to send a mission to the Far East to study the problem of Russian refugees in China; the proposal was opposed by the USSR delegate Stein.
Soviet Union: Moscow trials: Chief Prosecutor Vyshinsky revealed Karl Radek arrested; to be tried for involvement in a counter-revolutionary plot. Criminal proceedings also begun against Sokolnikov (former Ambassador to London), Pyatakov, and Serebryakov.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Soviet Charge d'Affaires in London handed a letter to the Chairman of the Committee referring to the Spanish protests against the violation of the Agreement addressed to Germany, Italy, and Portugal; and warning the Committee that if the violations were not discontinued, the Soviet Government would consider itself released from obligations under that agreement.

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October

- 8 France: Ratifications exchanged of agreement of 11 August regarding transmission of judicial and notarial acts.
- 9 Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Soviet communications (cf. 6,7 October) presented at the meeting; the Committee decided that no action should be taken.
League of Nations: Committee to study the question of the application of the Covenant set up; Litvinov opposed a Hungarian proposal that the Committee should seek the aid of non-member states.
- 11 Japan: Agreement signed with representatives of the Commissariat of Heavy Industry extending Japanese prospecting rights for five more years.
Manchoukuo: Two clashes on the Soviet frontier (Kucheng River and near Hunchun) between Japanese patrols and Russian frontier police.
- 13 Germany: Objections raised to the Soviet reservations in the draft in the Anglo-Soviet naval treaty.
Manchoukuo, Japan: Soviet statement on border clashes asserted these occurred on the Soviet territory. Japanese Charge d'Affaires handed a protest.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Further note of protest from the Soviet government, demanding that control be established over Portuguese ports.
- 14 Poland: Litvinov conferred in Warsaw with the Soviet Ambassadors to Poland and Germany.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Chairman visited by the Soviet Ambassador to London, who insisted on a full meeting of the Committee to consider the Soviet note (13 October).
- 15 Spain: Stalin telegraphed to the Spanish Communist Party, declaring that the workers of the USSR would merely fulfill their duty in rendering the revolutionary masses of Spain every possible assistance.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Reply by the Chairman to the Soviet note of 13 October, stating no further meeting would be published at that stage, as no reply had been received from the Portuguese government.
- 17 Japan: Soviet proposal for settling the border disputes on Manchoukuo frontier presented to Japan.
Spain: Meeting and demonstrations in many Soviet cities in support of the Spanish workers; resolutions passed demanding to stop aid to Franco, or enable the Loyalists to acquire arms and munitions.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Soviet press published a statement emphasizing that the Soviet government would not be reconciled to the position adopted by the Committee, and urging immediate application of international measures against the aggressor state.
- 18 Vatican: Soviet reports that anti-Soviet movement throughout the world actively organized by the Vatican.

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October

- 19 Germany: Exporters reported seeking increasing markets in the USSR despite the anti-Soviet drive of political leaders.
- 20 Soviet Union: Bukharin completely exonerated of complicity with Trotskyite-Zinovievite center; resumed active direction of Izvestiya.
- 22 Balkans: Premier Tatarescu of Rumania visited Belgrade in purported attempt to persuade Yugoslavia to join in an anti-Soviet policy.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Note from German Charge d'Affaires alleging Soviet violations of the agreement.
- 23 Czechoslovakia: Foreign Minister reaffirmed his loyalty to treaty obligations to France and the USSR.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: British and Italian allegations of Soviet violations of the agreement examined. A letter from the Soviet delegate stated that the Soviet government could not consider itself bound by the agreement to any greater extent than any of the remaining participants.
- 24 Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Maisky asked to obtain from Moscow an explanation of the Soviet statement (23 October).
- 25 Soviet Union: Moscow factories reported making 6 million rubles worth of Christmas tree decorations for New Year celebrations.
Meetings in many factories endorsing the firm stand made by Maisky in London, demanding that Fascist intervention in Spain be stopped.
Spain: Reports from Turkey alleging the passage of 12 Soviet vessels carrying war materials for Spain.
- 27 Finland: Two border incidents reported from Moscow. Finland accused of hindering the investigation.
Germany: Appeal to Great Britain to join Germany in fighting Communism understood that Germany wants Britain's support in case of a war with the USSR.
- 28 France: Soviet decree revaluating the ruble in terms of devalued French franc to maintain ratio of ruble to dollar.
Portugal: Notes to the Non-Intervention Committee, alleging Soviet interference in Spanish war, released in Lisbon and London.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Maisky read Soviet Government's explanation of 23 October statement; until guarantees of control were forthcoming, Soviet Government was "morally entitled to consider themselves no more bound by the Agreement" than those governments which violated the agreement. Further Soviet violations alleged in a note from Italy.

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October

- 29 Soviet Union: Reported relay march in gas masks to make people air and gas defense conscious to take place in 1937 along southern and eastern frontiers from Baku to Leningrad.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Mr. Eden stated in Parliament that Soviet allegations of Portuguese violations had not been verified.
- 30 Spain: Destruction of tanks of Soviet manufacture on approaches to Madrid announced by the rebel headquarters.
- 31 Mongolia: Premier Foreign Minister Amor arrived in Moscow on a mission to strengthen the ties with the USSR.

November 1936

November

- 2 Germany: Berlin banks announced that a new export credit of 300,000,000 marks to the USSR was impending.
Spain: The capture of four Russian tanks announced by the rebels.
- 3 Switzerland: Decrees suppressing Communist activities.
- 5 Rumania: Iron Guard manifesto to the King threatening with death any politician who brought Rumania into a war with Russia.
- 6 Gt. Britain: Secretary Eden pledged adherence to the League of Nations; commenting on German desire to exclude the USSR from European pacts, suggested that Germany should enter the League if it feared Soviet aggression.
Soviet Union: Large mass meeting held in Bolshoi Theater in Moscow opened celebration of 19th Anniversary of Revolution.
- 7 Soviet Union: Traditional parade and military display marked celebration of 19th Anniversary of October Revolution.
Report stated USSR had launched shipbuilding program to create greatest defensive navy in world - mainly submarines, torpedo boats and destroyers.
- 8 Catalonia: The Soviet Consul in Barcelona pledged the USSR aid to Catalonia in case of foreign intervention by Fascist nations.
- 9 Montreux Convention regarding the regime of the Straits, 20 July, ratification signed in Paris by the USSR, France, Great Britain, Turkey, Rumania, Greece, and Yugoslavia.
- 10 Japan: A new eight-year fishing agreement concluded with the USSR (cf. 22 November).
Soviet Union: Maxim Litvinov awarded Order of Lenin in a ceremony at Kremlin.
Soviet Foreign Office announced several Germans, Austrians and a Swede arrested for participating in an anti-Soviet plot.
- 11 Germany: Termination at the end of the year reported of the Russian-German Airline.

November

- 12 Germany: Government protested to the Soviet Government against the arrest of German citizens in connection with the "Fascist" plot in Russia.
Soviet Union: Arrests of foreigners implicated in an anti-Soviet plot revealed in the press.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Charges against the USSR examined; it was decided that the charges were not fully established.
- 13 Soviet Union: First train run on new railroad line from Volochaevska to Komsomolsk in Eastern Siberia.
- 14 Germany: Formally denounced parts of the Treaty of Versailles.
Soviet Union: Telephones in Moscow, numbering 110,000 to be increased by 17,000 within year.
- 15 United States: Decline of cotton exports to the USSR during the coming year expected, due to exceptional cotton crop in the USSR.
- 16 Germany: Soviet government's reply to the note of 12 November regarded as unsatisfactory in Berlin.
Japan: German-Japanese pact ratified at a plenary session of the Japanese Privy Council.
- 17 Germany: Litvinov reported to have informed the German Ambassador that the majority of the arrested Germans had confessed.
Japan: Moscow reports that the Japanese Foreign Minister had informed the Soviet Ambassador that the Japanese Government and a "third party" had been discussing means to combat Communism. Anti-Communist agreement seen in Moscow as a screen for the real agreement providing for the coordination of action by Japan and Germany in case of war.
- 18 Japan, Germany: Tokyo denied military alliance with Germany had been signed; admitted anti-Communist pact, but stated it was not directed against Soviet Russia.
Soviet Union: Announcement that Komsomol opened a school to train women machine-gun instructors.
- 19 Japan: Soviet Government informed Japan that it considered unsatisfactory Japan's explanation of the character of the agreement with Germany.
Soviet Union: German engineer and eight Soviet executives and technicians, on trial in Novosibirsk, pleaded guilty of sabotage.
- 21 Germany: Protest to the Soviet government against another arrest of a German citizen.
Soviet Union: Stickling, German engineer, gave testimony which revealed German Consul in Novosibirsk directly involved in alleged sabotage in Siberian coal mines. Nine accused in Novosibirsk condemned to death.
United States: Joseph E. Davies appointed American Ambassador to Moscow to succeed William C. Bullitt.

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November

- 22 Austria: Anti-Communist Association formed, at a meeting attended by the Minister of the Interior.
 Germany: German Ambassador to Moscow protested against the arrest of Stickling, asked for clemency.
 Germany: Moscow arrests described in the Berlin press as an "international challenge".
 Japan: Negotiations for the renewal of the Fisheries Convention reported broken off by the Soviet Government.
- 24 Germany: Report of arrests of four more Germans in Russia.
 Gt. Britain, Germany: British Government reported using all its influence to prevent the breaking-off of diplomatic relations between Germany and the USSR.
- 25 Bills of Exchange Conventions and Protocols (Geneva, 7 June 1930) providing a uniform law for bills of exchange and promissory notes; for the settlement of conflicts of laws and on stamp laws, acceded to by USSR.
 Japan, Germany: Agreement against the Communist International signed in Berlin. Japanese Foreign Office statement on the Comintern, accusing it of anti-Japanese activities in China.
 Soviet Union: Stickling sentence commuted from death to ten years imprisonment.
 Opening of the Extraordinary Congress of Soviets convened as a constituent assembly to pass the new constitution. Stalin's address suggesting amendments, and rebutting various criticisms of the projected draft.
- 26 Czechoslovakia: The press denied German allegations about Soviet airbases in Bohemia.
 Japan: Moscow reports of a Japanese-Manchoukuan violation of Siberian territory, with several casualties.
 Soviet Union: Ukrainian Premier accused Germany and Japan of preparing a "holy crusade against the Soviet Union.
- 27 Soviet Union: New railroad construction in the Far Eastern region announced.
- 28 Italy: Litvinov, speaking in the Extraordinary Congress of Soviets, reported that Italy had proposed to Japan the conclusion of an agreement similar to that between Germany and Japan.
 Japan: Moscow filed a strong protest over the frontier violation (26 November). Japanese army in Manchoukue reported a Soviet cavalry attack into Manchoukue.
 Soviet Union: Extraordinary Congress: Litvinov accused the Fascists of plotting against the USSR. Commander in Chief of the Navy, Orlov, stated the increased naval armaments in Germany, Italy and Japan compelled the Soviet Union to strengthen its fleet; disclosed sevenfold increase of the submarine fleet since 1933.

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November

29. Soviet Union: Extraordinary Congress: Assistant Commander of the Air Force stated that the force was the most powerful in the world.
The head of the Leningrad Communist Party warned the little countries against allowing their territories to be used by "great adventurers" against the Soviet Union.

December 1936

December

- 1 Soviet Union: Congress of Soviets adopted the proposed draft of new constitution as basis, appointed Committee of 200 under Stalin to revise draft.
- 2 Latvia: Foreign Minister assured by the Soviet Minister that the speech in Leningrad (29 November) reflected no aggressive intentions towards the Baltic States.
- 5 Soviet Union: Congress of Soviets adopted the final draft of new Constitution; 5th December declared national holiday.
- 6 Germany: Litvinov rejected the request of the German Ambassador to permit German officials to see Germans arrested in the USSR.
Spain: Soviet vessels reported detained by insurgent warships when passing through the Straits of Gibraltar.
- 7 Japan: New Japanese Ambassador, Shigemitsu, accredited in Moscow.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Soviet delegates proposed that the obligations of the Agreement should be extended to include the sending of volunteers.
- 8 Soviet Union: Pravda reported Stalinogorsk-Moscow high tension electric line in regular use.
Spain: Tass agency denied the presence of Soviet troops in the Spanish Army.
- 9 Japan: In Privy Council, Soviet Government's refusal to ratify the Fisheries Treaty was attributed to the German-Japanese pact.
Soviet Union: Orders published on organization of the new Commissariat of Justice of the USSR.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Von Ribbentrop stated that 35,000 Russians were fighting in the Spanish Government ranks.
- 10 Soviet Union: Members of Kazan militia charged with violation of new Constitution for arrests without sanction of court or procurator.
N.V. Krylenko began work as the Commissar for Justice.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Soviet Government, replying to the French and British proposals, stated that the USSR was prepared to take part in mediation in Spain, denied that it had broken the Agreement, but expected guarantees.

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December

- 11 Germany: Further representations to the Soviet Government regarding the arrests of German citizens.
Rumania: Foreign Minister Antonescu assured the Parliament of the cordiality of Soviet-Rumanian relations; asserted that Rumania shared Litvinov's viewpoint, expressed in his recent Geneva speech.
- 12 Soviet Union: Soviet gold production officially estimated to exceed 1935 figure.
- 13 China: Soviet press declared that the Soviet had no connection with the kidnapping of Chiang Kai-shek.
Japan: Litvinov reported notifying the Japanese Ambassador that the USSR would delay Fisheries Agreement and re-demarcation of the Manchoukuo frontier.
Spain: Further detentions of Soviet snips by the rebels disclosed by the Tass agency. Steamer Komsomol sunk by Spanish rebels.
- 15 Soviet Union: Announcement of a campaign to insure observance of new rights granted under Constitution; action taken against officials who continued to discriminate against persons because of class origin.
- 17 France: Additional agreement prolonging commercial agreement of 11 January 1934 (cf. 6 January) signed.
Soviet Union: Pravda article criticized poor production records on new type automobiles.
- 22 Soviet Union: Construction started on five new bridges over Moscow River.
- 23 Soviet Union: Railway transport reported falling behind schedule; stern measures taken to improve service.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Maisky's attack on Gen. Franco.
- 24 Germany: The 1936 trade agreement with Germany in regard to credits extended through 1937.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Diplomatic representatives in Moscow, Berlin, Rome, and Lisbon instructed to impress upon their governments the urgent need of stopping the flow of foreign volunteers to Spain.
- 25 Soviet Union: Second All-Union Congress of Neuropathologists and Psychiatrists opened (closed 30 December).
Vatican: Pope's message on the civil war in Spain containing strictures on some opponents of Communism.
- 26 Soviet Union: Pravda announced details of plan to enlarge the size of collective farms by taking land from State farms.

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December

28 Japan: The Privy Council approved a proposal extending for a year the Fisheries Convention with the USSR. It was subsequently announced that the protocol had been signed in Moscow.

Soviet Union: Heavy Industry Commissariat announced drive to improve efficiency of factory organization by introducing changes along American lines.

Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: Litvinov informed the British and French Ambassadors that the USSR was prepared to accept the ban on foreign volunteers in Spain (24 December) subject to certain conditions.

31 Germany: Further reports of arrests of German citizens in Leningrad and elsewhere.

Soviet Union: New Year's celebration reported gayest since Revolution; New Year's trees used extensively for decorations.

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January 1937

January

- 1 Gosplan report showed increases for 1936 over 1935, in number of workers in industry (9%), average monthly wage in industry (22%), and total industrial production (30%).
- 3 Pravda said that the "band of Trotsky, Zinovyev and Pystakov hoped to destroy socialism and restore capitalism" but no force could stem the march of the people.
- 4 Pravda attacked Radek, Sokolnikov, and Pyatakov; and another treason trial was foreshadowed.
- 6 Preliminary returns on the census indicated a population near 180,000 persons, of whom 43% were born after the Revolution.
- 11 Soviet Budget: The total proposed expenditures for 1937 amounted to 97 million rubles, with 20 billion for the military costs, and 32½ billion for new construction in heavy industry. The military costs were increased one-third in order to acquire large reserve supplies for the Soviet army.
- 13 Soviet Budget: The Central Executive Committee unanimously passed the 1937 budget, balancing at approximately 98 billion rubles.
- 15 Soviet Union: The Congress of the RSFSR met in Moscow and adopted a constitution, which was identical with that for the USSR.
Spain: The Soviet note in reply to the proposal for banning volunteers to Spain immediately, was handed to the British ambassador.
- 19 Purge: It was learned that 17 Old Guard Leninists were to be placed on trial for conspiring against the government. They included Radek, Sokolnikov, Pyatakov, Serebryakov, Marolov, and Drobnis.
Bukharin was relieved of his post as editor of Izvestiya, and he and Rykov were described as in disgrace, though not arrested.
- 23 Treason Trials: Trial of Radek, Sokolnikov, Pyatakov and 14 others began in Moscow; all the accused pleaded guilty.
- 26 Purge: The arrest was reported of Beloborodov, an old Party man, who was believed to have ordered the execution of the Tsar and his family in 1918.
- 27 Purge: Trotsky's son, Sergei, was reported to have been arrested at Krasnoyarsk on a charge of "poisoning Soviet workers".
Personalities: Yagoda, General Commissar of State Security, placed on reserve by the Central Executive Committee. Yezhov, People's Commissar of Internal Affairs, made General Commissar of State Security. N. Orlov named Assistant People's Commissar of Defense for the Navy.
- 28 Ukrainian SSR: New constitution adopted.
- 29 Treason Trials: Thirteen of the accused were sentenced to death, including Pyatakov, Serebryakov, Muralov, and Drobnis, while Arnold, Radek and Sokolnikov were sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment.

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February 1937

February

- 1 **Treason Executions:** The death sentence was carried out on the 13 men convicted in the Trotskyist trial.
- 5 **Foreign Trade:** Preliminary figures for 1936 foreign trade showed increase of 46 million rubles over 1935. Total trade was estimated at 2,712,000,000 rubles with an export balance of 6 million rubles.
 Spain: The Non-Intervention Committee received a reply from the Soviet government relative to the scheme submitted to all the governments on 28 January for controlling the Spanish sea and land frontiers. The Russians stated that Soviet warships should be allowed to share in the supervision of the coast and that there should be a unified control of the whole coast rather than a sectional control by the various fleets.
- 8 **Foreign Trade with Germany:** Reported Russian deliveries of raw materials to Germany fell far below expected levels under the 1936 trade agreement, while Soviet purchases of German machinery continued.
 Finland: Holsti, the Foreign Minister of Finland, arrived in Moscow on an official visit, the first since the establishment of independent Finland.
- 10 **Finland:** Holsti left Moscow after conversations with Litvinov. A statement was issued mentioning that the discussions had resulted in an amicable exchange of views on Finnish-Russian relations.
- 11 **Copper:** Announcement that a large smelting plant was to be opened in March in Western Kazakhstan.
- 13 **Georgian SSR:** New constitution adopted.
- 15 **Trans-Siberian R.R.:** Announcement that the double tracking of the Trans-Siberian Railroad was within 400 miles of completion.
- 16 **Sovkhozes:** Announcement that State Farms previously attached to factories and other enterprises would be administered henceforth by local government.
- 18 **Obituary:** Gregori Konstantinovich Ordzhonikidze, People's Commissar of Heavy Industry, died in Moscow.
- 19 **Spain:** Announcement that Rosenberg had been recalled as Ambassador to Spain and was being succeeded by Galkis.
 Naval Treaty of 1930: It was learned that the Russian government in a note to the British dated 16 February had signified its adherence to the provisions of the Naval Treaty of 1930 which governed the action of submarines against merchant ships.
- 23 **Spanish Volunteers:** The Council of People's Commissars approved the decision taken on 20th February to forbid the departure of Soviet citizens for Spain, the enlistment of volunteers in Soviet territory, their transit through the USSR, and their embarkation on board Soviet vessels.

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February

- 25 Personalities: Mezhlauk, President of Gosplan, was appointed Commissar of Heavy Industry.
Germany: It was announced that ten Germans, who had been under arrest since early in November, had been expelled from the USSR.
- 27 Greece: Commercial exchanges agreement signed with Greece.
- 28 Kolkhozes: A decree of the Council of People's Commissars announced the transfer of an additional 2,250,000 acres from State to collective farms. The State farms were to assume the functions of large scale nurseries and experimental farms.

March 1937

March

- 2 Religious revival: Pravda reported outbreak of religious revival in the form of local sects in Ivanovsk district.
- 4 U.S.: J.E. Davies, U.S. Ambassador, returned from a survey of industry in the Ukraine. He was impressed by increased production, but asserted much could be learned by the Russians from American industry.
- 5 Expulsions from Party: Bukharin and Rykov were expelled from the Party.
Communist Party: The Central Committee of the Communist Party passed a resolution providing that the secret ballot should take the place of open voting by show of hands in the Party. Holders of office within the Party were to be elected on a democratic basis instead of being appointed by superior organs, as was the practice.
- 8 Communist Party: The Central Committee of the Communist Party decreed that International Women's Day to be marked by mass political campaigns to attract women of the Soviet Union in greater numbers to Socialist Construction.
- 10 Religion: Izvestiya reported decline in forces organized to discourage religious propaganda and deplored efforts of religious groups to stage comeback under protection of freedom of worship guaranteed under the new constitution.
- 11 Secret ballot: A speech by Zhdanov, assistant secretary of the Party's Central Committee, which he had made on 26 February in the Central Committee of the Party, appeared in the press, wherein he expressed fear of the secret ballot as a means of introducing Trotskyites and went on to say that the Party would have first to weed out its own unsuitable and unpopular candidates.
- 13 Re Anti-Comintern Pact: Maisky speaking in London, considered that the danger of the war in general, and against Russia in particular, had increased during the past 15 months - the German-Japanese rapprochement amounted virtually to a military alliance against the USSR - but Russia had the satisfaction of knowing that her preparedness and power of resistance had also increased.

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March

- 14 Caucasus: In memory of Gregori Ordzhonikidze the name of the North Caucasus region was changed to Ordzhonikidze Territory.
 Citizenship: Citizenships rights restored to thousands of disfranchised according to provisions of new constitution.
- 20 Pravda editorial attacked Party and government leaders in southern regions for laxity and delay in spring sowing.
- 21 Decrees published freeing collective farms and individual farmers from grain delivery arrears and making concessions by reducing payments to MTS from ten to thirty percent.
- 28 A speech devoted in its entirety to the struggle with Trotskyism was published that Stalin had made 3rd March before the Central Committee of the Communist Party. They were apt to forget, he said, that five-sixths of the world were made up of capitalist countries and that so long as this environment continued, the Soviet Union would be full of spies, wreckers and assassins. Led by Trotsky these enemies were still of great power to do harm. He mentioned several times that Germany and Japan as the countries working hand in hand with Trotsky and the Trotsky organization.
- 30 A decree was issued by the Central Executive Committee of the Council of People's Commissars, outlining the economic plan for 1937, and criticizing defects in the economic work during 1936.
- 31 Purge: Reports were current that among Trotskyists recently arrested was Rakovsky, former Ambassador to London and Paris.

April 1937

April

- 4 Purge: It was learned that Yagoda, ex-chief of the Security Police, had been dismissed as Commissar of Communications for criminal activity.
- 5 Personalities: Khalepsky was appointed in place of Yagoda as Commissar of Communications.
 Purge: Yagoda's deputy, Prokofieyev was dismissed as Assistant Commissar of Communications.
 Spain, Foreign Trade: Figures were published of the trade with Spain, showing that exports to that country in the past four months were valued at over 40 million rubles. In January Spain had imported 32,000 tons of Soviet coal, 317,000 tons of oil fuel, and 1,000 tons of motor lorries.
- 8 Anti-religion: Bezbozhniks began campaign to rebuild organization by establishing anti-religious schools.
- 10 Class war: Report that since Yagoda's removal as Commissar of the Security Police emphasis had shifted from incessant "war against the class enemy" to a campaign against disloyalty to the Party and against sabotage and espionage.

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April

- 12 Trade Unions: The function of trade unions was seen as changing since they appeared no longer to take an active part in the upward revision of production norms.
- 14 Reports of Ural exile of Mrs. Litvinov denied officially. She was said to be teaching Basic English at Sverdlovsk University.
- 15 Anti-religion: Kosarev, General Secretary of the Communist Youth League, in a Pravda article, called for a revival of militant atheism.
- 16 Unofficial estimates placed 1936 total grain harvest at about 15% less than average for preceding three years.
- 17 Gold production: League of Nations monthly statistics bulletin stated that Russia had nearly doubled production.
- 18 Submarines: British Admiralty estimate of Soviet submarine fleet to be between 125 and 175 submarines. German Naval Handbook reported 151.
- 19 Red Army potential: European experts reported to consider the Red Army as the most formidable in the world, but potentially weak in transport. They were generally agreed that Russia could not be invaded successfully.
- 20 Education: Decree abolished "model schools" and ordered their reorganization along usual lines of secondary schools.
- 21 Wrecking: Molotov's March speech was published. It revealed that serious wrecking activities had hindered industrial development.
- 24 Purge: Reports were current that some 300 more arrests had been made of men in or connected with the former GPU.
- 25 Purge: Campaign was launched against bribery and graft, as evidence of their existence in important industrial establishments was revealed.
- 26 Five Year Plan: Announcement that the Second Five Year Plan had been completed 1 April, nine months ahead of schedule.
- 27 Turkey: It was learned that the Soviet Minister had presented his letters of recall and had left Ankara.
NKVD: It was rumored that the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs (Security Police) had been drastically reorganized by its new Commissar (Yezhov).
- 28 Trade Unions: Editorial in Trud rebuked the Trade Union Council for lax financial methods and charged it with embezzlement and misuse of funds.

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May 1937

May

- 1 May Day celebration included Cossack cavalry for the first time, over 250 tanks and more than 800 airplanes.
- 2 Third Five-Year Plan: The Russian government decreed the preparation of a third Five-Year Plan, for which provisional plans were to be ready by 1 July.
Religion: 50,000 persons were reported to have attended Easter services in Moscow.
- 3 Far East: A decree was issued by the Far Eastern Executive Committee offering extensive privileges to former soldiers, sailors and border guards desiring to settle along the Soviet Far Eastern frontiers.
Germany: It was learned that the Civil Aviation Department had informed the German Lufthansa that it considered it undesirable to negotiate a new agreement for the air service between Moscow and Berlin to replace the agreement which expired 30 April.
- 8 Anti-Religion: Communist Party made known its disapproval of excesses in the fight against religion, suggesting that intensified propaganda should be used instead of overt coercion.
- 9 Five-Year Plan: Addressing heads of heavy industry, the industry's Commissar, Mezhlauk, stated that the Third Five-Year Plan would pay more attention to smaller and more manageable plants and that the policy of building up industry at the expense of agriculture would be eliminated.
- 11 Marshal Tukhachevsky, Vice-Commissar of Defense, was demoted to an insignificant post. He was succeeded by Yegorov, Chief of the General Staff.
- 15 Purge: State Prosecutor Vyshinsky intervened in the over-zealous hunt for "wreckers" by local authorities which had resulted in many unjust dismissals and prison sentences.
- 16 Manchukuo: It was understood that the Russian government had notified the Manchukuo authorities that it intended to abrogate the Waterways Agreement of 1934 regulating navigation on the Amur River.
- 17 Purge: Eight trade union leaders were announced arrested as "Trotskyite enemies".
Red Army: A decree was published regarding changes in the organization of the Red Army which would increase the Communist Party's control over it. Thirteen military councils were to be set up. Political commissars would be given greater power. The councils would consist of a triumvirate composed of the Army commander of the district, and two appointed members, thus insuring control from Moscow.
- 18 France: After Litvinov's conversation with Blum and Delbos, a statement was issued affirming the friendship of the two countries and their common desire to maintain peace by means of collective security.

1937

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- May
- 20 Purge: Reports reached Moscow that 43 persons charged with railway wrecking had been shot at Svobodny, near Khabarovsk.
- 21 Purge: Directorate of the Academy of Sciences recommended Bukharin's expulsion for counter-revolutionary activities.
- 22 North Pole: The Soviet claimed the North Pole because it was first to establish a settlement in its vicinity.
- 23 Purge: The press reported further arrests of Trotskyites in several places, for crimes connected with the railways.
- 28 Spain: The Russian government replied to the British proposal for a truce in Spain for the withdrawal of volunteers agreeing in principle, but stipulating that the insurgents should cease hostilities first and withdraw all foreign troops including the Moors.
Money: Statement to the effect that Russia's currency circulation had increased in less than two years by 43%. The gold reserve was valued at \$378,000,000.
- 31 Purge: Gamarnik, head of political administration of the Red Army, committed suicide after being accused of anti-Soviet activities.

June 1937

- June
- 3 Purge: General Eideman, President of the Osoaviakhim, was removed from his post.
- 8 Purge: The Commissar of Defense signed a decree removing a number of leading generals commanding on the Western frontier. They included General Uborevich, formerly of the Minsk command, General Yakir, who had recently been transferred from Kiev to Leningrad, and Marshal Tukhachevsky.
- 9 Purge: A number of high officials of the Commissariat of Internal Trade were arrested, and orders were issued for the arrest and prosecution of Korotky, head of the Moscow and Leningrad cotton industry, and Sosmin, director of the Leningrad Cotton Trust.
Spain, Non-Intervention Committee: The chairman of the Non-Intervention Committee received a letter from the Soviet delegate complaining about the unlawful bombing of the Deutschland and the unlawful seizure of merchants ships belonging to the USSR and a number of other countries. He suggested that all negotiations for guaranteeing the patrol vessel's safety ought to be undertaken only after the whole question had been discussed by the Committee.
- 11 Purge: After a secret trial the Military Collegium sentenced to death Marshal Tukhachevsky, General Putna, Yakir, Uborevich, Feldman, Kork, Primakov, and Eideman, "habitual and base betrayal of military secrets to a certain hostile Fascist power and working as spies to compass the downfall of the Soviet state and to restore capitalism." All were reported to have pleaded guilty.

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June

- 12 Purge: The government announced that the eight condemned men had been shot.
- 13 Purge: The Minister of Defense, in a special "command to the Army", said that the "military Fascist organization" had existed and functioned for a long time. It went out to describe its activities and said that in return for foreign aid to overthrow the government it had agreed the surrender of the Ukraine.
- 14 Purge: Rozengolz, the Commissar for Foreign Trade, was dismissed from his post. Reports reached Moscow of the shooting of 28 more people at Svoboda, near Khabarovsk. They were described as "Trotskyite and pro-Japanese wreckers employed on the Amur Railway." The head of the political police in Leningrad announced the discovery of foreign spies working for German firms in Russia.
Defense: A new Vice-Commissar of the Defense Industry was appointed.
- 15 Internal reform: A decree was issued granting the collective farms and individual peasants new privileges, which included reductions in taxation, remission of unpaid taxes, an increase of credits, and a small rise in the prices paid for grain.
Purge: Arrests of several officials were reported from Minsk, including Goloded, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars.
Latvia: Speaking at a reception to Manters, the Latvian Foreign Minister, Litvinov said that since people were now thinking of the length of time that separated them from the next war, countries must think not only of their own frontiers, but also of the security of the frontiers of other countries. Owing to the geographical position of Latvia the Soviet Union could not help being interested in the maintenance of her complete independence.
- 16 Purge: Announcement that Krutter, chairman of the Far Eastern Executive Committee, and Larin, chairman of the Rostov Committee, had been relieved of their posts for "inefficiency and lack of Bolshevik vigilance."
Purge: Chernyakov, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of Byelorussia, committed suicide at Minsk "for personal and family reasons." He had been blamed by the local party committee for allowing General Uborevich to carry on his wrecking work.
Latvia: Molotov entertained the Latvian Foreign Minister at a lunch, which was attended by Stalin, Voroshilov, Kaganovich and Yezhov.
- 17 Purge: The dismissal was announced of Tsyloko, Vice-Commissar for Agriculture, and of several party officials at Rostov-on-Don.
- 20 Purge: Nine Communist Party officials were sentenced at Odessa to prolonged terms of imprisonment as "agricultural wreckers."
Spain Non-Intervention Committee: The chairman of the Non-Intervention Committee received a letter from the Soviet Ambassador, who stated that the four Powers had no authority to act independently as they had in making the agreement of 12 June, and that they had created a precedent which might endanger the work of the Committee, for which the Soviet government disclaimed all responsibility.

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June

- 23 Purge: The Premier and many of the higher officials of the Uzbek SSR were removed for anti-government activities.
- 27 Purge: Reports from Khabarovsk stated that more arrests had been made of "diversionist spies", alleged to be emissaries of "a neighboring country dreaming of seizing the Soviet Far East," and 37 of them were executed.
Japan: The headquarters of the Kwantung Army at Hsinking reported Soviet seizure of two small islands on the Amur River. Protests lodged with the Soviet consul at Harbin.
- 29 Japan: Litvinov received the Japanese Ambassador, who protested against the occupation of the islands on the Amur River. It was reported that the Japanese had undertaken to withdraw their troops a certain distance from the bank of the river, and that the Soviet government agreed in principle to evacuate the two islands.
- 30 Japan: The Russians protested the sinking of one of their gun-boats on the Amur River.

July 1937

July

- 1 Defense Loan: The Russian government announced the floating of a four billion defense loan, bearing interest at 4%. It was to be redeemed in 1957.
- 2 Japan: The Commissariat of Defense gave orders to the Army in the Far East to withdraw all armed patrols and cutters from the disputed islands on the Amur.
- 6 Purge: It was reported that 22 railway men had been shot in the Far East, and that groups of "Trotskyist wreckers and spies" had been discovered disorganizing the Moscow transport services, synthetic rubber factories, lorry construction plant, and other branches of industry.
- 7 Purge: The Director-General of Tass, Doletski was denounced in the press as an enemy of the people.
Japan: Complaint lodged with the Japanese Embassy that Japanese troops had been landed on one of the disputed islands on the Amur. The Embassy was reported to have replied that as the islands belonged to Manchukuo there could be no pledge that soldiers would not be stationed on them.
- 8 Purge: Reports were current that among other persons arrested for treason were Kominsky, Rudzutak, Mozhlauk, Karakhan, Krestinsky, Rozengolz, Ossinsky, Unschlicht, and Stern.
- 9 Administration: The Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Union passed unanimously the law for electing a new Supreme Council of the Union, to consist of two chambers, the Union Council, and the Council of Nationalities.

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July

- 9 Purge: Aron Soltz, a judge of the Supreme (cont.) Court, was reported to have been arrested. Personalities: Alexei Gorkin appointed secretary of Central Executive Committee replacing I.P. Akulov, who resigned because of ill health.
- 12 Turkey: The Turkish Foreign Minister and the Minister of the Interior arrived in Moscow.
- 13 Purge: Reports reached Moscow of the shooting in the Far East of 61 persons accused of espionage for Japan and Germany. The Communist Party organ at Tiflis reported the shooting of seven Georgian "old Bolsheviks" who had pleaded guilty of being spies and wreckers.
- 14 Purge: Arrests reported of the Commissar of Education, Bubnov, and the writer Pilnyak.
- 15 Amnesty: With the opening of the Moscow-Volga Canal to navigation, 55,000 prisoners, who had worked on its construction, were liberated.
- 17 Decollectivization: The Presidium of the Central Executive Committee passed a resolution declaring "decollectivization" to be a crime and ordering the punishment of persons who began the movement and of local officials who failed to prevent it. The peasants of some districts understanding that the new Constitution gave them freedom to belong to collective farms or not as they chose, had liquidated the collectives and distributed the live-stock, machinery, etc. Personalities: Yezhov, Commissar for Internal Affairs was awarded Order of Lenin for effectively suppressing counter-revolutionary and anti-government activities. Gt. Britain: Naval agreement signed with Great Britain. Text published 19 July. Ratifications exchanged and came into force 4 November.
- 19 Turkey: The Turkish Foreign Minister left Moscow. A statement was issued that the interests of both countries demanded the preservation of friendly relations.
- 21 Personalities: Procurator Vishinsky awarded the Order of Lenin. Germany: The new Ambassador to Germany, Yurenev, presented his letters of credence to Hitler at Berchtesgaden.
- 23 Personalities: Mikoyan appointed Vice-President of the All-Union Council of Peoples Commissars. Bulganin appointed President of the Council of Peoples Commissars for RSFSR. Yurkin appointed Commissar of State Farms for all of USSR.
- 25 Personalities: Timoshenko named commander of the North Caucasus military area.
- 29 Spain, The Non-Intervention Committee: The Russian government refused to grant belligerent rights to General Franco.
- 30 Spain, The Non-Intervention Committee: Maisky said the question of belligerent rights was irrelevant to that of non-intervention.

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August 1937

August

- 1 Gt. Britain: Izvestiya blamed British diplomacy for the non-intervention deadlock.
Purge: The press recorded the discovery of groups of wreckers in the Commissariat of Justice in the Ukraine, the central committee of the Komsomols, the Commissariat of Agriculture, the Don Basin Coal Trust, and the central committee of the shipbuilding industry. Arrests were reported of Bela Kun, the former dictator of Hungary, Chernov, Commissar of Agriculture, and several members of the Foreign Affairs Commissariat.
- 2 Japan: The Russian government handed a note to the Japanese Foreign Minister protesting a raid on the Soviet Consulate in Tientsin, executed by White Russians on the previous day.
- 4 Finland, Germany: Izvestiya protested against an invitation extended by the Finnish government to a German flotilla of submarines to visit the military port of Abo. The paper claimed that Germany was attempting to establish air bases in North Finland under the pretext of fishing concessions.
Purge: Three of eight officials of the food industry were sentenced to death at Novorossiisk. Purges carried out among Tadzhikistan high officials.
United States: Exchange of notes with the United States, constituting a commercial agreement, which came into force 6 August.
- 6 Purge: Vishinsky condemned severe penalties imposed on peasants for trivial offences and blamed anti-government groups.
- 10 Purge: Arrests reported of high officials in Tashkent, Tadzhikistan, Armenia, some priests, scientists, and industrial leaders.
- 11 Purge: Reports reached Moscow that 72 railway officials had recently been shot at Irkutsk, and that a thorough purge had been carried out in the administration of Turkmenistan.
- 12 Purge: Reports that several hundred foreigners, including 58 Germans, had been arrested.
- 13 Germany: The Russian government received from the German Ambassador representation concerning the arrests of German nationals.
- 19 Purge: Reports reached Moscow of the execution at Irkutsk of 34 members of a spy ring accused of working for the Japanese Intelligence Service.
Japan: Pravda attacked the Japanese Ambassador for circulating to foreign newspaper correspondents in Moscow a statement denying that the Japanese army or police were responsible for the raid on the Soviet Consulate at Tientsin on 1 August.
- 20 Sinkiang: Kashgar reported taken by the Tungans.

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August

- 21 China: A five-year non-aggression pact signed in Nanking by which each party renounced war as an instrument of national policy and undertook not to assist any aggressor attacking the other.
- 22 Industry: The Commissariat of Heavy Industry was split to form a Commissariat of Machine Building headed by Valery Mezhlauk and a Commissariat of Heavy Industry headed by L. Kaganovich.
- 25 Communist Party: The first of the new official Communist history of Russia for schools indicated a considerable change of emphasis in the treatment of Russia's past and particularly of such subjects as the Tsars, the nobility and Christianity.

September 1937

September

- 1 Manchukuo: Reports that the Soviet government had closed all Russian consulates except those at Harbin, Manchuli and Taiho.
- Purge: Following the court-martial and shooting of ten officials of the Leningrad Red Dawn telephone and telegraph factory, a British subject, Mr. R.U. Bell, formerly employed in the same factory, was arrested on a charge of espionage. Numerous collective farm officials and seven Georgians were sentenced to death.
- 2 Purge: It was officially announced that Lymbchenko, chairman of the Council of Peoples Commissars of the Ukraine since 1934, committed suicide to escape arrest on a charge of anti-government activities. Boudarenko was appointed as his successor.
- 3 Gt. Britain: It was learned that the British Embassy had requested that the British Consul-General in Leningrad be allowed to see Mr. Bell, who had not been allowed to communicate with anyone.
- Purge: Fourteen "Trotskyists", found guilty of poisoning the food of Red Army units, were reported to have been shot.
- Italy: Following the sinking of the Russian steamer Blakogew, off Skyros, the Soviet Journal Pravda declared that Italy was responsible for the attacks on Russian ships in the Mediterranean.
- 6 Italy: The Soviet government sent a strongly-worded note to the Italian Foreign Office accusing Italy of responsibility for the sinking of two Russian vessels in the Mediterranean, claiming indemnities, and demanding punishment of the guilty persons. The Italian government repudiated responsibility for the attacks and rejected en bloc the demands for indemnification and punishment of the guilty persons.
- 7 Mediterranean Conference: Russia accepted the Franco-British invitation to the Mediterranean Conference, but enquired why an invitation was sent to Germany, which was not a Mediterranean power and demanded that Spain be invited.

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September

- 8 Japan: A report from Siberia stated that an armed Japanese cutter, anchored in Soviet waters had been detained by the Soviet frontier authorities.
- Italy: The Soviet Charge d'Affaires handed to the Italian Foreign Office a second note stating that the Soviet government did not find the Italian reply to their first note satisfactory and maintained their accusations.
- 10 Japan: The Russian government received and rejected a vigorous protest from the Japanese Ambassador concerning Soviet apprehension of Japanese and Korean fishing boats.
- Nyon Conference: The Nyon Conference was opened. Litvinov in his remarks referred bitterly to United States which had not come and said that although Russia had her own methods for looking after her shipping, she was ready to help in protecting other ships if a scheme was involved. He deplored the fact that the Spanish government had not been invited.
- 12 Italy: Stalin and Molotov took the salute at a mass demonstration in Moscow directed primarily against the "Italian pirates."
- 13 Japan: It was announced that the Russians had informed the Japanese government that the Japanese consulates at Odessa and Novosibirsk would be deprived of consular privileges on 15 September, inasmuch as the Russians had but six consulates in Japan, while Japan had eight in Russia.
- 15 Purge: Krylenko dismissed from his office as Commissar of Justice of the RSFSR.
- 17 The Central Executive Committee approved the Council of People's Commissars on the reorganization of the State Planning Commission.
- 18 All-Union Soviet for Commercial Economy, attached to the Central Executive Committee was abolished.
- 19 Purge: Reports reached Moscow of executions of railway officials in the Far East, accused of working for the Japanese, and of the arrest of party officials in the grain region near Rostov-on-Don. A purge was also reported to be taking place.
- 24 Purge: Reports current in Leningrad that Admiral Ivanov had been court-martialed and shot for having "demoralized sailors of the Red Fleet."
- Japan: A dispute was stated to have arisen over the Japanese oil and coal concessions in the Russian part of Sakhalin owing to the dismissals of large numbers of Russian employees and the virtual suspension of boring and mining operations.
- 25 Japan: The Russian government warned the Japanese that they would be held responsible for all the consequences if any harm came to the Soviet Embassy or Soviet citizens by the "unlawful air bombardment of Nanking."
- Census: Methods used in census of January 1 were declared unscientific and its results were officially nullified. A new census was ordered for January 1939.

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September

- 28 Reports reached Moscow of the dismissal and degradation of several party leaders and higher officials in Armenia. Shakeups continued in Tadzhikistan, Uzbekistan and some of the provinces. The tendency was to replace older men by younger ones.
- 29 Purge: Reports reached Moscow of the execution of many officials at Kharkov, Rostov-on-Don, Sverdlovsk, Tiflis, and other places and in Leningrad 16 persons were shot for conspiring to murder members of the government and wreck the chemical works. They were described as spies of the German Secret Police.
- 30 Personalities: Admiral Viktorov, formerly commander of the Far Eastern Fleet, became Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Navy, replacing Admiral Orlov.
Purge: The former president of the Adjar Republic and seven other officials were executed at Batum for spying.

October 1937

October

- 2 Treason sentences: The Central Executive Committee of the Union issued a decree confirming death by shooting as the supreme penalty for spying, wrecking, arson, and other offenses against the regime, but increasing the maximum armed imprisonment for less serious offenses from ten to twenty-five years, with a view to giving the Courts greater scope in imposing sentences.
Spain, Non-Intervention Committee: The Russians stated that the abandonment of naval supervision must make the continuance of any form of control impracticable.
- 3 Far East Army: Reports that the headquarters of the Far Eastern Army was being transferred from Khabarovsk to Irkutsk.
- 5 Purge: At Leningrad twenty persons described as "wreckers" were sentenced to twenty years imprisonment under the new decree. In the Krasnoyarsk district of Moscow province nine party officials were condemned to death for attempting to ruin farming.
- 6 Purge: The President and the Premier of Daghestan were removed from office as "bourgeois nationalists".
Naval Maneuvers: The Soviet Baltic Fleet tested its ability to withstand aerial attacks.
- 8 Turkey: Agreements signed with Turkey regarding (1) commerce and navigation; (2) exchange and payments.
- 9 Maneuvers: Combined Red Army and Navy maneuvers were held at Vladivostok.
Spain Non-Intervention Committee: The Russians in a note dated 29 September stated that as the naval patrol had ended they saw no useful purpose in maintaining the systems of observers in ships. The note went on to say that "the abolition of the naval patrol and of observers on board ships inevitably involves the abolition also of control on the land frontiers of Spain."

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October

- 10 Purge: Zelensky, chairman of Tsentrosoyuz, was denounced as an enemy of the people. Pravda declared that the organization was overrun with grafters. Twenty-six members of the Presidium of the Central Executive of the USSR were stated to have been removed since the purge began. Rakhmanov, President of the Azerbradzhnan Council of People's Commissars, was dismissed.
- 12 Purge: Announcement that Bubnov had been relieved as Commissar of Education in RSFSR and succeeded by Tyurkin; also that Admiral Kozhanov had been replaced as commander of the Black Sea Fleet by Admiral Smirnov.
Communist Party: Meeting of the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party was closed. Yezhov, Commissar of Internal Affairs, was elected as an alternate member of the Politburo.
- 15 Purge: Rukhimovich was relieved of his office of Commissar of Defense Industries and succeeded by Kaganovich, a brother of the Commissar of Heavy Industry.
- 17 Purge: Veitsev, Commissar of Internal Trade, was dismissed and succeeded by Smirnov.
Military Strength: A foreign authority estimated USSR's defense strength: regular army - 1,300,000, reserves - 10,000,000, first-line combat planes - 2,900, naval tonnage in five principal categories - 270,000.
- 18 Purge: Sudin, Acting Commissar of Foreign Trade, was relieved of his post. Ovsyenko was relieved as Commissar of Justice and succeeded by Dimitriyev, President of the Supreme Court of RSFSR.
- 19 Purge: News reached Moscow that 54 persons had been shot at Ulan-Ude for spying in behalf of Japan. Mezhlauk relieved as Commissar of Machine Industry in which he was succeeded by Bruskin, and was reappointed chairman of the State Planning Commission.
Industrial production: A comparison of production showed 1936 increases over 1926 were as follows: steel -400%, coal - over 300%, oil - 240%, electrical power - almost 600%, total industrial production - 900%.
- 20 Outer Mongolia: The Japanese press published reports, stated to have reached Shanghai, that Moscow had decided to return Outer Mongolia to China. The Mutual Assistance Protocol of 1936 was to be cancelled, and Outer Mongolia to place its forces at the disposal of Nanking.
- 27 Spain, Non-Intervention Committee: The Soviet Ambassador handed a note announcing the discontinuance of payments by Russia towards the Central Scheme.
- 29 Foreign relations: The Russian government announced its decision to accept the invitation to the Far Eastern Conference at Brussels.

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November 1937

November

- 4 Gt. Britain: Ratifications were exchanged in London of the Anglo-Russian Naval Agreement signed 17 July.
- 7 The 20th anniversary of the Russian Revolution was celebrated throughout the Union and Voroshilov addressed a parade in Moscow, extolling the progress made. This would have been greater still, he declared, but for enemies inside and outside the country, Trotskyites, spies, wreckers, and Fascist agents.
- 8 Comintern: The Executive Committee of the Comintern issued a manifesto to the world urging the masses in both Fascist and democratic countries to follow Russia's example in carrying through a revolution. It extolled the united front as the most effective weapon against Fascism.
- 9 Italy: Count Ciano received the Soviet Ambassador who informed him that his government considered the terms of the Anti-Communist Pact to be contrary to the Italo-Russian Agreement of 20 September 1933, and regarded the gesture as an unfriendly act.
Purge: Reports reached Moscow that ten senior officials in Abkhazia had been executed for plotting the assassination of Stalin and three had been sentenced to terms of imprisonment from ten to twenty years. The execution of nine officials of Azerbaidzhan was also reported on a similar charge.
- 10 Purge: The Ambassador to Poland, Davtian, was reported to have been arrested and the Minister to Lithuania was summoned to Moscow.
- 11 Purge: Arrests reported of the Ambassador to Germany, and Turkey and it was rumored that the German Consul-General in Leningrad had been ordered to leave the country immediately. The Ambassador to Germany was alleged to have been in close contact with Nazi leaders and to have failed to report the imminence of the Anti-Comintern Pact.
- 13 Purge: The Military Attache in Helsingfors was recalled and the Minister to Finland was reported to have been arrested. Reports also current of arrests among the clergy in Kazan, Orel, Minsk, Orenburg, Samara and Omsk.
- 15 Purge: The Minister to Latvia was reported to have been arrested, and the Minister to Estonia, whose death had recently occurred, was believed in some quarters to have committed suicide.
- 16 Spain, Non-Intervention Committee: Soviet accepted the British plan for non-intervention in Spain without any qualifications.
- 17 Purge: The arrest was reported of the Prime Minister of the Ukraine on a charge of maintaining treasonable contact with Ukraine Separatists and with an anti-Soviet center in Berlin.
Germany: Announcement in Moscow that the German government had decided to close the Consulates-General at Leningrad and Tiflis and the Consulates at Vladivostok, Odessa, and Kharkov.

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November

- 21 Elections: The official list of candidates for all constituencies in the General Election was published, and showed that there was only one candidate for each. Reports were current that attempts to put forward candidates in opposition to the official ones had been summarily dealt with. Many of the candidates were senior officers of the State Security Police and of the Army.
- 23 Purge: A military court at Leningrad sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment two Germans convicted of espionage on behalf of the German secret service.
- 27 Foreign Relations: A meeting held in Moscow between representatives of the International Federation of Trade Unions and of the Soviet Trade Union Council ended with the signature of an agreement, the terms of which were not published. The object of the conference was to elaborate the conditions on which Russia's Trade Union organization would enter the International Federation for the purpose of unity to "fight Fascism throughout the world."
- 28 Japan: The Foreign Commissar, in a reply to a Japanese protest about the "trans-settlement of Koreans living in Russia, was understood to have replied denying Japan's right to interfere in the question, as the Koreans were citizens of the USSR.
- 29 Purge: Reports current that among officials arrested were Ozerski, formerly chief trade delegate in London, and Bron, his predecessor and former director of Amtorg. Also that the Premier and Commissar of Education in the Ukraine, the Consul-General in New York, and the Minister to Finland were in custody.
- Foreign relations: Litvinov speaking as the unopposed candidate for a Leningrad constituency, attacked the aggressive methods of the totalitarian states and condemned the weakness of the League and of the Brussels conference. Japan, he declared, was not only ravaging her present victim but preparing for another war. The Soviet Union was strong and depended on its own fighting services. It had joined the League to ascertain its worth as an instrument of peace, but unfortunately other states were not willing to cooperate effectively to combat aggression by states which flouted all international law.

December 1937

December

- 2 Tannu Tuva: A visit by the President took place in Moscow.
- 3 Poland: Border incident, when Polish guards interfered with Soviet railroad employees.
- 5 Prediction made that the large 1937 Soviet cotton crop would entirely eliminate the purchase of cotton from the United States.

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December

- 5 Purge: Barmin, Charge d'Affaires of the (cont.) Soviet Legation in Athens, arrived in France and was reported to have requested the French government to allow him to stay as a political emigre. He had received an order to return from Athens to Moscow, and had refused to comply. He was also reported to have addressed an appeal to the Central Committee of the League for the Defense of the Rights of Man for action to save the lives of numerous Soviet diplomats stated to be in prison in Moscow, and also on behalf of those abroad who risked being imprisoned if they returned to Russia.
- 11 Germany: Ambassador Konstantin Yurenyev will not return to Berlin, according to an official announcement. Reports were current that he had been arrested.
- 12 Elections: Elections were held throughout the Soviet Union for choosing members for the Supreme Council.
- 15 Ambassador Troyanovsky declared the verdict of innocence by the Trotsky Defense Committee was only an effort to whitewash Trotsky.
- 17 Japan: Protested against alleged illegal detention of Japanese citizens by the Soviet Union.
- 19 Poland: A Soviet note accused Polish railroad officials of burning a Soviet train. (See 28 Janu ry 1944).
Purge: The trial and execution for high treason, terrorism, and espionage of eight officials were officially announced, including Karakhan, Yenukidze, Zuckerman, and Steiger.
- 20 Trans-Siberian R.R.: Trans-Siberian double tracking announced as completed.
- 21 Japan: Fishing agreement signed with Soviet Union after some delay. The Soviet press said this was caused by Japanese adhesion to the anti-communist pact.
- 23 Lithuania: Trade agreement for 1938 signed with the Soviet Union.
- 27 Export Managers Club (New York) was dissatisfied with conditions for the shipment of goods to the Soviet Union; wanted a standard order form to eliminate friction. (See 8 January 1938.)
- 30 China: Tass declared that the Soviet Union would continue to send war supplies to China, but admitted that the amount was insignificant. Establishment of a People's Commissariat of Navy as distinct from the People's Commissariat of Defense. A. Smirnov appointed as its first Commissar.
- 31 Plan figures for first year of Third Five Year Plan published for Industry and Transport called for 84,300,000 ruble output in 1938, 15.3% greater than for 1937.

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January 1938

January

- 2 China: Soviet Embassy in Nanking reported destroyed by fire.
- 3 Franco: Soviet-French provisional trade agreement prolonged to 31 December 1938.
Soviet Union (Armenian SSR): 8 Armenian officials sentenced to death. Among these was the president of the State Bank, the Rector of the University and two Vice-Commissars for Agriculture.
- 4 United States: Experimental tests of radio-telephone communications between Moscow-New York began. They were to continue throughout January.
- 7 United States: Embassy in Moscow delivered formal note to Soviet Foreign Office asking information on Mrs. Ruth Rubens, an American who disappeared on 9 December 1937 while traveling under the name of Mrs. Donald Robinson.
- 8 Soviet Union: Births in Moscow for 1937 given at 135,848, a considerable increase over 1936.
United States: Soviet officials in the United States declined to prepare a standard order form for American exporters. Competing European firms use forms now available in the United States. (See 27 December 1937.)
- 9 Soviet Union; Purges: Arrest was reported of seven Church dignitaries, as enemies of the people, traitors to the Union, and spies. They included the Metropolitan of Moscow, the former head of the "Living Church" and several Bishops. The press claimed that together with the acting Patriarch of Russia they were agents of a Trotskyist organization working for the German Gestapo.
- 10 Soviet Union; Purges: Altogether 21 bishops were claimed to have been arrested on similar charges since November.
- 11 Rumania: Soviet Minister, Mikhail Ostrovsky, reported asking to be recalled to Moscow because of strained relations with the Goga government. No successor was named. (See 22, 29 January.)
Soviet Union: The Supreme Soviet opened its first session.
- 12 Gt. Britain: The Soviet government informed the British that it wished the number of consular posts maintained by each in the territory of the other to be equal, and as there was only one in Great Britain, it suggested the closing of the consulate in Leningrad.
Similar representations were said to have been made to Latvia, Norway, Sweden, Estonia and Finland.
Soviet Union: A new passenger airline was opened between Krasnoyarsk and Dudinka.
- 13 Gt. Britain: Opposed a Soviet request to close its Leningrad consulate. (See 23 January.)
United States: Secretary of State Hull asked Ambassador Troyanovsky again for information on Mrs. Rubens, believed under investigation as spy in Moscow.

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January

14 Soviet Union: The creation was announced of a General Staff of the Navy, under Admiral Galler, a former Tsarist officer.

15 Italy: It was announced that the government had suspended all direct payments due to Italian firms for goods supplied, on the ground that Soviet organizations had not paid for goods purchased by Italy, particularly oil, for about a year.

Soviet Union: Supreme Soviet affirmed decision to establish a Commissariat of Navy.

A joint session of the Supreme Soviet adopted unanimously an amendment to the Constitution giving the Presidium power to declare martial law throughout the country wherever and whenever Soviet territory was threatened by a foreign foe.

Molotov announced that large warships would be built, owing to the refusal of Italy and Japan to limit their fleets.

Reports that 23 Moscow journalists had been arrested and one shot; also that the former Minister to Estonia had been banished to the north for 10 years as a Trotskyist.

17 Japan: Zhdanov urged more determined action in dealing with Japanese provocations, and of those from Manchoukuo.

Soviet Union: The Supreme Soviet elected M. Kalinin as President. Other members were Marshals Budenny and Blücher, Mme. Krupskaya, Kaganovich, and Zhdanov.

Molotov resigned and was at once asked to form a new government.

18 Soviet Union; Purges: A decree was issued ordering the cessation of expulsions from the Communist Party without investigation, the examination and reinstatement of many thousands of people recently expelled, and the punishment of malicious informers.

19 Estonia: Soviet guards killed on the border.

Soviet Union: Molotov was unanimously re-elected Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, as were the others except Kr. Lento, who was replaced as Commissar of Justice by Rysikov. Chubar was succeeded as Commissar of Finance by Zverov, but remained a Vice-chairman of the Council.

Molotov denounced certain foreign Consulates "engaged in hostile anti-Soviet spying activities on Soviet territory", warned Japan that the Union would know how to defend its interests and "end Japanese hoodliganism on the Far Eastern frontier", and accused France of harboring individuals engaged in anti-Soviet activities.

Supreme Soviet adjourned.

Report that Mezhlauk, former director of the Gosplan, had been shot as a Trotskyist.

Sun Fo arrived in Moscow accompanied by a delegation of Chinese administrators and had conversations with several Soviet leaders.

20 China: A Hankow dispatch stated that the construction of a highway between China and the Soviet Union, via Sinkiang, was progressing rapidly.

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January

- 22 Rumania: Soviet Minister M.S. Ostrovsky recalled (cf. 11, 29 January).
 United States: Soviet authorities refused to permit U.S. Embassy officials to visit Mrs. Rubens until their questioning of her had been completed.
- 23 Gt. Britain: Statement that Russian visas will be issued only at Leningrad. (See 13 January.)
 Soviet Union: According to Japanese press the USSR's Pacific squadron had 90 submarines.
- 24 China: Soviet Embassy in Hankow reported destroyed by fire.
 Gt. Britain: Branch consulate at Moscow closed.
- 25 Finland: Russian request reported that Finnish consulate in Leningrad be closed.
 Soviet Union: According to London reports fortifications and shipbuilding activities at Leningrad have been greatly intensified and that the district is to become a great naval base. This is believed to be the reason for the closing of foreign consulates at Leningrad.
 Turkey: All Turkish and Soviet consulates, except one, to be closed on each other's territory.
 United States: State Department declined to accept USSR's refusal for permission to interview Mrs. Rubens and charged it to be a violation of Litvinov-Roosevelt agreements of 1933.
- 27 Japan: Temporary suspension of postal service between Japan and the Soviet Union.
- 28 Denmark: Agreed to close its consulate in Leningrad on 1 April.
 Poland: Agreed to regulate the railroad incidents at the Soviet border. (See 3, 19 December 1937.)
 Soviet Union: Agricultural plan for 1938 was published.
 Completion of the foundation for the Palace of Soviets was announced.
- 29 League of Nations: Foreign Ministers Eden, Delbos and Litvinov reported conferring with Dr. Koo on resolution to be submitted to League Council for aid to China.
 Rumania: The Rumanian ambassador was recalled from Moscow. (See 11 January.)
 Soviet Union: The clearance of inhabitants from areas along Soviet borders for military reasons was reported.
 Vyshinsky, Procurator of USSR, reported that 25 percent of criminal cases brought to court in Moscow were without foundation, and condemned the tendency to mass accusations.
- 30 Soviet Union: People's Commissar of Heavy Industry, Kaganovich, issued an order on the 1938 plan for heavy industry and the measures to be taken to insure its fulfillment.
- 31 Soviet Union: Baltic Fleet held tactical exercises.

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February 1938

February

- 1 Soviet Union: Smirnov, Peoples' Commissar of the Navy, stated that the USSR's coast defenses had tripled during the last five years, and that the Navy's old pre-war battleships had been modernized; Kuznetsov was announced to be the new commander of the Pacific Fleet.
- 2 Soviet Union: Plenum of the Society of Militant Atheists met.
- 3 Soviet Union: A decree was issued providing for the reorganization of the State Planning Commission. The start of construction on a new railroad from Ulan Ude (capital of Buryat Mongolia situated on the Trans-Siberian railroad) to Kiakhta on the Outer Mongolian frontier was announced.
- 5 Soviet Union: Bezbozhnik (Atheist) publication to be resumed.
United States: Soviet authorities agreed to allow a U.S. representative to interview Mrs. Rubens.
- 6 Soviet Union: A decree was issued reorganizing the system for financing Machine Tractor Stations.
- 7 Rumania: Soviet legation informed Rumanian foreign office that the charge d'affaires, Butenko, had disappeared the evening before and could not be found. (cf. 10, 16 February.)
- 8 Japan: War minister, Sugiyama, said Soviet armament expansion required that Japan should also build up its armaments. The Soviets had 1500 airplanes in the Far East.
- 9 Estonia: Second border clash with Soviet guards.
Rumania: Emphatic Soviet protest over disappearance of the Soviet charge, Butenko.
- 10 Rumania: Soviet Union sent a note of protest on the disappearance of Butenko. (cf. 16 February.)
United States: Charge d'affaires Henderson interviewed Mrs. Rubens, who made no request for aid from State Department.
- 12 China: USSR reported refusing further aid to China, but permitting plane purchases and enlistment of volunteers.
- 14 Soviet Union: Stalin's statement in Pravda on home and foreign affairs. Stalin declared there were two problems before them: internally, overcoming their own bourgeoisie, and building a complete socialism, and externally, of securing the country from the dangers of foreign intervention. The first had been solved, although "a victory of Socialism in our country is not yet final." The second problem had not yet been solved.
Soviet Union: Air Force: General Loktyonoff appointed Commander in Chief of the Red Air Force in place of General Alksinis.

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February

- 15 United States: Suit of Soviet government to recover one million dollars from National City Bank of New York was dismissed by New York Supreme Court. Although money was deposited in 1918, the Court held that all Russian claims against American nationals were assigned to the U.S. government under Litvinov agreement of 1933.
- 16 Rumania: The alleged missing Butenko, in Rome, denounced Bolshevism and the Soviet government. (cf. 7 February.)
- 17 Germany: Reports from Berlin indicated measures were being taken by German government to remove from the country all Jewish Soviet citizens (about 1,000 or 8% of Soviet citizens resident in Germany).
Iran: Ambassador to Moscow denied report that Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan and Iraq were negotiating to amend Four-Power Treaty between them to include anti-Communist provision.
Rumania: Foreign Commissar Litvinov protested again over the disappearance of Butenko, as all efforts to see him in Rome have been refused to the Soviet Embassy.
- 18 Gt. Britain: Opinion in Moscow official circles considered that Eden's resignation and Great Britain's "capitulation" to aggressor nations had increased danger of war.
- 19 Rumania: Bucharest newspapers reported USSR about to begin construction of fortifications along the Russo-Rumanian frontier and additional air bases and coast defenses along the Black Sea Coast.
- 20 China: Sun Fo and the other members of the Chinese Mission left Moscow after a 5-week visit. The mission presumably failed to secure a promise of military aid to China.
- 21 Japan: Port authorities at Hakodate were reported to have searched a Soviet survey ship and to have arrested the captain.
- 22 Soviet Union; Purgos: Speaking on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Red Army, Marshal Voroshilov said that Admirals Orlov, Sivkov and Ludry had been shot as enemies of the people. He also said the Army was not intended for aggression, but was ready to fight all enemies.
- 23 United States: Ambassador Davies returned to Moscow to stay there till late spring, when he would go to Brussels.
- 26 Estonia: The Soviet-Estonia Trade Agreement signed.
- 27 Soviet Union; Purgos: The State Prosecutor announced that 21 prominent men were to be tried for treason, including Bukharin, Rykov, Rakovsky, Grinko, Krestinsky, Rosengoltz, Yagota, Chernov and Ivanov.
Three doctors were accused of murdering Kuibyshev, Menzhenski and Gorki.

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March 1938

March

- 1 Denmark, Estonia: Consulates to be closed.
Germany: The German-Soviet Trade Agreement extended for 1938.
Soviet Union; Foreign Policy: The press published a statement explaining that the article in Pravda of 14 February had been misunderstood. Soviet foreign policy was not directed against any peaceful foreign state, but only against Fascism. The Union had two enemies, the imperialism of Japan and the Fascism of Germany and Italy, and both the Union and the Comintern were cooperating loyally with all other countries against Fascism. It was "certain that an armed clash will come with Fascism, which will develop into a great war in which one of the sides will be destroyed."
- 2 Soviet Union; Purgas: The trial of the 21 accused men, including Bukharin, Rykov, Rakovsky and Yagoda, opened. The indictment included charges that Trotsky, in cooperation with some of the accused, had been a secret agent of the German government since 1921, and of the British government since 1926. All the accused pleaded guilty except Krestinsky.
- 3 Soviet Union; Purgas: Krestinsky withdrew his statement of the previous day and pleaded guilty.
- 5 China: Communist press in China insisted that Moscow trials would disclose plots by Trotskyists to aid Japan.
Germany: Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to close all their consulates on each other's territory. (See 9 March.)
Soviet Union; Purgas: During the trial, Rakovsky declared that in 1924, while Ambassador in London, he had been forced into the British Secret Service, and had spied for Britain and for Japan up to 1936. He also said that Trotsky had told him that he was a British agent, too.
Statements made during the trial incriminated two Ambassadors: Bogomolov, Ambassador in China until autumn of 1937, and Yurenyov, in Japan till June 1937.
- 8 Japan: The USSR protested against the detention by the Japanese of two Soviet steamers and one mail plane.
- 9 Iran, Latvia, and Sweden: Agreements reached by the USSR with these countries to close most of their consulates.
- 11 Japan: Eight Japanese, earlier arrested as suspected spies, held by the Soviet government as hostages for two Soviet ships and crew held by the Japanese.
- 13 Soviet Union; Purgas: Eighteen of the prisoners were condemned to death, Pletnev was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment, Rakovsky to 20 years, and Besonov to 15 years.

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March

- 15 Soviet Union: A government spokesman in Moscow told the press that the USSR would go to the aid of Czechoslovakia if she were attacked, provided France did likewise.
- 17 Austria, Germany: Litvinov's statement to the foreign press saying that Hitler's seizure of Austria was a menace to all states, and that Russia was prepared to participate in measures either within the League or without that would aim at checking any further aggression.
- 18 Gt. Britain, France, United States: The Russian government transmitted notes to the British, French and U.S. governments proposing that statesmen from the four countries convene and see what could be done collectively to prevent further aggression.
- 21 Soviet Union: An order was issued for the improvement of potato production in order to secure local self-sufficiency in every region of the USSR.
Soviet Foreign Trade for 1937 showed a favorable balance of \$77,000,000.
- 23 Japan: Russia's request to close consulate at Vladivostok refused by Japan. (See 2 May.)
- 27 Japan: Japan and Manchoukuo stopped payments on the Chinese Eastern Railway.
- 28 Soviet Union (Kazakh SSR): The execution was announced of 19 senior officials of the Republic of Kazakhstan, including a former President.
- 30 Manchoukuo: Reports from Hsinking from Japanese sources stated that the Outer Mongolian government with Soviet help had stationed on the frontier some 50,000 infantry, supported by other units. Also that large forces of Soviet troops were concentrated at Unga and Sanbeis in Outer Mongolia.

April 1938

April

- 1 Soviet Union: Religion: M. Platonov, former Metropolitan of the Living Church in Leningrad, renounced the church and proclaimed his adherence to Soviet doctrines.
- 4 Japan: The Foreign Commissar received a protest from the Japanese Ambassador against the military assistance which he asserted the government was giving to China. Litvinov replied that their attitude in selling arms to China was in complete accordance with international law.
Soviet Union; Purges: Krylenko, the former Commissar of Justice, was denounced as a "despicable traitor" by the State Prosecutor.
- 5 Soviet Union: L. Kaganovich was appointed to replace A. Bakulyn as Commissar of Railroads while continuing his present post as Commissar of Heavy Industry.
- 6 Bulgaria: F.F. Raskolnikov, Ambassador to Bulgaria, reported recalled.

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April

- 8 Soviet Union: N. Yezhov, Commissar of Internal Affairs was also named Commissar of Water Transport, replacing N.I. Pakhomov.
- 10 Soviet Union (Tatar ASSR): The executions of Commissariat of Agriculture officials in the Tatar Republic was announced.
An announcement was made that the 1938 Trade Union budget amounted to 2 billion rubles.
- 11 Finland: An agreement is signed with USSR regulating parcel post arrangements.
Japan: The USSR protested the alleged flight of eleven Japanese planes over Soviet territory.
Soviet Union; Army: Editorials in leading newspapers pointed to the increased power and prestige of political officers in the Red Army, who educate Red Army men in Soviet ideology.
- 12 Soviet Union; Education: An order extended the amount of time for independent study for university students; requiring a four grade system of grading and eliminating physical education in the middle of the day.
- 13 Soviet Union; Navy: American naval officials estimated Soviet submarine strength at 150 subsersibles.
- 15 United States: New York State Appellate Division rejected U.S. Government claim to Moscow Fire Insurance Company surplus under Litvinov-Roosevelt agreement.
- 16 Belgium: Parcel post agreement signed between Belgium and the USSR.
- 17 Soviet Union: Construction of the Kazan-Yegorlyk Canal, joining the Kuban and the Don, was started. Completion was projected for 1940.
- 18 Greece: Soviet-Greek trade agreement signed for 1938.
Japan: Japanese sources reported the detention by Soviet officials of a Japanese plane forced down on Soviet territory.
- 20 Soviet Union; Purges: Decrees were issued ordering the cessation of the purge of collective farms.
- 23 Soviet Union; Religion: It was reported that Moscow churches were crowded for Easter service.
- 24 Gt. Britain: Ambassador to Moscow informed the Foreign Commissar that his Government took a grave view over the arrest of Rose Cohen, foreign editor of the Moscow Daily News. She was a British subject who married a Russian who had recently been convicted of espionage.
Soviet Union; Purges: The press reported the arrest of 25 clerics, including an Archbishop and a Bishop of Moscow, charged with espionage for Germany, Poland and Japan, and with organizing secret churches and monasteries.
At Kirgiz SSR 9 men were executed for spying and wrecking.

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April

26. United States: Supreme Court reversed the Circuit Court of Appeals' decision admitting U.S. Government's right to sue for funds held for the Kerensky Government.
27. Japan: The Tass Agency stated that the government had been trying to reach an agreement with Japan over 10 issues outstanding, and that Tokyo had made counter proposals.
28. Finland: A protocol signed between the USSR and Finland defining the border.
30. Soviet Union; Purgas: General P.E. Dybenko was removed from his post as commander of the Leningrad Military District.

May 1938

May

1. Comintern: May Day manifesto urged U.S. workers to demand arms embargo against Japan.
Soviet Union: The Commissar for Defense, speaking at the May Day celebration in Moscow, warned the nation that it must be kept in a state of mobilization, as the world was now an armed camp; "our numerous enemies...prepare open war against us." The military section of the parade revealed better equipment than previously seen.
2. Japan: Japan refused Soviet request to close its consulates at Khabarovsk and Blagoveshchensk.
4. Japan: Warning to the USSR against aid to China reported.
5. Japan: Re Japan's protests against Russian aid to China, M. Litvinov replied that many countries were sending arms and volunteers to China, but the Ambassador answered that volunteering was impossible in Russia, and that the Soviet government would be responsible for any situation that might arise from their aiding China.
7. Germany: A.T. Morekalov reported appointed Soviet Ambassador to Berlin.
International Peace Movement meeting, Geneva: N.M. Shvernik, Secretary of the All-Union Council of Trade Unions, urged international cooperation for peace.
8. Turkey: The Soviet-Turkish Trade Agreement unanimously ratified by the Turkish government.
9. Czechoslovakia: The British government informed the Soviet government of steps taken in Prague, in conjunction with the French government, to promote a peaceful settlement of the Sudeten German problem.
Ethiopia: In the League Council, Litvinov led a debate on Ethiopian representation; insisted that the Council should abide by the League's established principle of refusing to recognize the results of acts of violence committed in contravention of the Covenant.

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- May
11 Japan: The Soviet government rejected a note from Japan dated 11 May protesting against a speech made by the Naval Commissar at Vladivostok on 1 May, wherein he is reported to have said, "The Japanese imperialists, like bloodthirsty mad dogs, tear to pieces the living body of China." The Soviet reply pointed out that "a campaign of slander and propaganda against the USSR has been systematically carried out by Japan... frequently with participation of official institutes and persons."
Soviet Union; Purges: Bolshevik reported the arrest of several clergymen in Leningrad on charges of espionage and debauchery.
- 12 Ethiopia: In the League debate following the Emperor's speech, Litvinov supported Ethiopia, took issue with Lord Halifax on his contention that peace would be best served by the course which Great Britain was proposing.
- 14 Soviet Union; Budget: The social insurance budget, amounting to more than 6 billion rubles, was published.
- 16 Japan: The USSR rejected the Japanese protest against a speech made by Commissar of the Navy Smirnov at Vladivostok on May Day.
- 18 Soviet Union; Finance: Announcement was made of a 20-year internal loan to be issued on 1 June, amounting to 600 million rubles and accompanied by a conversion of loans for 1929, 1930, 1932 and 1935.
Soviet Union; Navy: K.I. Dushenov, commander of the Northern Fleet, announced that the naval base near Murmansk was strong enough to prevent blockading of the Soviet northern sea route in time of war.
- 19 International Federation of Trade Unions: The general council of the Federation rejected the conditions proposed by Soviet trade unions for affiliation with the I.F.T.U.
- 25 United States: The Soviet Ambassador speaking in New York said that though Russia did not appear to be menaced by immediate danger, it could not wash its hands of the present European situation. It would be faithful to its principles and its treaties; "we are ready to defend France itself. We shall perhaps be summoned to defend other Great Powers. We do not want to be isolated in international affairs. A firm stand against the aggressors is the fundamental solution of the present international tension."
The press published articles on the same theme.
- 26 Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: The Soviet representative voted against the British plan for withdrawal of foreign volunteers in Spain.
- 28 Afghanistan: The USSR signed an agreement for cooperation with Afghanistan in combatting insect pests detrimental to cotton and other crops.
- 31 Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: The Soviet government offered to pay her share of expenses in preliminary count of foreign volunteers in Spain, but still refused to contribute to the cost of their actual evacuation.

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June 1938

June

- 1 China: The Russian press reported that Dr. Sun Fo, when he had been in Moscow, had concluded a "9-point agreement" by which Russia would enjoy a privileged position in China in exchange for extending the material assistance already being given and, in particular, strengthening the mechanized land forces and the air force.
Soviet Union; Elections: During the month of June elections were held in Union and Autonomous Republics for the delegates to their respective Supreme Soviets.
- 2 Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: The Soviet Union agreed to the plan for withdrawal of foreign troops from Spain on condition that international observers were permanently stationed in Spanish ports.
- 3 China: Conclusion of a 5-year non-aggression pact with China signed on 21 August 1937, was announced by the Foreign Commissariat. It was also believed that Sun Fo had signed an undertaking guaranteeing the Soviet Government most-favored nation treatment in China.
- 4 Soviet Union; Industry: Plans for the total industrial production for the third quarter of 1938 averaged 28 percent above the output for the corresponding period of 1937.
- 5 United States: Ambassador Davies had interviews with Kalinin, Molotov, and Stalin on his departure from Moscow to take up new post in Brussels.
- 8 United States: Litvinov, speaking at a dinner for Ambassador Davies, said that there was "a latent, unproclaimed, mutual sympathy and respect between the peoples of both States." Mr. Davies said he admired the achievements and policy of the Soviet Government in the upbringing of young, talented people, and also admired the country's economic achievements.
- 12 China: Tokyo press revealed Sino-Soviet pact terms.
Soviet Union: Elections to the Supreme Soviet (cf. 24, 26 June).
- 17 Soviet Union; Purges: The G.P.U. announced the discovery and liquidation of a number of religious groups in Moscow, Leningrad, Gorki, Kazakhstan and other places.
- 21 Comintern: The Secretary-General of the Comintern issued a 4-point anti-Fascist program, calling on the workers of the world, especially in France, Britain, and the U.S.A., to bring effective pressure to bear on their governments to join the USSR in destroying the existing regimes in Germany, Italy and Japan.
Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: The USSR agreed to the closing of the Spanish frontiers to munitions deliveries, under the terms of the general plan for the evacuation of foreign troops from Spain.

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June

- 23 Soviet Union: Litvinov's speech at Leningrad demanding a firm stand against aggression.
Soviet Union; Savings: More than 14 million depositors had savings totalling 5.3 billion rubles in 23,684 savings bank offices in the USSR.
- 24 Soviet Union: Further elections to the Supreme Soviet (cf. 12 June).
- 25 Soviet Union; Foreign policy: M. Litvinov, speaking at Leningrad, declared that Germany intends to achieve her pre-war borders and to demand return of her colonies and that without firing a single shot Germany had succeeded in nullifying the results of the World War. With respect to Czechoslovakia, Russia was desirous of seeing that her disputes were settled peacefully.
United States: Foreign Commissar Litvinov expressed doubt that the United States would take active steps to combat Fascism on the European continent.
- 26 Soviet Union: Further elections to the Supreme Soviet (cf. 12 June).
Spain: Three Soviet ships, the Maks Gelt, the Lensoviet, and the Akademik Pavlov, which had been seized by the Spanish rebels, were released.
- 29 Japan: The USSR charged that Japan violated the Portsmouth treaty by detaining a Soviet ship in Laperouse Bay.

July 1938

July

- 1 Japan: Japan countered Russian claims of Japanese arrest of General Lyushkov, head of the G.P.U. in the Far East, who had presumably crossed the Manchoukuoan border on 13 June, as protective custody requested by the General himself.
Soviet Union: During July the Supreme Soviets met for the first time under their new constitutions.
Soviet Union; Finance: The government decreed the issue of a new 20-year loan of 5 billion rubles for "economic and cultural needs in 1938 and reinforcement of the country's defenses." Half would bear interest at 4% and the other half would be a lottery.
Soviet Union; Purgés: In a signed statement to the Japanese press, General Lyushkov declared that Leninism was dead in the USSR, that Stalin was liquidating his rivals on fictitious charges. He declared that the Red Army east of Lake Baikal consisted of 400,000 troops, with 2,000 aircraft, and 90 submarines at Vladivostok and other ports.
- 5 Spanish Non-Intervention Committee: England, France, Germany, Italy, and the USSR finally agreed on a plan for the evacuation of foreign troops from Spain. The plan was to be submitted to Barcelona and Burgos.
United States: President Roosevelt conferred with Ambassador Davies.

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July

- 6 Gt. Britain: The USSR and Great Britain signed a naval pact to bring their agreement of July 30, 1936 into accord with the 45,000-ton limit for battleships set by Great Britain, the United States and France. The pact did not apply to forces in the Pacific, since Japan had not agreed to the limit.
- 9 Finland: The Soviet Union protested a violation of its border by a Finnish airplane.
- 11 Manchoukuo: Soviet troops occupied Changkufeng Hill on Manchurian border (cf. 31 July, 10 August).
- 12 United States: Howard Hughes landed in Moscow on his round-the-world flight.
- 13 Latvia: The Soviet Union protested a violation of its border by a Latvian airplane.
Soviet Union; Purges: General Lyushkov (see 1 July) told a meeting of foreign press correspondents in Tokyo that the various purges in Russia had affected over 10,000 senior military officers and political leaders, as well as at least a million civilians and soldiers. In the army nearly all the officers who had taken part in the fighting between 1917 and 1921 had been removed or executed.
- 14 Germany: Soviet Ambassador A.T. Merekalov reported accredited to Hitler.
- 15 Japan: The USSR rejected a Japanese demand that Soviet border guards evacuate Changkufeng on the Soviet-Korean-Manchurian border.
Soviet Union: Sovnarkom ordered the industrial commissariats to increase production of consumers' goods.
- 17 Japan: Communique issued in Moscow stated that "from 11 July not a single Red soldier crossed the frontier into Manchoukuo territory. The Foreign Office demonstrated this to the Japanese Charge d'Affaires by showing him the Chung Ching Treaty of 1869 between Russia and China and the map attached to it. This does not permit any doubt that Lake Hanka, west of which it is alleged that the Soviet incursion occurred, lies entirely inside Soviet territory."
- 18 Japan: Two representatives of Japanese-Manchoukuo authorities were sent to Soviet Commander to request evacuation of Changkufeng, a hill on borders of Manchoukuo and the USSR.
- 19 Poland: The Soviet press criticized the Polish Foreign Minister's visits to the Baltic capitals. Pravda declared that the so-called "block of neutral countries extending from the Black Sea to the Arctic Ocean", which he was trying to create, was really a Fascist organization which would be wielded in good time as an instrument against Russia.

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July

- 20 Japan: Shigemitsu, Japanese Ambassador to Moscow, in an interview with Litvinov, demanded that Soviet troops evacuate Changkufeng, and threatened use of force. Litvinov rejected the demand, stated that the territory was Soviet under terms of the Hunchung Agreement of 1886.
- 22 Poland: The USSR protested to Poland on the "surveillance" to which its embassy employees were subjected in Warsaw.
Soviet Union; Census: Sovnarkom issued an order for the organization of an All-Union census in 1939.
- 23 Japan: Foreign Office claimed that 160 Soviet soldiers had crossed the border and set fire to several Manchoukuo villages before Manchoukuo troops forced them to withdraw. The Manchoukuo government filed a protest with the Soviet authorities.
- 25 Japan: It was reported that 2 representatives of the Japanese-Manchoukuo local authorities who had been sent on 18 July with a note to the Soviet Commander at Novokosisk requesting the evacuation of Changkufeng had returned without a reply.
- 27 Soviet Union: Purge of Pacific Fleet officers reported.
- 29 Japan: Serious fighting between Soviet and Japanese troops took place near Changkufeng.
- 30 Soviet Union: The new electrified railroad line from Moscow to Stalingrad was opened for regular service.
- 31 Japan: Protest to Japan re Manchoukuo clash. Soviet government said that the incident at Changkufeng had been caused by Japanese-Manchoukuo detachments crossing into Soviet territory.
Manchoukuo: Korean Garrison Command stated that Japanese had reoccupied the disputed heights of Changkufeng Hill after heavy fighting (cf. 11 July, 10 August).

August 1938

August

- 1 Japan: A communique issued in Moscow claimed that a Japanese attack had been repulsed with enormous losses, and that Soviet troops were holding Changkufeng Hill.
- 2 United States: Communication from American Charge (Kirk) to the Commissar of Foreign Affairs (Litvinov) concerning the amount of purchases which USSR intended to make in the U.S. during the next 12 months.
- 4 Japan: In an interview with Litvinov, the Japanese Ambassador in Moscow expressed his desire to settle the dispute without further fighting, and asked for the cessation of Russian attacks on Japanese positions.
United States: Litvinov's answer to the communication of 2 August, stating the amount to be at least \$40,000,000.

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August

- 6 United States: Identical Notes exchanged between the U.S. Charge (Kirk) and the Foreign Commissar (Litvinov) confirming the extension until 6 August 1938 the commercial agreement of 4-6 August 1937.
- 7 Soviet Union: Last Lutheran church in Moscow reported closed.
Constantine Stanislavsky, founder of the Moscow Art Theatre, died at the age of 75.
- 8 Japan: Articles in the Soviet press accused the Japanese "militarists" of deliberately trying to force Japan into war with the USSR and said that if their provocative activities continue, a serious war must inevitably arise, since the Soviet government was determined not to let the killing of frontier guards continue.
Soviet Union: American exports to the USSR in June, 1938 were twice as great as those of June, 1937.
- 10 Japan: A truce between Japanese and Soviet forces at Changkufeng to begin noon, 11 August, arranged. A commission of two Soviet and two Japanese representatives designated to redemarcate the border (cf. 11, 31 July, 10 August).
Soviet Union: The second session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR met.
- 11 Soviet Union: Report that the Supreme Soviet had begun discussion of a Budget for 1938 which included an increase of military expenditure by 7 billion rubles - i.e., 30% - over the 1937 figure.
- 14 Japan: Shooting incident on the Soviet-Japanese border on Sakhalin.
- 15 Gt. Britain: Sir William Seeds appointed British Ambassador to the USSR.
Soviet Union: L.M. Kaganovich was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Sovnarkom.
I.G. Kabanov replaced A.L. Gilinsky as Commissar of the Food Industry.
- 16 Rumania: The building of roads across Rumania to connect the Soviet Union with Czechoslovakia was reported.
Soviet Union: New Judicature Act adopted.
- 17 Japan: The Japanese government reported that the truce at Changkufeng was fully in effect. Further questions arising out of the truce to be handled by the commanders at the scene.
- 18 Soviet Union; Aviation: In celebration of "Aviation Day", the Chief of the Russian Air Force published a statement that the USSR had attained "indisputable world supremacy of the air, with the mightiest air fleet in the world."
- 21 Soviet Union: The second session of the Supreme Soviet closed, after approving the 1938 budget, and passing new laws on the election of judges and citizenship.
Soviet Union; Defense: The Peoples' Commissariat of Defense called the classes of 1917 and part of 1918 to their period of military service, beginning 1 September.

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August

- 22 Czechoslovakia, Germany: German Ambassador had an interview with Litvinov.
- 24 Soviet Union; Purgas: Ten leading officials of the Azerbaidzhan Commissariat of Agriculture were sentenced to death for plotting the overthrow of the Soviet Government and "wrecking" cattle feeding.
- 28 Soviet Union; Navy: New naval program, concentrating on capital ships, announced in Krasny Flot (navy newspaper).
- 30 Soviet Union; Purgas: The Naval Commissariat announced that Admiral Orlov, Commander in Chief of the Navy, Admiral Sivkov, Commander of the Baltic Fleet, and Admiral Ludry, Chief of the Naval Academy, had been shot as traitors some time previously.
- 31 Germany: Editorial in Journal de Moscow warned that German aggression in Czechoslovakia would be dangerous for small states as well as for Great Britain and France. It further stressed the need for concerted practical measures by the great powers and reasserted USSR's pledge to live up to its obligations under the mutual assistance pact with Czechoslovakia.

September 1938

September

- 2 Japan: Tokyo reports stated that secret plans of the Japanese cabinet were to increase the strength of forces on the Soviet border, after consolidation of gains in China.
- Soviet Union: Izvestiya called for the purification of Soviet art from decadent modernistic influences, urging return to the great painters of the Renaissance as models, and Soviet humanism to be the basis of Socialist art.
- 5 Czechoslovakia: Litvinov reported to have said to the German Ambassador, "The Soviet Union has promised to help Czechoslovakia. She will keep her word and do her best."
- Soviet Union; Jews: The Society for Jewish Farm Settlement in Russia, an American organization having worked for seventeen years in settling 250,000 Jews on collective farms in Russia, terminates its work there as being no longer necessary.
- United States: German-American Bund urged the severance of diplomatic relations with the USSR.
- 6 China: Gen. Yang Chieh reported appointed Ambassador to Moscow.
- Czechoslovakia: Moscow press repeated the assurances reported to have been given by M. Kalinin to a Czechoslovak delegation on 11 May that the USSR would fulfill its treaty obligations.
- Soviet Union; Youth Movement: 750,000 youths marched in the International Youth Day celebration; slogans urged solidarity of youth throughout the world against war and Fascism.

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September

- 9 Rumania: Litvinov and Rumanian Foreign Minister Petrescu Comnen reported discussing the possibility of Russia's being permitted to move troops through Rumania to Czechoslovakia in the event of a German attack on the latter.
- Soviet Union: Pravda began to print in full the text of the new Short History of the Communist Party.
- 11 Soviet Union: The second branch of the Moscow subway was opened to normal traffic.
- 12 Rumania: It was reported that an agreement had been reached between the Rumanian Foreign Minister and Litvinov that in the event of an aggression against Czechoslovakia neither country would remain neutral.
- 13 Japan: The Japanese government protested to the Soviet government against "illegal penetration" into Japanese territory near Handazawa, Sakhalin, by Soviet frontier guards on four occasions in August.
- 14 Soviet Union: Navy: The Baltic, Black Sea and Pacific Ocean Fleets of the Soviet navy began their autumn tactical maneuvers.
- 15 Gt. Britain: The Russian press expressed disapproval of Chamberlain's visit to Germany and claimed that he hoped to sacrifice Czechoslovakia to make a bargain with Hitler.
- 16 Czechoslovakia: Izvestiya's Geneva correspondent reported that Hitler's purpose in Czechoslovakia was to force her to abrogate her French and Soviet pacts, to substitute a four power agreement of England, France, Germany and Italy, and thus to isolate the USSR.
- Soviet Union: Red Army troop concentration in Ukraine reported.
- 17 Gt. Britain: Pravda regarded Chamberlain's visit to Germany as a deliberate betrayal of Czechoslovakia and urged France to stand more inflexibly.
- 20 Japan: Mamoru Shigemitsu, Japanese Ambassador to Moscow, transferred to London.
- League of Nations: The Soviet delegation at Geneva stated that it had told the Prague government in response to their query on the preceding day that Russia would carry out her obligations to Czechoslovakia.
- 21 Czechoslovakia: The Soviet Press denounced the Anglo-French plan of having Czechoslovakia yield the Sudeten area to Germany. Litvinov in a speech before the League Assembly defended Czechoslovakia and the preservation of peace through League machinery, but said that at the moment when a further list of sacrifices to the god of aggression was being drawn up the Soviet government disclaimed all responsibility for the events taking place and their consequences.
- Soviet Union: An order was issued forbidding resale of industrial goods in collective farm markets at higher prices than those prevailing in government stores.

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September

- 22 League of Nations: Litvinov stated readiness of the USSR to support Czechoslovakia if France did likewise.
- 23 Poland: The Soviet Foreign Office warned Poland that the Soviet-Polish non-aggression pact of 1932 would be denounced if Poland attempted to invade Czechoslovakia.
League of Nations: Soviet officials at Geneva reaffirmed Russia's willingness to aid Czechoslovakia; France had been told the exact amount of military aid the USSR was prepared to give.
- 24 Poland: Large Russian forces, estimated at 30 divisions, with 3,000 airplanes, were reported to have concentrated in the western areas within striking distance of Poland.
- 25 League of Nations: Geneva reports stated that Litvinov would appeal to the League to put pressure on Great Britain and France on behalf of the Czechs.
- 27 Germany: The Russian press described Herr Hitler's speech as "political blackmail and bluff." It also expressed doubts as to the military preparedness of Germany and her capacity to face a protracted European war.
Soviet Union; Defense: 100,000 in Moscow participated in defense against an imaginary air raid, with blackout.
United States: Ambassador Troyanovsky reported requesting withdrawal from his American post.
- 28 Soviet Union: 100,000 in Moscow participated in an air raid practice drill, including a blackout.
- 29 League of Nations: Litvinov in a speech before the political commission defended Loyalist Spain, stating that the latter was entitled to the benefit of self-determination. Soviet officials at Geneva also condemned the Munich conference, now underway.
Munich Conference: Izvestiya described the inclusion of Mussolini in the Munich conference as "monstrous" and accused Chamberlain of strengthening the aggressor by adding another aggressor. It complained that Russia was not invited, but should have been, as his inclusion would have balanced the nations.
United States: The text of President Roosevelt's appeal to the Soviet Union to exert her influence to avert war in Europe printed in the Soviet press, along with the Soviet reply, pledging its support.
- 30 France: A Moscow radio broadcast announced that "France has lost her greatness" by participating in the Munich Conference.

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October 1938

October

- 1 Poland: Pravda, referring to the Teschen question, said that "acting under instructions from Hitler, Polish landlords are strengthening Fascist aggression in Central Europe, thereby digging a grave for Polish independence with their own hands. It is well known that in Polish territory are areas which German Fascism has long coveted."
- 2 France: The Commissariat of Foreign Affairs, USSR, denied that Daladier had been authorized to represent the USSR at Munich, as reported by the United Press.
Gt. Britain: The British embassy is reported to have protested Russia's alleged seizure of three British trawlers in the Arctic.
- 3 Munich Conference: A semi-official statement issued in Moscow declared that Great Britain and France had acted without consulting the Soviet government in the matter of the Munich discussions.
- 4 Munich Conference: The Commissariat of Foreign Affairs denied the stories in the Foreign press that the USSR was informed of steps taken by other governments leading up to the Munich Conference.
France: In an article in the Journal de Moscou, the value of France's word as pledged to Czechoslovakia and the USSR was questioned.
Soviet Union: An order provided that workers on State Farms might own cattle for their own use.
- 8 Soviet Union: At Monchegorsk the nickel-copper combinat's first section was placed in operation.
- 10 China: Large Chinese army, equipped by the USSR, reported formed in Sinkiang.
Gt. Britain: Lord Winterton, speaking at Shorcham, said that Russia had not offered real help in the Czech crisis, but "only made very vague promises owing to her military weakness."
United States: Eleven leading Soviet aviators denounced Colonel Lindbergh as spreading lies about the weakness of Soviet air power in order to precipitate the surrender of Czechoslovakia to Germany.
- 11 Gt. Britain: Ivan Maisky, Soviet Ambassador to London, protested a statement made by Winterton to the effect that the USSR had made only vague promises of aid to the Czechs, due to her military weakness.
Munich Conference: The Moscow Journal stated that the policy of capitulation to Germany was continuing after the Munich Conference, France was losing all her political positions in Central and Southeast Europe, and the Little Entente had been betrayed by France. She had also sacrificed the possibility of restoring her former relations with Poland and had provoked the mistrust of the Soviet Union, and "all this in order to follow the policy conducted in England."

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October

- 15 Soviet Union: A severe drought was reported in some areas; the 1938 harvest decreased below that of previous years but was still above pre-war level.
The Arctic Institute of the Northern Sea Route Administration planned to organize fuel bases at known coal and oil deposits in the Arctic.
- 18 Soviet Union; Army: Two new military awards established: "For Bravery" and "For Military Services."
- 21 Czechoslovakia: The Czechoslovak Foreign Minister informed the Soviet Minister that his government was no longer interested in the pact with the Soviet Union.
- 23 Soviet Union: All enterprises on collective farms not directly connected with farming were disbanded and turned over to departments of local industry.
Soviet Union; Purgas: The Russian press reported that several senior Army officers in the Far East were in disgrace, and that Cherevkin, the head of the military and political police at Volga, was under arrest.
- 26 Gt. Britain: A Soviet newspaper accused Prime Minister Chamberlain of trying to foment war against the Soviet Union, saying the Munich Pact was a step toward involving her in a war with Germany and Japan.
- 27 China: A group of prominent Chinese reported demanding that Chiang Kai-shek seek cooperation of the USSR and continuance of resistance to Japan.
Soviet Union: Between 27-29 October, 6,000 awards and decorations were given to participants in fighting at Changkufong.
Soviet Union: An order was issued for measures to be taken to insure a stable harvest in the southeastern regions exposed to drought.
- 29 Soviet Union: The Twentieth Anniversary of the founding of the Young Communist League was celebrated.
- 30 China: A trial radio-telephone connection was established between Moscow and China.

November 1938

November

- 2 Ethiopia: Chamberlain, in the House of Commons, proposed that the Anglo-Italian agreement should be completed by a British recognition of Italian sovereignty over Ethiopia, and recalled that besides Great Britain, USSR was now alone in according Italy in Ethiopia nothing more than a recognition de facto.
- 4 Soviet Union: A woman locomotive engineer was appointed director of the Moscow circular railway, becoming the first woman to head a railroad in the USSR.

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November

- 6 Soviet Union: Premier Molotov, on the eve of the Twenty-first Anniversary celebration, re-stated the fact that his country was willing to fulfill its obligations to Czechoslovakia, and accused Germany of instigating the Japanese attack at Changkufeng.
Soviet Union; Navy: M. Frinovsky was appointed Commissar for the Navy, in succession to M. Smirnov, who had been removed.
United States: Soviet Chargé d'Affaires, Constantin Oumansky, laid the cornerstone of the Soviet pavilion at the New York World's Fair.
- 7 Japan: Soviet Defense Commissar Voroshilov, speaking at the Twenty-first Anniversary celebration, warned Japan against military adventures in Siberia. He claimed that the Japanese threw in their best forces at Changkufeng, but nevertheless were defeated.
Soviet Union: The Twenty-first Anniversary of the Soviet regime was celebrated with a military parade and a two-million member demonstration.
United States: President Roosevelt sent a message of good will to President Kalinin on the Twenty-first Anniversary of the October revolution.
- 9 Soviet Union: Molotov, addressing a meeting of the Moscow Soviet, warned foreign enemies of the danger of attacking Russia and urged his audience to remember that the whole of the Soviet people must regard themselves as in a state of permanent mobilization, permanently alert.
- 15 Soviet Union: The Central Committee of the Communist Party decreed an intensive campaign to teach the principles of Marxism and Leninism on a broad scale.
United States: The fifth anniversary of the recognition of Soviet Russia by the United States marked by numerous Soviet newspaper articles commenting on the value of friendship between the world's two giants, and stating that both countries are targets of Fascist intrigue.
- 20 Germany: The Soviet press denounced the anti-Jewish campaign of Nazi Germany.
- 21 Soviet Union: A Komsomolskaya Pravda article condemned moral laxity among young men and women.
- 23 Soviet Union; Purges: A.V. Kosarev and four others were removed from leadership in the Komsomol.
- 24 China: Shanghai reports that the Chinese government had decided on a pro-Soviet national policy and that new bases were being built in northwest China near the Soviet border.
- 26 Poland: Conversations between Foreign Commissar Litvinov and the Polish Ambassador Grzybowski led to a Polish-Russian declaration on mutual relations emphasizing the peaceful intentions of both countries.

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November

- 28 Japan: Japanese Vice-Minister of War told Japanese munitions makers that armaments must be sufficient for a two front war - against the Soviets and the Chinese.
Soviet Union: Meetings were held throughout the Soviet Union protesting the persecution of Jews in Germany.
- 29 Turkey: The Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs in an interview with the Soviet press stated that friendship between his country and the USSR was not a political fiction, but "a real fact."

December 1938

December

- 6 Finland: A delegation of 25 Finnish government officials, headed by the Minister of Railways, arrived in Moscow, and was received by the Commissar of Heavy Industry and the Commissar for Foreign Trade, both of them Politburo members.
Soviet Union: Vast celebrating marked the second anniversary of the Stalin Constitution.
- 7 Soviet Union: B.S. Stomoniakov, Vice-Commissar of Foreign Affairs since 1926, was reported removed from his post.
- 8 China: Wang Ching-wei reported announcing that Chinese Ambassadors to the U.S., USSR, Great Britain and France would seek four-power policy against Japan.
Soviet Union: Announcement that M. Yezhov had resigned as head of the G.P.U. and Minister of the Interior. He retained the post of Minister of Water Transport. He was succeeded by M. Boria.
- 15 Poland: Trade Delegation arrived in Moscow (cf. 20 December).
- 16 Japan: Litvinov was said to have informed the Japanese Ambassador that, for strategic reasons, the Soviet Union would withhold 40 fishing grounds from any new convention which might be concluded with Japan. They were about 10% of the area covered by previous conventions.
It was pointed out in Moscow that the Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs had recently said that Japan was preparing to wage war against the USSR.
- 17 Bulgaria: A. Tolstoy reported named Soviet Minister to Sofia.
- 20 Poland: A trade agreement with Poland was concluded, providing for large increases in the traffic between the two countries, and the regulation of the balance of trade by the clearing system.
- 21 Soviet Union: A decree was issued introducing "work books" for all Soviet workers.

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December

- 23 Japan: Prince Konoye reported listing peace conditions for China approved by the Imperial Conference. These included China's adherence to the Anti-Comintern Pact, designation of Inner Mongolia as a special anti-Communist area. (cf. 28 December.)
- 26 Italy: Soviet Consulate in Milan to be closed.
- 28 Japan, China: Chiang reported rejecting Konoye's peace plan (cf. 23 December).
Soviet Union: Announcement was made that workers who met high standards of production would be awarded medals.
- 29 Soviet Union: New labor regulations were introduced to improve labor discipline and to reduce labor turn-over.

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January 1939

January

- 3 Chile: An early recognition of the USSR and the establishment of diplomatic and consular services foreseen in Santiago (cf. 11 December 1944).
Soviet Union: Commissariat of Light Industry divided into Commissariat of Light Industry and Commissariat of Textile Industry. S.G. Lukin appointed Commissar of Light Industry. A.N. Kosygin appointed Commissar of Textile Industry.
- 4 Soviet Union: It was announced that in February a new oath would be taken by the Red Army when the pledge of loyalty would be to the Soviet government, and not before the "workers of the whole world." The men would swear as "citizens of the Soviet Union", instead of sons of the working class.
- 7 Soviet Union: The government was understood to have given permission for the reopening of the Polish Roman Catholic Church in Moscow.
- 8 Soviet Union: An order raised individual production norms and lowered price work rates in the machine building industry.
- 11 Czechoslovakia: Protest to Prague government from the Soviet Minister of the leader of the Tsarist Cossacks, N. Popov, who was reported to be supporting the German scheme for a Greater Ukraine.
- 12 Soviet Union: The Commissariat of Defense Industry was split into Commissariat of Aviation Industry headed by M.M. Kaganovich; Commissariat of Shipbuilding - I.T. Tevosian; Commissariat of Munitions - I.T. Sergeyev; Armaments - B.L. Vanenkov.
- 13 China: Domei reported that Soviet arms and munitions had been reaching Chinese armies in increasing amounts via China's northwest.
- 15 Soviet Union: A new labor code came into force, providing for the introduction of "labour cards", indicating full particulars concerning the worker. No one could be employed for more than 5 days without such a card. All workers wishing to change their place of work were required to give one month's advance notice.
- 17 United States: The Journal de Moscou called President Roosevelt "the only statesman in the bourgeois world aware of fascism's threat and courageous enough to express himself."
- 29 United States: New York World's Fair: M.I. Kalinin broadcast Russia's salute to the Fair as the Soviet flag was raised over the Russian Pavilion.
- 30 Japan: The Japanese Ambassador protested to Russia's announcement that the fishing grounds in Far Eastern territorial waters would be let by tender or auction on 15 March. He alleged that the Soviet government had violated the spirit of the Portsmouth Treaty and complained that the fishery question was being converted into a political problem.

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January

30 Soviet Union: The outline of the Third Five-
(cont.) Year Plan covering 1938-1942 inclusive, was
published.

February 1939

February

- 1 Japan: It was announced that a stern protest had been made to the Japanese government against the action of Japanese troops who had occupied an island on the Argun River, and fired on a sentry. They were dislodged after seven had been killed or wounded.
- 2 Hungary: M. Litvinov informed the Hungarian Minister that his government had decided to sever diplomatic relations with Hungary owing to the latter's adherence to the anti-Comintern pact.
- Manchukuo: Protest to Soviet government against an incident on 31 January when some 100 Russian soldiers were alleged to have crossed the frontier near Mingkosili, some 65 miles north-east of Manchuli, and fired on the border station.
- Soviet Union: The Central Committee of the Communist Party issued orders curtailing the powers of the political commissars over officers in the Red Army.
- 6 Yemen: A Treaty of Friendship and Trade with the USSR extended until April 24, 1949.
- 7 Italy: Signature of Trade Agreement with Italy.
- 8 Japan: A communique issued in Moscow reported further clashes with Japanese troops on the Argun River, and accused the Japanese of attacking an island frontier post on February 6 and 7. They landed on the island, but were driven off with ten casualties.
- 9 Japan: Soviet press comments on the 35th anniversary of the Russo-Japanese War, warning Japan that she no longer faced an "utterly rotten Tsarist state", but a first-class military power.
- Turkey: Foreign Commissar Litvinov, in the course of a luncheon given a week earlier by the Turkish Ambassador, made a suggestion that a Black Sea Pact be discussed by the pertinent countries.
- 17 United States: New York World Fair: A Soviet steamer with USSR exhibits arrived in New York.
- 19 Poland: A general trade agreement with Poland was signed in Moscow, based on most-favored-nation treatment, and providing also for an equal exchange of goods on a clearing principle.

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March 1939

March

1. Anti-Comintern Agreement: A joint Polish-Italian communique, "Reaffirming that order and justice are two essentials of Italian and Polish policies", seen as Poland's substitute for the A.-C.A.
4. Non-Intervention Committee: Announcement made that the USSR formally withdrew from the Committee as of 1 March.
United States: Lawrence A. Steinhardt, U.S. Ambassador to Peru since 1937, named Ambassador to the USSR.
7. Soviet Union: Report that the heads of the GPU had been removed in the Ukraine, White Russia, the Moscow and Leningrad districts and many towns, as part of a purge of the higher ranks of the police.
9. Soviet Union: The 18th Congress of the All-Union Bolshevik Party opened in Moscow. Stalin in a speech on foreign policy said that Russia wanted peace and sought to strengthen trade ties with other countries. Russia, he said, would fight with double blows any attempt to violate her frontiers.
15. Gt. Britain: Ambassador Maisky speaking in London, said there were three fundamentals governing Anglo-Soviet relations; first, that the foreign policy of the Soviets had always been a policy of universal peace; second, that by reasons of her geographic position the USSR was most particularly interested in the preservation of peace in Europe and Asia; and, third, that the two countries essentially were no competitors in world markets. He looked forward to a material expansion in their mutual trade.
Japan: Preliminary auctions of the Far Eastern Fisheries was held in Vladivostok (cf. 3 April).
Soviet Union: The Commissar of Defense in addressing the Congress of the Communist Party said the size of the Army had been more than doubled since 1934 and the Air Force had increased 130%.
16. Germany: The Russian government received a note from the German Ambassador announcing the changes in Czechoslovakia.
Soviet Union: M. Molotov in his report to the Congress in the Third Five-Year Plan claimed it would be one of the most important stages in the transition from socialism to complete Communism. However, the Union needed at least another two or three five-year plans to overcome international competition.
17. Germany: The German Ambassador handed in a second note informing the Government of the establishment of a German protectorate over Bohemia and Moravia.
18. Czechoslovakia, Germany: In an exchange of notes with the German Ambassador in Moscow, Commissar Litvinov informed the German government that the Soviet government did not recognize the incorporation of Czechia and Slovakia in the German Reich, "in one or another form" as legitimate and corresponding to the generally recognized standards of international law and justice or to the principle of self-determination of nations.

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March

- 21 Czechoslovakia: The Soviet government announced that it had proposed to Great Britain a conference between France, Great Britain, Poland, Rumania, Turkey, and the Soviet Union to discuss the situation following the absorption of Czechoslovakia. Great Britain reported to have rejected this proposal as "premature".
Soviet Union: The Communist Party Congress ended, after electing a new Politburo.
- 22 Poland, Rumania: Tass issued an official denial of the reports that Poland and Rumania had appealed to the Soviet Union for protection against aggression.
- 23 Great Britain: Mr. Hudson and the members of the British trade mission arrived in Moscow. Mr. Hudson then had a discussion with Litvinov, M. Potemkin, the Assistant Foreign Commissar, and M. Mikoyan, the Commissar for Foreign Trade.
Soviet Union: Army exercises began along the whole western frontier from Leningrad to White Russia. Marshal Voroshilov proceeded to Minsk to direct operations.
- 26 Soviet Union: The result of the census of 1939 was published and showed a total population of 170 millions.
- 27 Spain: Anti-Comintern Pact signed by Gen. Franco.
- 28 Gt. Britain: Following the conclusion on the preceding day of the conversations concerning British trade relations, a Russian communique said that they revealed a number of differences which would be "reduced to a minimum during further negotiations in London."

April 1939

April

- 3 Japan: Announcement of the conclusion of a new fisheries agreement between Japan and the USSR for 1939; further Fisheries auctions were held in Vladivostok (cf. 15 March).
- 4 Soviet Union: Pravda accused France and Great Britain of plotting to induce Germany to go to her doom through the Carpatho-Ukraine and said, "The threads of espionage and intrigue which enmeshed Carpatho-Ukraine lead not only to Berlin, Warsaw and Budapest."
- 6 Soviet Union: In a speech to the Communist organization of the Red Army at Kiev, the Army's political chief said they had no need to seek allies and carry out a mobilization in conditions of panic as others were doing. The alleged plan for annexing Soviet Ukraine to Carpatho-Ukraine was, he said, like "sewing a coat to a button."
- 8 France: Pierre Cot, former Air Minister, pleaded for definite military agreements with Russia, stated that "Russian aid is vital to democracies."
Soviet Union: Four warships were reported to have left the Black Sea for the Mediterranean.

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April

- 10 Soviet Union: More warships, reported to be destroyers, left via the Bosphorus.
The press and radio expressed satisfaction that the Soviet view of the necessity for collective defense against the "two highwaymen", Hitler and Mussolini, was gaining ground in London and Paris.
A broadcaster said that Turkey, Rumania, and above all, the Soviet Union, must be enlisted to form a defensive bloc capable of damming the tide wherever it might seek a destructive path.
- 11 Gt. Britain: Foreign Secretary, Lord Halifax, conferred with the Soviet Ambassador Maisky on the question of the anti-aggression front.
United States: The Court of Appeals ruled in the matter of the Moscow Fire Insurance Company Funds on deposit in New York.
- 12 Gt. Britain: David Lloyd George pleaded for a definite military understanding, stated "unity with USSR can save peace."
- 13 Soviet Union: An official denial was issued in Moscow of the reports that warships had left the Black Sea.
United States: Soviet Charge d'Affaires C. Oumansky called the guarantees offered by the democracies to smaller European countries "ersatz security."
- 14 Gt. Britain: Ambassador Maisky called on Secretary Lord Halifax in London and Ambassador Sir William Leeds called on Foreign Commissar M. Litvinov in Moscow to discuss an anti-aggression front including the USSR.
Soviet Union: It was announced that the Baltic Fleet would begin its spring exercises in and about the Gulf of Finland on April 20.
Soviet Union: Semi-official statements made in Moscow re Russian attitude towards the policy of guarantees explained the reserve shown as due largely to the fact that neither Poland nor Rumania had sought her help in any form.
Turkey, Italy: Tass officially denied that Soviet naval vessels passed through the Bosphorus into the Mediterranean.
- 15 Gt. Britain: M. Litvinov received the British Ambassador.
United States: Charge d'Affaires in Moscow, Alexander C. Kirk, transferred to Berlin.
- 16 Soviet Union: The press gave prominence to the full text of Mr. Roosevelt's appeal.
United States: M.O. Kalinin's telegram to President Roosevelt expressing approval of his message to Hitler and Mussolini. Acknowledged 22 May.
- 17 Gt. Britain, Poland, Rumania: British officials were reported to have been assured that the USSR would send fighting planes and war material to Poland and Rumania if their independence were threatened.

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April

- 18 Czechoslovakia: Former President E. Benes stated that the USSR was adequately prepared for war at the time of the Munich crisis, was ready to fulfill its pledge of military assistance even if the other Powers failed to do so.
- 20 Gt. Britain: Soviet proposals for an anti-aggression front were reported sent to the British Foreign Office.
Poland informed Great Britain that she had a "negative attitude toward permitting Soviet troops or planes to march or fly over Polish territory."
- 21 Gt. Britain: Soviet proposals reportedly accepted as a "basis for negotiations."
- 24 Gt. Britain: USSR Ambassador Maisky left Moscow for London after reporting to the government on the British reception of Russian proposals.
Turkey: Vice Commissar of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Potemkin left for Turkey on a special mission.
- 26 Gt. Britain: Neville Chamberlain refused to give information on the progress of the Anglo-Soviet negotiations in the House of Commons.
- 27 France: USSR Ambassador Maisky, on his way to London, conferred with Foreign Minister Bonnet and USSR Ambassador to France J. Souritz; stated to press, "Russia's position is clear. We are going to assist Europe in case of aggression."
Poland: The Polish Nationalist Party published a resolution advocating Poland's closer collaboration with the Soviet Union.
- 29 Gt. Britain: Ambassador Maisky called at the British Foreign Office. It was reported that he offered on behalf of the USSR a military alliance with guarantees against aggression in both Europe and the Far East.
Soviet Union: Admiral Kuznetsov was appointed Minister of Marine, in place of M. Frinovsky.
The Commissar for the Navy issued an order stating that the Union was building "a big sea and ocean fleet, which is worthy of our great cause."
In a message to the Red Army Marshal Voroshilov stated that the "Soviet Union stands for supporting nations who are the victims of aggression and are fighting for their independence." He also declared that Russia would not embark on any military adventure, but it was fully prepared for a great war.

May 1939

May

- 1 Turkey: President Inonu visited by Vice Commissar V. Potemkin.
- 2 Gt. Britain: Neville Chamberlain again refused information to the House of Commons on the progress of Anglo-Soviet relations.

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May

3. Gt. Britain: Neville Chamberlain announced to the House of Commons that British government was ready to consider an exchange non-aggression pledges with Germany; the Gallup poll found 92 percent of British voters in favor of a Soviet alliance. German government offered non-aggression pacts to Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Latvia.
- Soviet Union: An official communique announced that M. Litvinov had been released from the Office of Foreign Commissar at his own request. His duties were temporarily assumed by M. Molotov.
4. Latvia accepted a non-aggression pact with Germany.
5. Gt. Britain informed the Soviet Union that their proposal for a direct military alliance with Britain and France was unacceptable.
7. Bulgaria: Vice-Commissar V. Potemkin interviewed King Boris and Premier Kiosseivanov.
- Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania: A Washington (?) report current, but not officially confirmed, that the Russian government had told the Great Powers that Russia would send her troops into Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania immediately to protect her own position, in the event of a German-Polish clash.
8. Eastern Europe: Reports from Bucharest stated the Soviet government had offered all the smaller states in Eastern Europe defensive guaranties on the lines of those given by Britain and France to Rumania and Greece.
- Gt. Britain: Ambassador Sir William Leeds conferred with Foreign Commissar Molotov.
- Poland: N. Sharonov transferred from Athens to Warsaw, to serve as Soviet envoy to Poland.
- Rumania: Vice Foreign Commissar V. Potemkin conferred with Foreign Minister Gatenko.
- Vatican: Pope Pius XII invited the Foreign Ministers of Germany, Britain, France, Poland, and Italy to confer on the international crisis.
9. Gt. Britain: A Soviet communique was published characterizing the British proposals as one-sided, and outlining the proposals.
- Poland announced "complete normalization of Polish-Soviet relations"; Vice Foreign Commissar V. Potemkin arrived in Warsaw.
11. League of Nations Council agreed to the USSR request for postponement of its May 15 meeting until May 22, permitting further Anglo-Soviet negotiations.
- German-Italian military alliance discussed in Izvestiya; Britain was again accused of asking a "one-sided" agreement.
- Soviet Union: Izvestiya said it was a complete mistake to hold that the German denunciation of the agreements with Britain and Poland and the conclusion of the German-Italian alliance had not changed the situation for the worse. There was now no chance of Rome standing apart from Berlin.
- It went on to say that Britain passed over the question of a triple pact of immediate assistance to Britain and France should they be involved in war in fulfillment of their obligations in Eastern Europe, but made no mention of any assistance the USSR would receive should it be involved in hostilities owing to its guarantee to states in Eastern Europe.

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- May
13 Turkish-British provisional agreement covering "any act of aggression leading to war in the Mediterranean" announced.
- 16 Soviet Union: A decree was issued raising the term of service in the Navy from four to five years, and providing that men who had had secondary and higher education should serve the full five years.
- 17 Gt. Britain: Ambassador Maisky characterized British proposals as "inadequate". Reports current that Britain and France would offer the Soviet Union a guarantee of support in event of aggression.
- 21 Great Britain: Secretary Halifax and Ambassador Maisky conferred at Geneva, where both were attending the League of Nations meeting.
- 22 Germany and Italy signed a ten-year alliance in Berlin.
Gt. Britain: It was reported that an agreement for an Anglo-French-Soviet alliance would be presented for approval to the British Cabinet.
- 24 Finland had asked Soviet cooperation at the League of Nations council for approval of a plan to fortify the Aland Islands (Tass report).
Gt. Britain: It was announced that the British Cabinet agreed in principle to a mutual agreement pact with France and the Soviet Union against further aggression.
- 25 Finland, Sweden: Soviet Union reported seeking assurances that the fortification of the Aland Islands would not be used against the USSR.
Soviet Union: The Session of the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union opened in Moscow. The budget for 1939 was brought up. Forty billion rubles were devoted to defense.
- 26 Gt. Britain: A draft of the mutual assistance peace-front pact submitted. USSR Commissar of Defense Voroshilov invited to attend British Army maneuvers.
- 27 Finland, Sweden: No decision reached by the League of Nations council on the question of the refortification of the Aland Islands.
Gt. Britain, France: M. Molotov received the British and French Ambassadors, who handed him memoranda containing identical proposals for mutual assistance by Britain, France and Russia.
- 28 Turkey: Tass denied that a Soviet-Turkish military alliance had been concluded.
- 29 Germany: Tass denied that German-Soviet trade negotiations were being carried on in Moscow.
Soviet Union: The Premier of White Russia, speaking in a joint session of the Supreme Council, condemned the acts of aggression perpetrated by Germany, Italy and Japan against peaceful states which had made it necessary for other peaceful countries wishing to survive to speed enormous sums on defense.
- 31 Soviet Union: Foreign policy: V.M. Molotov made an important speech on foreign affairs before the Supreme Council outlining Soviet requirements for the establishment of an anti-aggression pact.

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June 1939

June

- 1 Poland: Trade Agreement with the USSR ratified in Moscow.
- 2 Gt. Britain, France: Formal reply delivered on the USSR to the latest British proposals for a three-power mutual assistance pact. The note included Soviet demand for a guarantee of the Baltic States.
- 5 Gt. Britain, Baltic States: The Foreign policy committee of the British Cabinet refused to extend guarantees to the Baltic states bordering on Russia.
- 6 Germany, Baltic: The German-Estonian and German-Latvian non-aggression pacts signed.
Soviet Union: Pravda stated that the Russian government had presented four demands to London and Paris as the minimum required for a defensive organization: 1. Conclusion of an agreement by the three countries for effective mutual assistance against aggression; 2. An agreement for the USSR to give assistance to states guaranteed to Britain and France, particularly Belgium, Greece, Rumania, Turkey, and Poland, in case they were attacked; 3. A guarantee by the three countries to assist the three Baltic States should their neutrality be violated; 4. A concrete agreement about the methods, the form, and the extent of help to be given.
- 13 Baltic States: Pravda editorial reiterated the Soviet view that the independence and security of the Baltic States of Estonia, Finland, and Latvia must be guaranteed as the only safeguard of a peace front.
- 15 Gt. Britain: William Strang (Chief, Central Division, Foreign Office) arrived in Moscow on the previous day for further negotiations of a mutual assistance pact. Molotov and Potemkin had a prolonged discussion with him and the British and French Ambassadors.
- 16 Soviet Union: The press and radio said that the five representatives had discussed the chief divergences of opinion between the Russian and British governments and that "in the circles of the Soviet Foreign Ministry the results of the first talks are regarded as not entirely favorable."
- 18 Japan: Report of protest to Tokyo against the seizure of the Soviet consulate at Tientsin by White Russians styling themselves the "White Russian Anti-Comintern Commission."
Soviet Union: The press stated that Tientsin was only an excuse utilized by Japan for the creation of a conflict with Great Britain.
- 21 Gt. Britain: Tass denied that the negotiations regarding a British-French-Soviet pact were being delayed by questions regarding the guarantee of Far Eastern frontiers.
- 22 Soviet Union: Tass said that no progress was apparently being made in the discussions between the USSR and Gt. Britain and France.

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June

- 23 Gt. Britain: Ambassador Maisky and Lord Halifax conferred in London in an effort to speed up the negotiations on a three-power mutual assistance pact.
Manchukuo: Report of air fighting on the Manchukuo border.
- 24 China: Announcement that a trade treaty with China had been signed in Moscow on 16 June, based on the principles of equality and reciprocity.
- 27 Japan-Manchukuo: The Soviet-Mongolian air force reported an air battle on the Manchukuo frontier in which 110 Japanese-Manchurian machines took part. They were engaged when about 80 miles inside Mongolia and seven of them were destroyed.
- 29 Gt. Britain, France: Andrei Zhdanov (President of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet) stated in a signed article in Pravda that the British and French governments had no real pact with the Soviet Union.

July 1939

July

- 1 Gt. Britain and France: Molotov received the British and French Ambassadors and Mr. Strang, who communicated to him further suggestions for overcoming the difficulty of guaranteeing the Baltic States.
Soviet Union: The press published full reports of Lord Halifax's speech on British foreign policy in a prominent position.
- 3 Gt. Britain, France: Molotov again received the British and French Ambassadors.
Soviet Union: The Vice-Commissar of the Navy speaking in Moscow, said that Russia held one of the first places in the world for submarines and "in the event of war, we will beat the enemy in his own waters."
- 6 Japan-Manchukuo: Tass reported that the Japanese-Manchukuo forces had forced their way into Soviet territory on 2 and 3 July southeast of Lake Buir, and that the Outer Mongolian forces had then counter-attacked and driven them back again, destroying 50 of their tanks, with the loss of 25 of theirs. Claim that 45 Japanese planes had been brought down in three days with a loss of only nine.
- 9 Gt. Britain, France: Molotov and Potemkin had a long discussion with the British and French Ambassadors.
- 14 Japan-Manchukuo: The Soviet-Mongolian Headquarters issued a report on the frontier fighting in the week 6-12 July, claiming that the enemy had lost 2,000 killed and 3,500 wounded, with 61 planes, four tanks and 15 armored cars. The number of planes destroyed since 20 May was given as 189, while the Outer Mongolian forces had lost 52.

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July

- 17 Gt. Britain, France: A Prolonged discussion took place between Molotov and the British and French Ambassadors. British Embassy issued a statement that there was no fundamental change in the situation.
- 18 Japan: An official communique stated that on 16 June the Foreign Commissariat had received a note from the Japanese Ambassador "raising questions in connection with the inequitable activities of the Japanese petroleum and coal concessions in Northern Sakhalin, and disputing the decision of the Soviet Law courts regarding the unlawful actions of the Japanese concessionaires in the island". The Japanese had demanded an answer by the 18th of July at the latest. The Vice-Commissar on behalf of Molotov had rejected the document on the previous day without examination because of its threatening character.
- 22 Germany: The Foreign Trade Commissariat issued a communique announcing that negotiations with Germany had been renewed about trade and credits.
- 23 Outer Mongolia: Army Headquarters in Outer Mongolia issued a communique stating that in air fighting on 21 July 14 Japanese planes had been shot down, with the loss of three; also that a Japanese infantry battalion had been annihilated in fighting on 12-13 July.
- 24 Japan: The Vice-Commissar of Foreign Affairs rejected the Japanese protest against the imposition of a fine of 374,000 roubles on a Japanese coal mining company. Russians claimed that the Japanese had violated every article of the convention agreement of 1922 regarding housing and conditions of work protecting their Russian employees.
- Soviet Union: Navy Day was celebrated throughout the Union and the press stated that in three or four years Russia would be a first-class naval Power. Seventy ships of the Baltic Fleet were inspected by the Commissars of the Navy and Army.
- Speaking in Moscow, the Commissar of the Navy warned Japan to stop violating the Soviet frontier, and announced that Russia had over 100 warships in the Far East not counting small units. She also had more submarines than any other country, and more than Germany and Japan together.
- 25 Soviet Union: The Session of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR opened in Moscow.
- 28 Outer Mongolia: The Far Eastern Command reported that 74 Japanese airplanes had been brought down in 3 days' fighting -- 23-25 July -- east of the Halka River.

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July

30 Soviet Union: Izvestiya published an article concluding with the following note: "They (the Bolsheviks) stand for the creation of a general peace front capable of halting the further development of Fascist aggression - a peace front founded on full reciprocity, full equality of rights, and an honest sincerity, and repudiation of the disastrous policy of 'non-intervention.' They are ready at any moment, at the head of 170 million strong Soviet people, to crush utterly any Fascist incendiary who ventures to bring the conflagration of the second imperialist war to the frontiers of the land of the Soviets."

31 Soviet Union: Pravda, writing on the 25th Anniversary of Russia's entry into the War, declared that the second imperialist war had begun, and that war against the aggressors in defense of national independence was a just war. It attacked "bourgeois isolationists" and said that "the Soviet people know that the onslaught of the Fascist aggressors can be stopped by an effective front of the peace-loving States, and are ready to take part in the organization of a genuine Peace Front."

It included the sentence, "The Soviet people are defending the frontiers of the Mongolian People's Republic as if they were their own..."

August 1939

August

1 Soviet Union: State loan of 6 billion rubles for industrialization and defense.

Soviet Union: The All-Union Agricultural Exhibition was opened in Moscow. Tass reported "in reality the difference is not whether to encroach or not to encroach on the independence of the Baltic States, because both sides stand for guaranteeing this independence, but that no loophole should be left in the formula 'indirect aggression' for aggressors making an attempt on the independence of the Baltic States."

2 United States: Renewal of Soviet-American Trade Agreement for one year. The USSR would buy a minimum of \$40,000,000 worth of American goods during the year, while the U.S. would give Russia the same tariff reductions as countries with which the U.S. had trade agreements.

7 Gt. Britain: Mr. Strang left Moscow by air, to return to his post in London.

Japan: According to a dispatch from Moscow, final agreement had been reached between the Moscow representative of the North Sakhalin Petroleum Company and the Chairman of the Soviet Trade Union in the Far East on the conclusion of collective labor contracts--one of the outstanding difficulties in the Sakhalin dispute.

10 France, Gt. Britain: The French and British military missions arrived in Leningrad.

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August

- 12 France, Gt. Britain: Staff talks between the British, French and Soviet military missions began.
- Japan: Agreement signed in Moscow, providing that the Japanese-owned North Sakhalin Petroleum Company should increase the wage of its Soviet workers by 15 percent. Simultaneously it gave permission to the company to import 480 Japanese workers.
- 15 Soviet Union: The 6 billion ruble loan for the second year of the third 5-Year Plan for industry and defense issued on 2 August was stated to have been over-subscribed by over one billion rubles.
- 21 Egypt: The Egyptian Government decided to recognize Russia, provided it refrains from Communist propaganda in the former country.
- Finland: The Finnish Minister of Agriculture, accompanied by a Deputy of the Finnish Parliament, arrived in Moscow to visit the agricultural exhibition.
- France, Gt. Britain: Staff talks between the British, French and Soviet military missions were resumed after a break of three days.
- Germany: Ribbentrop's announcement of Russo-German Non-Aggression Pact.
- 22 Germany: Tass issued an announcement confirming that Ribbentrop would arrive in Moscow in a few days for the conclusion of a non-aggression pact with the USSR.
- Soviet Union: Tass, commenting on the forthcoming Non-Aggression Pact, stated that "after the conclusion of the Soviet-German trade and credit agreement there arose the problem of improving political relations between Germany and the USSR."
- 24 Germany: Non-Aggression Pact signed in Moscow.
- 25 Gt. Britain: Anglo-Polish treaty of mutual assistance signed, with secret protocol. (See 5 April 1945.)
- 27 Soviet Union: Marshal Voroshilov in an interview with Izvestiya claimed that the British and French missions had rejected Russia's argument that to render them effective aid, Soviet troops would have to enter Polish territory, and that Poland had declined military assistance from Russia. He insisted that the Soviets had concluded the Non-Aggression Pact with Germany because of the impasse in the military conversations, and not vice versa.
- 28 France: The French Ambassador left Moscow by air.
- Soviet Union: A special session of the Supreme Soviet opened in Moscow.
- 29 Soviet Union: Tass announced it had been decided to strengthen the garrisons on the Western frontier "because of the aggravation of the situation in Eastern Europe." It refuted a report that the Army Command had withdrawn 200,000 to 300,000 troops to reinforce the Eastern frontier.

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August

31 Soviet Union: Molotov, speaking in the Supreme Soviet on the negotiations with Britain and France, said: "Is a pact of mutual aid possible if we are informed beforehand that Soviet aid is not wanted? The English-French proposal for definition of indirect aggression would have provided them with means of backing out.....The English-French position was shot through with contradictions. The most fundamental of these was that they feared aggression and sought a pact in order to strengthen themselves. But at the same time they feared to strengthen us, and this fear became the uppermost consideration. We signed a pact with Germany when it was evident nothing would come of the Anglo-Soviet negotiations."

The Supreme Soviet then ratified the Pact with Germany.

September 1939

September

5 Soviet Union: The Government announced that a further one and a half classes of conscripts would be called up for training between 15 September and 15 October (those born in 1919 and in the second half of 1918), about 1½ million. In addition, 145,000 of the 1920 and 1921 classes would be called up, and Marshal Voroshilov also ordered the soldiers of the 1937 class serving in the Baltic, Polish, and Ukrainian frontier districts to remain with the colors for another month.

6 Poland: Russians said to have informed the Polish government that they hoped to maintain normal commercial relations with Poland during the war.

Soviet Union: The Red Star welcomed the Pact with Germany because it put an end to "hostility between two of the greatest European States, fomented by agents provocateurs."

National Youth Day emphasized that the Soviet Union was an island of peace amid a warring capitalist world.

9 Soviet Union: The Foreign Trade Commissariat was empowered to restrict or prohibit the export of goods to countries which created conditions unfavorable for Soviet trade. Also was given the power to prevent the shipment of goods abroad unless paid for in advance.

14 Soviet Union: Pravda, in a long article on Poland, ascribed the basic causes of the Polish defeat not to German superiority and lack of assistance from Britain and France, but to "the inner weaknesses and contradictions of the Polish state, which is a multi-national state." It declared that the policy of the ruling classes in Poland had been characterized by the suppression of national minorities. The paper made reference to the losses sustained by Poland and said the government machine was falling to pieces.

16 Japan: Armistice with Japan concluded in Moscow.

Poland: Molotov handed the Polish Ambassador a note saying that Soviet troops would enter Polish territory. The latter refused to accept it, but informed his government of its contents.

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September

- 17 Poland: Soviet forces crossed the Polish frontier at 4 a.m. at many points between Polotsk and Kamenetz-Podolsk.
Soviet Union: Molotov broadcast an address to the people explaining the action taken against Poland.
- 18 Lithuania: Molotov received the Lithuanian Ambassador.
Poland: In a joint declaration the Soviet and German governments announced that their troops in Poland would not pursue aims contrary to the interests of the two governments.
- 21 Soviet Union: A short version of Hitler's speech was released for publication, omitting his assertion that he no longer wanted the Ukraine and his remarks about the Russo-German agreement on the future of Poland.
- 22 Poland: A joint German-Soviet communique was issued in Moscow announcing the line of demarcation between the German and Soviet armies.
- 24 Estonia: The Foreign Minister of Estonia arrived in Moscow.
Soviet Union: The press published a manifesto issued by General Timoshenko just before he led his troops into Poland. He appealed to "my brothers and sisters" in Western Ukraine to "fall upon Polish gentlemen with firearms, scythes, hayforks, and axes", and to follow "the example the Russian people gave under Lenin's and Stalin's leadership in paying back the enemy."
- 25 Finland: The Russian government withdrew the rights of Finnish ships to travel from the Baltic to Lake Ladoga by way of the River Neva.
- 27 Bulgaria: Lavrentiev was appointed Ambassador to Sofia (Post had been vacant for nearly 2 years).
Estonia: The Estonian Foreign Minister returned to Moscow.
Germany: Ribbentrop arrived in Moscow, accompanied by the Soviet Ambassador in Berlin and Herr Förster, the Danzig Nazi leader, as well as by legal and economic experts.
Rumania: The Russians were understood to have made representations to the Rumanian government about an "aggressive" military concentration in Bessarabia.
- 28 Germany, Poland: A treaty was signed with Germany partitioning Poland and establishing friendly relations based on the common interest of protecting their territorial gains against third parties.
- 29 Estonia: A Pact of Mutual Assistance with Estonia was signed in Moscow.

October 1939

October

- 1 Turkey: The Turkish Foreign Minister had a four-hour conversation with Stalin and Molotov.
- 2 Latvia: The Latvian Foreign Minister arrived in Moscow.

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October

- 3 Latvia: Molotov had a second conversation with the Latvian Foreign Minister.
Lithuania: The Lithuanian Foreign Minister arrived in Moscow and saw Molotov.
Turkey: Molotov saw the Turkish Minister.
- 4 Germany: An additional protocol to the Soviet-German treaty was signed in Moscow, setting up a mixed commission to demarcate the frontier between the two countries.
- 5 Latvia: A mutual assistance pact was signed in Moscow.
Soviet Union: The press prominently published a statement of the British Communist Party urging the Government to make peace.
A Moscow broadcast offered Latvia and Estonia trade routes through the White and Black Seas.
- 6 Soviet Union: The Moscow radio announced that "Faced by the refusal of the Government of Finland to send the Finnish Foreign Minister to negotiate a trade agreement in Moscow, the Soviet government reserves to itself the right to take decisions it thinks fit."
- 7 Finland: A Finnish communiqué mentioned Russia's invitation to Finland to send a representative to discuss political and economic matters.
- 8 Germany: A German economic mission, led by the head of the Economic Department of the Foreign Office, arrived in Moscow.
Lithuania: Molotov had two conversations with the Lithuanian Foreign Minister, who had arrived in Moscow the previous day, accompanied by the Lithuanian Commander-in-Chief and the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers.
Soviet Union: Izvestiya declared that Hitler's proposals "can serve as a real practical basis for negotiations for the early conclusion of peace." Following the dissolution of Poland, there was no longer any justification for continuing the war.
- 9 Germany: A statement was issued to the effect that M. Molotov had undertaken that the Soviet Union should begin supplying raw materials to Germany at once, and had received an assurance of corresponding deliveries of German industrial goods.
Poland: The Polish Ambassador and staff left Moscow for Finland.
Soviet Union: Izvestiya said, "One cannot destroy any ideology by fire and sword. One may respect or hate Hitlerism just as any other system of political views. This is a matter of taste. But to understand war for 'annihilation of Hitlerism' means to commit criminal folly in politics."
- 10 Lithuania: The Lithuanian Minister returned to Moscow to sign a mutual assistance pact with Russia.
- 11 Finland: Paasikivi arrived in Moscow.
Great Britain: A trade pact was signed with Great Britain providing for the exchange of lumber for rubber and tin.

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October

- 12 Finland: Paasikivi with Stalin and Molotov.
Scandinavia: The Russian government received from the Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian governments identic note stating that the Northern governments were following with interest the negotiations taking place between Russia and Finland and were expressing the hope that nothing would be done to impinge on Finland's neutrality.
United States: The American Ambassador was understood to have expressed the hope that nothing would occur to injure the peaceful relations between Soviet Russia and Finland.
- 13 Soviet Union: Tass announced that the Commissariat of Fuel and Industry had been divided into two--one for coal and slate mining, gas, and the manufacture of coal-mining machinery; the other for oil producing and refining, the manufacture of artificial liquid fuel and of machinery for the oil industry. Kaganovich was appointed Commissar of Oil.
- 14 Finland: Two meetings took place between Stalin, Molotov and the Finnish delegation.
- 16 Turkey: A long discussion took place with the Turkish Foreign Minister.
- 17 Turkey: Tass announced that the stay in Moscow of the Turkish Minister provided the opportunity for a series of comprehensive talks which confirmed the "invariable and friendly relations" between the two governments. Both governments reached the conclusion that it would be desirable to maintain contact in the future for joint discussion of questions of mutual interest.
Germany: A fourth German mission arrived in Moscow to arrange for the transfer to Germany of Germans living in the Russian part of Poland.
Turkey: The Turkish Foreign Minister and the Soviet Ambassador to Turkey left for Ankara at midnight.
United States: Publication of letters exchanged between Kalinin and President Roosevelt.
- 19 Soviet Union: The Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union ratified the Soviet-German Treaty of Friendship and Frontiers and the additional protocols of 4 October (defining the "frontier of interests" of the two countries).
- 20 Soviet Union: The Russian radio announced the conclusion of Turkey's Treaty with the Allies without comment.
- 22 China: Pravda denied a report that Moscow had demanded from the Chinese government the right to establish Red Army garrisons in Sinkiang and Inner Mongolia, and that Northwest China was to be Sovietized.
- 23 Finland: The Finnish delegation arrived in Moscow and resumed discussions.
Poland: Pravda said that the elections in the two provinces annexed to the USSR were "proceeding under the conditions of class war, and therefore are a form of class warfare."

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October

- 24 Germany: An agreement was reported (from German sources) to have been signed in Moscow for the export of 1 million tons to Germany, delivery to be completed within two months.
A trade delegation of 45, headed by the Commissar of the shipbuilding industry, left Moscow for Berlin.
- 25 Gt. Britain: The Government issued a reply to The British Notes of 6 and 11 September regarding contraband and handed it to the British and French Ambassadors. In their reply the Russians refused to recognize the validity of either note and said they would seek compensation from the British government for losses caused by the British measures.
Soviet Union: Announcement of results of the voting in Western White Russia and Western Ukraine. The voting was overwhelmingly in favor of Bolshevik candidates.
- 29 United States: Izvestiya, referring to the U.S. Neutrality Bill, accused the U.S. Government of reactionary conduct, involving the persecution of the Communist Party.
- 31 Finland: In an address to the Supreme Council, Molotov said that Russia wanted a mutual assistance pact from Finland, but this Finland had refused. Russia wanted some minor land concessions around Leningrad for which she would be fully compensated. If the Finns continued in their failure to meet the Soviet requirements, it would be harmful to the cause of Finns and to the Finns themselves.

November 1939

November

- 1 Germany: The German Ambassador left Moscow for Berlin.
Soviet Union: The Supreme Council absorbed the "Western Ukraine" into the Soviet Union in the persons of 65 new Deputies elected on 22 October.
- 2 Finland: The Finnish delegates arrived back in Moscow.
- 3 Soviet Union: Pravda published an attack on Finland and accused the Finnish press of distorting completely the essence of the Soviet proposals.
- 4 Finland: Stalin and Molotov had an hour's talk with the Finnish delegation, which then referred certain points to Helsinki.
- 5 Lithuania: The Russians were understood to have proposed to the Lithuanians that 100,000 Lithuanian nationals in Polish White Russia near Vilna should be exchanged for an equal number of Polish White Russians and Jews living in Lithuania.

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November

- 6 Comintern: The Comintern issued a manifesto declaring that the ruling circles in Britain, France and Germany were conducting a war for world domination, the first two to preserve their "slave empires", and Germany to redistribute these in her favor. The manifesto went on to declare that the task of the working class was to unite, not only against the "imperialist" bourgeoisie, but against its Social Democratic leaders, without whose "treacherous help" the bourgeoisie could not have started nor carried on the war. The workers in all these countries were said to draw inspiration from the peace policy of the USSR.
- 7 Soviet Union: The annual military parade was held in Moscow, and Marshal Voroshilov, addressing the troops, declared that the Soviet's policy was neutrality, but being surrounded by capitalist countries, the Union must remain vigilant and ready for everything.
- 9 Finland: Discussions with the Finnish delegation were resumed in the Kremlin.
- 11 Finland: Tass broadcast a statement that the Finnish attitude had stiffened.
- 12 Finland: Moscow papers declared that the Finnish politicians wanted war and that the Soviet government was dissatisfied and would now have to find ways and means of obtaining what they required.
- 13 Finland: The Finnish delegation left Moscow for home.
Finland: Pravda published a Tass message from Helsinki to the effect that Finland's war measures were so burdensome that she could not stand the strain longer than 4 to 7 months.
- 14 Soviet Union: The Red Star, referring to the "decided rejection" of the Belgo-Dutch appeal by Britain and France, protested against "French and British attempts to involve neutrals in the war by scaring Belgium and Holland with the bogey of German invasion and by inciting Scandinavia and Finland against the Soviet Union's peaceful policy."
It also said that Britain and France were exploiting the Turkish Pact in order to force the Balkan neutral countries into a bloc oriented on themselves, and attempting to obtain Rumania's signature to a mutual assistance pact.
- 15 Poland: Lvov broadcast attacked Sikorski.
- 20 Japan: Announcement of an exchange of views with the Japanese which had disclosed "some points of accord" upon the principles of a trade treaty.
Mongolia: The conclusion was announced of an agreement on the Mongolian Frontier Commission.
- 21 Finland: Izvestiya, in an article by the Commander of the Baltic Fleet, said that the Soviet demand for a lease of Hango was vital. The Soviet fleet was too large to be crowded into a small, far-away corner in the Gulf of Finland.

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November

- 23 Japan: Announcement of decisions to open trade discussions with Japan.
Soviet Union: Pravda, in an article about what it described as the peace movements in Britain and France, said it hoped this would convert the war of nations into a class war within the nations.
- 26 Finland: Molotov handed a note to the Finnish Minister, demanding that Finnish troops should be removed 12 to 15 miles from the frontier, pointing out that Soviet troops had not returned the Finnish fire, being under strict orders not to allow themselves to be provoked. Announcement in Moscow that at 3:30 p.m. Finnish artillery on the Karelian Isthmus had fired 7 rounds which fell on Soviet territory, killing four and wounding nine Red Army men.
- 27 Finland: The Finnish government rejected the Soviet protest and denied that shots had been fired from the Finnish side. It refused to withdraw its troops, but said it was willing to engage in talks leading to a mutual withdrawal of troops. It claimed that the shots were fired from the Soviet side and proposed a mixed commission to investigate the incident. Moscow press and radio, referring to the Finnish note, declared that the Soviet Union had reached the end of its patience and would be satisfied only with decisive measures.
- 28 Finland: The Russian government denounced the Non-Aggression Treaty signed in 1932, on the ground that Finnish troop concentrations near Leningrad were an act of hostility to the Soviet Union. The Russian radio claimed that another incident took place on the outskirts of Leningrad.
- 29 Finland: The Russian government handed a note to the Finnish Minister breaking off relations, and the latter, who had received a note from his government, was not allowed to present it.
Soviet Union: Molotov broadcast a statement in which he announced that his government had severed diplomatic relations with Finland, and declared that the Red Army must be prepared for any eventualities.
Pravda published a statement by Stalin, accusing France and Great Britain of being responsible for the war with Germany.
- 30 Finland: Russian troops crossed the Finnish border at several points and Russian aircraft bombed Helsinki and Viborg.
United States: The Russians received President Roosevelt's offer of good offices at 12:45 p.m., after hostilities had begun.

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December 1939

December

- 1 Finland: The Russians claimed that a new government had been formed at Terijoki the previous day, headed by Kuusinen, which the Soviets considered as an important factor in clarifying the situation and bringing about peace.
United States: According to official broadcasts, Molotov received the U. S. Ambassador and told him that the Soviet Air Force had no intention of bombing the civil population of Finland. They had bombed airdromes.
- 2 Finland: The Moscow radio announced the conclusion of a treaty of mutual assistance with the "People's Government" of Finland.
Finnish communique that Petsamo had been recaptured. Russians reported it had been retaken.
United States: A communique issued in Moscow stated that Molotov had told the U.S. Ambassador that the Russians had not bombed any towns.
- 3 Finland: The Finns halted the Russian invasion around Suojärvi. Capture by the Russians of the islands of Hogland, Tyttarsarri, Lavansaari and Soiskari in the eastern end of the Gulf of Finland.
- 4 Finland: Russians refused an armistice and peace negotiation proposal from Premier Ryti, preferring Kuusinen's government as one they would deal with.
League of Nations: The Moscow radio broadcast Molotov's reply to the Secretary-General of the League. This said that the convocation of the Council was unwarranted, as Russia was "not at war with Finland, and does not threaten it, so that the reference to Article 11 of the Covenant is incorrect."
- 6 Finland: Russian forces continued their penetration of Finland to the west and north.
Rumania: Communist International claimed oppression of nationalities and atrocious exploitation of the masses in the Rumanian provinces of Bukovina, Dobruja, Bessarabia and Transylvania.
- 7 Denmark and other neutrals: Notified by the Russians that Finland's coast and the adjoining waters would be blockaded from noon of the next day.
Finland: The Finnish Minister and Legation staff left Moscow for Stockholm.
- 8 Finland: The Russians took Suomussalmi.
- 9 Finland: Finns recaptured Suomussalmi.
- 11 Slovakia: M. Tiso arrived in Moscow as Minister of Slovakia.
It was reported that the Russians had recognized the German Protectorate of Slovakia over a month previously.

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December

- 12 Estonia: General Laidoner, Commander-in-Chief of the Estonian Army, arrived in Moscow.
Finland: The Russian forces fought their way across Finland, east to west, by 3 separate routes. Capture of the village of Maerkaerjaarvi put them a third of the way across.
League of Nations: The Russians declined to take part in the discussions on Finland for the reasons given in their telegram of 4 December.
- 14 League of Nations: Russia expelled from the League.
- 15 Finland: Report concerning dismissal and disgrace of O. Kuusinen by the Soviet government for alleged misinformation on the strength of his following.
Broadcast offer to resume negotiations by the Finnish Foreign Minister.
- 17 Finland: In the north, the Russians completed conquest of Finland's strip of Arctic territory.
- 18 Japan: Molotov said to have told the Japanese Ambassador that before any fishery treaty could be concluded, Manchoukuo, or Japan for her, must pay the final instalment of the purchase price of the Chinese Eastern Railway, amounting to 5,900,000 yen.
- 20 Finland: In Northern Finland the Russian drive was stalled by blizzards and temperatures 25 degrees below zero.
- 21 Soviet Union: Moscow celebrated Stalin's 60th birthday. He received the title of "Hero of Socialist Labor."
- 25 Finland: Finnish troops celebrated Christmas by invading Russian territory, east of Leksä, 120 miles north of Lake Ladoga.
- 28 Finland: Russian troops cut through the northern strip to Salmijaarvi on the Norwegian frontier.

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January 1940

January

- 1 Finland; Jyväskylä: Russian aircraft dropped leaflets demanding fall of Cajandu government. Half minute later this was followed by bombing and strafing of the city.
- 2 Finland: The Finns stated they had surrounded and trapped 55,000 benumbed Russian troops and had seized a Russian supply base at Aittajoki, on the eastern border.
- 4 Finland; Lake Kianta: Finns reported that in their victory they had captured large sums of money, including 92,000 Finnish marks.
Japan: A trade delegation arrived in Moscow.
- 5 Finland; Isthmus: Russians stated to be digging in opposite Mannerheim line.
- 7 Finland: Turku, Kuopio bombed by Russian aircraft.
Russian losses since the war estimated by neutral observers at 50,000 killed and in wounded more than that number.
Norway: Moscow radio warned Norway not to allow herself to become a tool in the hands of England and France by assisting Finland or by allowing war materiel to pass over Norwegian territory.
- 8 China: Moscow stated that a trade agreement with China had been concluded and ratified by both parties.
Soviet Union: Pravda warned the Soviet's enemies that much had changed since the civil war; the Red Army in personnel and armament and by virtue of its training, had become a gigantic force which had "proved its strength and invincibility" in battles in Mongolia, in the Ukraine and in White Russia.
- 10 Finland; Suomussalmi: Finnish troops threw back Russians over the frontier to Russian soil.
Salla and Lake Kianta: Russians reported to have concentrated large masses of troops and to be making a fresh attempt to cut Finland in two by an advance from Salla towards railway terminus at Kemijärvi.
Soviet Union: Kaganovich relieved as People's Commissar of the Aviation Industry and supposedly transferred to another post.
Shakhurin had taken over Kaganovich's post.
- 11 Soviet Union; Conscription: Men of 1921 and 1922 classes liable to service under the Army law of 1939 were called up in Moscow.
- 12 Finland: Kandalaksha to Murmansk railway reported to have been repaired by the Russians.
Soviet Union; Conscription: Swedish sources stated that large numbers of officers and political commissars had been dismissed during previous few days, including commander of the Air Force at Baltiski, Estonia.
- 13 Finland: Leningrad command issued a communique denying "foreign reports of Finnish successes."

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January

- 14 Sweden, Norway: Moscow protested against material help to Finland and moral support in the press.
Soviet Union: Moscow wireless said that capitalists and other hostile elements found no support among large masses of population. There was no need to use military force for their suppression; the work could be done by punitive forces after intelligence had done its work.
- 15 Norway, Sweden: Tass stated that the Government considered not quite-satisfactory the replies of these two countries to the notes of protest regarding aid to Finland. Objections were raised to non-suppression of influence of "those Powers which strive to involve Norway and Sweden in war against the USSR."
- 16 Sweden: All papers in Moscow published a report from Stockholm saying that Sweden was solving her unemployment problem by persuading men to enlist in Finland.
- 17 Finland: Joutsijärvi: 40,000 Russians reported entrenched east of Joutsijärvi.
Helsinki: Moscow broadcast denied bombing of Helsinki.
- 18 Finland; Salla front: Finns claimed to have pushed the enemy back nearly 30 miles on the Salla front to Märkäjärvi.
Iran: Announcement that work had been begun on a railway between Julfa and Minjevan on the frontier of Iran.
Sweden: Apology to that country for bombing near Lulea due to snowstorm.
- 19 Finland: Lake Ladoga: On the north shore Russians reported to have abandoned attempt to reach Kitela and to have retired to Pitkaranta.
Norway: Apology to Norway for violation of its Arctic frontier by Russian aircraft.
- 20 France: Pravda, dealing with suppression of the Communists in France, said that French rulers were wholly responsible for the fact that Europe was involved in an imperialist war. In such a situation the Soviet Union's policy was to secure the overthrow of imperialist governments by revolution.
- 21 Soviet Union: Sherbakoff, secretary of the Moscow Committee of the Communist Party, speaking in Stalin's presence at a demonstration, said that the struggle between the capitalist world and USSR would progressively become more and more acute. He warned that the present state of the Red Army would make intervention very dangerous.
- 23 Bessarabia: Moscow announced a road was being built from Stalingrad to Tiraspol on the Bessarabian frontier. It was hoped to finish it in 50 days.
- 24 Germany: General Todt arrived in Moscow with a party of engineers and road experts.

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January

- 26 Finland; Mannerheim Line: A turning point in the war was reached when the Russian forces broke the third line and strongest defenses of the Mannerheim line at Summa.
 Gt. Britain: Izvestiya attacked Mr. Churchill as "the greatest enemy of the Soviet Union."
- 28 Finland; Northern Front: Russian reinforcements sent from Archangel were believed to have brought the strength of the troops on this front to about 50,000 men.
- 30 Finland: Fighting was resumed on the north central front around Maerkaerjaorvi and in the Kuhmo region.
 Germany: A German military mission was reported to be in Moscow.
 Japan: Several articles appeared in the press very critical of Japan, which also referred to Wang Ching-wei as a traitor, and said that Japan's place was to "enslave China through the Chinese, Wang Ching-wei and his gang being used for this purpose."
- 31 Soviet Union; Purges: Moscow radio announced that another purgo had begun.

February 1940

February

- 1 Finland; Summa: After prolonged artillery preparation, the Russians launched an attack on Summa in the middle of the Mannerheim line with aircraft, tanks, armored sleds and smoke screens.
- 5 Finland: Helsinki said that during the previous week the Russians had bombed 141 localities, some nine times in one day. About 6,800 bombs were dropped and 145 civilians killed and 179 wounded. Six hospitals were attacked.
- 9 United States: American-Russian Chamber of Commerce office in Moscow was closed, and the resident secretary left for the U.S.
- 11 Finland; Russian losses: Helsinki gave as an official estimate the number of Russian tanks destroyed or captured as 641, and of airplanes as 333.
- 12 Soviet Union; 18th Party Congress of the Fleet: The Naval Commander in Chief, addressing the Congress, declared that Black Sea forces had been doubled, and were now "mighty."
 United States: Trud, referring to President Roosevelt's moves regarding Europe, said that Welles' trip was significant, that although the U.S. had not joined in the second imperialist war, it was only biding its time. American capitalists were waiting and in the meantime selling munitions and gaining enormous profits. Their aims in both 1914 and now were identical. They were working to create a world-wide conflagration of the present war.
- 13 Finland; Summa: In Summa sector alone the Russians had fired in a single day 300,000 shells. This bombardment had been going on for several days. Summa itself was reported taken.

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February

- 15 Soviet Union: Izvestiya accused Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan of gross ingratitude, since "they achieved their independence of British imperialism only owing to Soviet support."
- 17 Finland; Summa: In official statement, Helsinki said that Russian penetration into the Mannerheim Line had been achieved by a terrible wastage of human lives. It was added that the situation had taken a more serious turn for the Finns in the last 24 hours.
- 18 Finland; Summa: A Red Army communique stated that the advance on the isthmus was continuing successfully.
- 20 Poland; Repatriation: The last batch of 35,000 Russians arrived from the German "Government-General" in Poland. The rest, numbering over 450,000 had refused to leave.
- 21 Finland: The Russians shifted their offensive to Taipale, which previously had been concentrated around Summa and Lake Muola in the west and had forced the Finns to withdraw to new positions.
- 22 Gt. Britain: Ivan Maisky presented to the British Foreign Office Russia's proposals to end the Finnish War. The British, after studying the terms, declined to serve as an intermediary.
- 23 Finland; Viipuri: Russians made a succession of attacks toward Viipuri with forces estimated at 250,000, as the beginning of an attempt to carry the second Finnish lines of defense.
- 24 Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania: Moscow radio denied that Russia had made demands of these countries for the cession of more naval bases and increases in the garrisons in the coded bases.
Finland: Moscow announced that the Russians had occupied the lines of Koivisto, Tiuriusaari and Piisaari, fortified with iron and concrete forts.
- 25 Soviet Union: Komsomolskaya Pravda declared that the Line of Lenin and Stalin would lead to the victory of Communism all over the world.
- 27 Finland; Petsamo front: A Russian column moved 15 miles down the highway from Hoyhinjarvi to Nautsi, the first break in the front since just before Christmas, when the Russian drive from the Arctic Ocean was stopped.
- 28 Finland; Northern front: The first Norwegian and Swedish units were reported to have joined the battle line.
- 29 Soviet Union; Commissariat of Foreign Affairs: Moscow radio announced that M. Potemkin had been relieved as Assistant Commissar for Foreign Affairs and would be appointed Commissar for Education.

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March 1940

March

- 4 Finland: Viipuri: Swedish sources said 3 Russian divisions were closing in on Viipuri.
- 5 Finland; Salla: Announcement that the Swedish volunteer corps had begun operations on Salla front.
- 6 Finland: A Finnish delegation, consisting of M. Paasikivi, General Walden and M. Voionmaa, left for Moscow to conduct peace negotiations.
- 8 France: Paris announced the extent of French and English aid to Finns.
- 9 Finland: Pending armistice conferences, Russian troops have occupied several islands and towns in the Viborg Gulf area.
- 12 Finland: A treaty of peace was signed in Moscow by delegates from Russia and Finland at 11 p.m.
 France aid to Finland: M. Daladier, in a debate in the Chamber on "the Finnish tragedy and the part played by France in these events", mentioned that 50,000 French troops were awaiting Finnish green light at embarkation ports, but that these never left port because the Finns never gave a definite answer.
- 13 Finland: Cessation of hostilities to occur at noon -- troops to move to new frontier by 10 a.m., 15 March.
 Gt. Britain: Mr. Chamberlain in Parliament quoted figures of what the Allies had been willing to furnish in men (100,000) and material, provided Finland made a direct request and Sweden permitted passage of troops over her territory. He also gave data as to what was actually sent to Finland.
 Finland: Field-Marshal Mannerheim broadcast an order of the day in which he mentioned that a hard peace had been concluded. He said that 15,000 Finns and 200,000 Russians had been killed.
- 15 Finland: The Finnish Parliament ratified the peace treaty by 145 to 3. The Prime Minister made a statement which included the following: "We believe that by choosing peace we have acted in the best way for the moment."
- 18 Soviet Union: Izvestiya published a warning to neutral countries that if they accepted guarantees from the Allies they were entering a perilous course.
- 20 Finland: Exchange of instruments of ratification of the treaty with Russia.
 Scandinavia: The Tass agency issued a statement denying that it had objected to the conclusion of a defensive alliance between Finland, Norway and Sweden.
- 22 Finland: Hangö handed over to the Russians.
- 25 Iran: Russians sign trade treaty with Iran at Teheran.

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March

- 26 France: Moscow wireless announced that M. Suritz, the Ambassador to France, had been recalled, after a demand of the French government.
- 29 Soviet Union; Foreign policy: Mr. Molotov in a speech addressed to Supreme Soviet said that there had been many instances of Franco-British hostility to the Soviet Union and that the Russians had been fighting not only the Finns, but the combined forces of the imperialist countries, including those of England and France. He gave his estimate of casualties as 48,745 Russians killed and 158,865 wounded; that of Finns as 60,000 killed and not less than 250,000 wounded.
- The Soviet Union would maintain its non-aggression treaties with Turkey and Iran, but that the Union had no such treaty with Rumania because of the unsettled controversy on Bessarabia. However, Russia had no intentions to regain it by force.
- Japan must realize that the Soviet Union would not tolerate any violation of her interests.
- He concluded that Russia must maintain her position of neutrality and refrain from participation in the war between the Western Powers.
- 31 Finland: The Supreme Soviet adopted a proposal to incorporate the Karelian Isthmus in the Karelian Republic to form the "Karelian Finnish Union Republic."

April 1940

April

- 10 Finland: Russians evacuate Petsamo.
- 15 Baltic states: Trud stated that the Soviet Union will aid the Baltic countries in case of attack.
- 29 Soviet Union: 1939 census figures published, showing a population of 170,467,186.

May 1940

May

- 3 Sweden: Moscow radio broadcast a statement that both Russia and Germany were interested in the preservation of Sweden's neutrality.
- 8 Soviet Union: Voroshilov reported by Tass to have been relieved of his duties and appointed Assistant Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars and Chairman of the Committee of Defense. Also to be Molotov's deputy.
- Timoshenko appointed Defense Commissar.
- 11 Yugoslavia: A trade and navigation treaty with Russia signed in Moscow.
- 21 Gt. Britain: Molotov sent a note in reply to a British memorandum on trade negotiations in which he said that Russia had been trading, and would continue to trade, with belligerents and neutrals on the principle of equality.

1940

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- May
26 Yugoslavia: Publication of treaty with Yugoslavia. It included agreements on the most-favored nation clause, and a protocol providing for the establishment of trade delegations in Moscow and Belgrade.
- June 1940
- June
4 Gt. Britain: Russian radio announced that its government had accepted Sir Stafford Cripps as British Ambassador to the Soviet Union.
- 8 Lithuania: Lithuania's Premier and Chief of Staff arrived in Moscow.
- 9 United States: Pravda advised the United States not to enter the war. If it did so, the Fleet would have to be moved into the Atlantic, thus leaving Japan a free hand in the Dutch East Indies and possibly the Philippines.
- 12 Gt. Britain, France: Sir Stafford Cripps and the new French Ambassador, M. Laboune, arrived in Moscow.
- 14 Lithuania: Ultimatum presented to Lithuania, expiring at 10 a.m. the next day, demanding resignation of the Government. It required Lithuania to form a new Government which would enjoy Moscow's confidence and to allow the passage of Soviet troops.
- 15 Germany: Agreement with Germany for settlement of frontier incidents.
Lithuania: Lithuania occupied by Soviet troops, although that country had agreed to Soviet demands.
- 16 Baltic countries: Latvia and Estonia received notes from Molotov, requiring an immediate change of government and free passage of troops to occupy important centers.
Both governments accepted the demands.
- 24 Yugoslavia: Announcement that diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia had been resumed and Ambassadors had been appointed by both governments.
- 26 Rumania: Molotov at 10 p.m. handed the Rumanian Minister a note demanding immediate cession of Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina, giving Rumania till 10 p.m. on 27 June to reply.
- 27 Rumania accepted demands of 26 June.
- 28 Rumania: Soviet aircraft landed at Cornauti, Kishinov (Chisinau), Akkorman (Botatac Alba) and Balti.
- 30 Rumania: Tass announced that the Red Army advancing to occupy Bessarabia and Bukovina, had been assisted by parachutists, and that the advance was proceeding "according to plan."

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July 1940

July

- 1 Estonia: Tallinn radio announced the dissolution of the Fascist military organization, the Kaitselit.
Hungary: Government protested to Rumania against frontier accidents.
Rumania: Foreign Minister reported to the cabinet on the evacuation of Northern Bukovina and Bessarabia; defined the reorientation of Rumanian foreign policy as determined by the New European order in the course of establishment; renounced the Anglo-French guarantee of April 13, 1939. The Council unanimously approved.
Soviet Union: An eight-billion ruble, 20 year loan at four percent interest was announced.
- 2 Germany: A Swiss correspondent in Berlin was expelled for "spreading lies about Russo-German relations."
Rumania: The Foreign Minister told the Foreign Affairs Committee of Parliament that Russia, in its two ultimatums, demanded unconditional return of the two territories; regardless of the advice of Rumania's friends and allies to accept the ultimatum, a Note was sent to Moscow, suggesting negotiations. The Soviet's reply termed this Note evasive and set a time limit for acceptance of the demands.
Soviet Union: The Baltic Fleet completed manouvers.
- 3 Germany, Rumania: The German Minister arrived back in Bucharest from Germany with instructions to tell the Government that Germany for the present was unable to offer Rumania a treaty of alliance or military assistance.
Gt. Britain: Mr. Churchill received the Soviet Ambassador.
- 4 Germany: Four foreign press correspondents expelled for reporting that Russo-German relations had worsened.
Rumania: Government resigned; M. Gigurtu formed a cabinet with M. Manoistescu (a member of the Iron Guard) as Foreign Minister.
Soviet Union: Kaganovich "released from his duties" as Commissar for Heavy Industry and succeeded by Sodin. Defense Commissar Timoshenko and the Secretary of the Ukrainian Communist party Khrushchev reported in Bessarabia.
- 5 Rumania: A Government statement announced that in foreign affairs they intended to follow a policy of the fundamental integration of Rumania with the Axis system, simultaneously intending to maintain the most cordial relations with all her neighbors.
Turkey: German accusations alleging that Turkey had conspired with Britain and France to bomb Baku oil fields, denied in official circles, and also in an official communique.

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July

- 6 Germany: It was announced that Germany and Soviet Russia had agreed to reopen three consulates at three centers in each country.
 Rumania: The Prime Minister said in a broadcast that "the directing of Rumania's foreign policy within the framework of the Axis combination is an accomplished fact."
 Soviet Union: Izvestiya published the documents in the German White Book of June 29, asserted that they revealed direct plans for an insidious attack on Transcaucasia.
- 7 Lithuania: The Government had ordered the confiscation of Church real estate property (Finnish report).
 Turkey: The Soviet Ambassador had a long interview with the German Ambassador.
- 8 Turkey: The Soviet Ambassador left for Moscow.
- 9 Soviet Union: A Moldavian SSR was formed, composed of Moldavian ASSR in the Ukraine and Bessarabia.
- 10 Soviet Union: P.F. Lomako was named Commissar of Non-ferrous Metallurgy, replacing Samokhalov.
- 11 Gt. Britain: Mr. Butler, in a reply to a Parliamentary question about the German White Book's allegations as to the British plans against Russia, stated that the Government's policy had been to improve and strengthen their relations with the USSR. Success in this appeared more likely since March, when the USSR made a friendly proposal for the resumption of the trade negotiations (first departure from the unfriendly attitude since the breakdown of political negotiations in August 1939). Hope was expressed that the discussions going on in Moscow might remove the danger of Russia's working either economically or militarily against Britain in the interest of Germany. Admitted, that since Russia's most valuable form of help to Germany would be oil from the Caucasus, it was the duty of the General Staff to examine whether in certain eventualities it would be possible to interfere with the output of oil there, but averred that no attempt was made to enlist the cooperation of either Turkey or Iran in these hypothetical plans.
 Rumania: Government announced withdrawing from the League of Nations.
 Turkey: Tass denied foreign press reports that Soviet Government presented Turkey with an ultimatum demanding territorial concessions.
- 13 Rumania: Partial demobilization announced.
- 14 Baltic States: Moscow radio stated the programs of a Labor-Peasant-Army front in the 3 Baltic States included: Alliance with the USSR; Democratization of the Army; suppression of the Fascist organizations; land reform; moratorium on peasant debts; free speech, organization, right to strike.
 Estonia: General election held, to decide on the future status of the country. Russian reports stated that over 90% of the electorate voted for the new popular party.
 Latvia: General election resulted in over 90% voting for the new popular party.

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July

- 14 Lithuania: General election was held; 90% of the electorate voted for the new popular party.
- 16 Bessarabia: Former monastery lands in Bessarabia have been distributed to landless peasants.
- 18 Finland: It was reported that the Government had been asked by the USSR either to demilitarize the Aaland Islands, or give Russia an equal share in their control and occupation. Finland had decided to demilitarize.
 Gt. Britain: Tass stated that Mr. Churchill's statement about Great Britain having consulted the USSR Government on the subject of the Burma Road was an "inexactitude", but Mr. Butler had acquainted Ambassador Maisky with the British Government's decision.
 Soviet Union: An order was issued providing penalties for workers who left Machine Tractor Stations without due cause.
- 19 Latvia: Popular demonstrations in favor of joining the USSR reported in Russian press. Prime Minister Kirchenstein concluded a speech: "Long live the Red Army."
 Germany: Hitler's speech to the Reichstag: on the position with regard to the USSR he said that a clear definition of German-Russian interests had been followed by a new basis for the relations between the two countries.
 United States: Chicago Tribune correspondent in Riga ordered to leave the country.
- 20 Germany: Moscow radio broadcast in English made no mention of Hitler's speech.
- 21 Estonia: The new National Assembly voted unanimously in favor of the country becoming a Soviet Republic and joining the USSR.
 Latvia: The new National Assembly voted unanimously to join the USSR.
 Former Foreign Minister Munters arrested by the Soviet authorities.
 Lithuania: The new National Assembly voted unanimously to join the USSR.
 Soviet Union: Stalin attended a parade in Moscow of 30,000 athletes chosen from 6,000,000 young people from all over the USSR.
- 23 Germany: A delegation arrived in Moscow to arrange the evacuation of Germans from Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina.
 Latvia: The new Parliament had decided to nationalize all land, banks, and large business concerns (Swedish report).
 United States: Mr. Sumner Welles, in a statement for the press, expressed sympathy with the three Baltic Republics being "deliberately annihilated", declared that the U.S. Government would continue to recognize the diplomatic representatives in Washington of the Baltic States now living "under duress."
 Yugoslavia: Tass agency correspondent in Belgrade, in a speech, said that the USSR regarded Dr. Machek as the guide and leader of the Croatian people.

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July

- 24 Iran: Two delegations left for Moscow, one to discuss railway traffic, the other agricultural and industrial questions.
United States: The State Department withdrew the Ministers and Military Attaches from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
- 26 Finland: Agreement with the USSR reportedly signed in Moscow; Finland undertaking not to cede the Aaland Islands to any third power, and to demilitarize them; also giving Russia the right to transport troops and war material across Finland to Hangö.
Soviet Union: The Peoples' Commissariat of Navy announced 168 warships to be added to Soviet Navy during the year.
United States: The Maritime Commission approved the chartering of an oil tanker to a Soviet organization to load gasoline for Vladivostok.
- 27 Estonia: The State bank, 102 other banks, 500 industrial undertakings and about 100 printing works reported nationalized.
Latvia: Merchant ships forbidden to visit ports outside the Baltic without permission (Finnish reports).
Gt. Britain: Soviet Ambassador protested to the Foreign Office against the temporary freezing of balances held in British banks for the credit of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
- 28 Afghanistan: Trade agreement with USSR, signed in Kabul, announced by Tass.
Soviet Union: Navy Day celebrated; Admiral Kuznetsov, the Commissar of the Navy, reported on the additions to the Fleet in 1939 (112 units) and 1940 (168 new ships to be built).
- 29 Iran: A delegation arrived in Moscow to discuss questions of railway transport.
Rumania: No satisfactory reply had yet been received in Moscow to the demand under the terms of the 26 June agreement for the return of locomotives and rolling stock removed from Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina.
- 30 Latvia: The Minister to London, Zarins, and the Minister to Washington, Bilmanis, deprived of their citizenship and property for their refusal to return home.
Poland (London): Foreign Minister stated that in spite of their pretended hostility Moscow and Berlin worked in a perfect agreement.
- 31 Baltic States: Representatives of the Assemblies of the 3 Baltic States arrived in Moscow for the meeting of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.
Estonia: Merchant fleet reported nationalized; Civil Guard arms and funds stated to have been handed over to the Communist Party.
United States: The Government issued orders freezing the holdings of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Mr. Sumner Welles told the press that Russia had protested through the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

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August 1940

August

- 1 Finland: Ambassador Paasikivi left Moscow for Helsinki.
 Japan: Cabinet's declaration on foreign policy referring to a new order in greater Eastern Asia. The Foreign Minister told the press that the policy that Japan should be friends with powers who assisted her in China, and should reject those who obstructed her, was still the policy of the Government.
 Soviet Union; Foreign Relations: Foreign Commissar V.I. Molotov's speech on the international situation; at the 7th session of the Supreme Soviet. Molotov re-affirmed Russia's neutrality in the war, and defined Russian policy towards the belligerents and other states. He stated that the German-Soviet Non-aggression grew in importance; saw Sir Stafford Cripps' appointment as an attempt by Great Britain to improve relations; justified the absorption of three Baltic States by the failure of the bourgeois groups controlling the governments of applying honestly the mutual assistance pacts with the USSR.
 United States: Molotov, in his major foreign policy speech, declared that American authorities were withholding gold recently bought by the USSR State Bank from the banks of the Baltic States. The U.S. Government bore responsibility for these illegal acts. The U.S. was also developing imperialist ambitions in connection with the pending redistribution of colonial possessions of Holland, Belgium, and France.
- 2 Finland: Tass report that a meeting sponsored by the "Society for Friendship and Peace with the Soviet Union" had been violently interfered with by the police, denied by the "Finnish sources."
 Soviet Union: A bill providing for the formation of a Moldavian Federal Soviet Republic passed in the Supreme Soviet.
- 3 Lithuania: The Supreme Soviet of the USSR, by an unanimous vote, granted Lithuania's application to enter the USSR as the 14th Republic to join the Union.
- 4 Turkey: Agence Anatolie accused the German News Agency of misquoting Molotov's speech in using a phrase about the "highly unpleasant attitude of certain Turkish high personalities." The press as a whole expressed satisfaction at Molotov's assertion that Soviet relations with Turkey remained unchanged.
- 5 Poland: Military agreement with Great Britain.

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August

- 6 Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania: The Supreme Soviet of the USSR unanimously granted the appeal of these countries for incorporation in the USSR.
 Gt. Britain: The British Ambassador was received by V.M. Molotov.
 Switzerland: The Federal Council issued a decree banning the Communist Party, the Trotzkyists, and the anarchists.
 United States: Renewal of the 1937 Commercial Agreement with the USSR until 6 August 1941 signed in Moscow. A Washington message stated that the agreement did not touch on the problem of the Baltic States, or on the freezing of their funds in the U.S.
- 7 Soviet Union: It was reported that the Soviet Navy was holding maneuvers in the Pacific.
- 8 Brazil: Latvian Chargé d'Affaires Olins sent a message to Dr. Aranha, the Brazilian Foreign Minister, expressing gratification that Brazil had prevented two Latvian steamers from going to the Soviets.
 Rumania: New Minister to the USSR, Gatencu, left for Moscow.
 United States: Mr. Sumner Welles was reported to have described the results of a two-hour talk on outstanding problems with the Soviet Ambassador as "encouraging."
- 9 Finland: The Government issued a statement on the police incident on 6 August involving the "Union for Peace and Friendship with the Soviets." Soviet Government protested the killing of a member of the Union by a Finnish volunteer from Canada.
 Latvia: The Bank of Latvia reported proclaimed a branch of the USSR State Bank.
- 10 Bulgaria: The Bulgarian Minister to Moscow, Stamenov, arrived in Sofia to discuss with the Bulgarian Government the difficulties created between Russia and Bulgaria by the negotiations to return Dobruzha to Bulgaria.
 Soviet Union: Stalin, Molotov, and Voroshilov attended a reception in Kremlin in honor of the delegates from Bessarabia, Northern Bukovina, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.
- 11 Bulgaria: A manifesto by the Bulgarian Communist Party described the Bulgarian Government as a "Fascist Dictatorship" and alleged that it had refused Russian proposals for the conclusion of a pact of friendship and mutual assistance; was equally hostile to the Axis and towards British imperialism.
 Rumania: New Ambassador Gatencu arrived in Moscow.
 Soviet Union: A decree was published providing punishment for larceny in industry.
 United States: Mr. Herbert Hoover issued a statement at Colorado Springs with regard to the feeding of the population of the occupied countries; advocated permitting imports of food from USSR and the Baltic Countries.

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August

- 13 Baltic States: The Commissariat for Foreign Affairs in Moscow sent a Note to foreign embassies and legations in Moscow asking them to close all diplomatic and consular establishments in the Baltic States by 25 August.
Soviet Union: Decree abolishing political commissars in the Army and Fleet.
- 16 Soviet Union: General K.A. Morotskov was appointed Chief of Staff of the Red Army.
Sweden: The Swedish Legations in the Baltic States were closed and the Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian Legations in Stockholm handed over to a Soviet representative. In a review of foreign policy, before the Riksdag stated that trade negotiations with the USSR were in progress, in an effort to extend trade within the blockade barrier.
- 19 Bulgaria, Rumania: Delegates met in Craiova to negotiate the transfer of Southern Dobrudzha.
- 20 Gt. Britain: Churchill's speech in Parliament (survey of the first year of the war) included a promise of far larger operations in the Middle East, and a statement that the British had large armies and the means of reinforcing them, and complete sea command of the Eastern Mediterranean (cf. 21 August).
- 21 Bulgaria, Rumania: Agreement for cession of Southern Dobrudzha by Rumania.
Gt. Britain: Soviet press reported Mr. Churchill's speech of 20 August omitting the reference to the Black Sea and the Middle East.
Mexico: Leon Trotsky died.
- 22 Gt. Britain: Ambassador to Moscow received by the Foreign Trade Commission.
Norway: Communist Party banned by the German authorities; some of the leaders arrested.
- 23 Germany: The anniversary of the Pact with the USSR lauded by the German press; the Deutsche Diplomatische Korrespondenz said that apart from its excellent political results, the Pact had opened up prospects of successful economic co-operation.
- 25 Rumania: Rumanian planes attacked by Red Air forces over Rumanian territory in Moldavia. Frontier skirmishes also reported.
- 26 Japan: A joint communiqué issued by the Government of Manchukuo and Outer Mongolia stated that the linked commission appointed to fix a boundary had reached an agreement covering the Nononhan Sector, and the Commissioners had left Chita for the frontier.
United States: Mr. Martin Dies declared that Germany, Italy, and Russia were carrying on what seemed to be a common campaign of sabotage and intimidation.
- 28 Rumania: Report on clashes with Rumanian aeroplanes and troops in Moldavia.

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August

- 29 Rumania: Minister to Moscow, Gatencu, received by V.M. Molotov, who gave him certain assurances concerning Soviet-Rumanian relations. Vice Commissar for Foreign Affairs handed the Rumanian Minister in Moscow a Note complaining of hostile actions by Rumanian frontier detachments and the violation of Soviet territory by Rumanian aircraft, and placing the responsibility for any consequences of these actions on the Rumanian Government. Minister Gatencu handed over a Rumanian reply to a Soviet protest received on 19 August. The reply contested Soviet allegations, stated that Rumanian frontier detachment had been fired on. The Vice Commissar stated that Gatencu's information would be verified, but reiterated that the Soviet Government needed an "early and satisfactory answer" to the fresh protest.
- 30 World War II: The Red Star, referring to the air attacks on England, stated that German claims of great successes in air raids on Britain were untrue, as well as the statement that Germany had won mastery of the air over Britain.

September 1940

September

- 3 Soviet Union: Autumn maneuvers of the Red Army.
- 4 Hungary: A Trade Treaty with the USSR signed in Moscow.
Soviet Union: Military draft: Classes of 1920, 1921, 1922, with certain exceptions, called up for 2 years' military training.
- 5 Gt. Britain: Lord Halifax, reviewing the war situation in the House of Lords, referred to the detrimental activities in Rumania since the renouncement of the British guarantee.
- 6 Rumania: King Carol abdicated in favor of Prince Michael.
Soviet Union: A Peoples' Commissariat of State Control has been established, to be headed by Lev Mekhlis.
- 7 Rumania: General Antonescu entrusted with forming a Cabinet.
Soviet Union: A.Y. Vyshinsky named first Vice-Commissar of Foreign Affairs.
- 8 Soviet Union: A.Y. Vyshinsky, former State Prosecutor, appointed Vice Commissar for Foreign Affairs.
Sweden: A Trade and Credit agreement with the USSR signed in Moscow.
- 11 Germany: Semi-official reports current in Moscow stated that the Deputy Commissar for Foreign Affairs had received the German Ambassador and confirmed him that the Soviet could not remain indifferent to questions of the control of shipping on the Danube, and that the Soviet, as a state bordered on the Danube, must participate in the decision of questions concerning the Danube.

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September

- 12 Poland: Large numbers of Poles from the Vilna district being deported to the interior of Russia.
- 13 Rumania: The Soviet Government were understood to have protested to the Rumanian government, for the second time, regarding the firing by Rumanians on a frontier patrol, and to have reminded the Rumanian Minister that no reply had been received to the previous protest of August 29. A camp was completed in Belgrade to accommodate 120,000 Germans leaving Bessarabia and Bukovina for Germany.
- 14 Rumania: Reports were current that the Soviet Government had asked Rumania to relinquish all the rolling stock which had been in Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina.
- 18 Rumania: Report from the Russian sources stated that the Soviet Legation had received an appeal from the inhabitants of Northern Dobruzha begging for Soviet protection. It was stated in Bucarest that Minister Gatoncu had been sharply cross-examined in Moscow about the nature of the onomy against whom Rumania had accepted the Axis guarantee.
Denmark: Trade agreement with the USSR signed in Moscow.
- 20 Rumania: Articles in the Bukaresti Tageblatt attacked Soviet rule in Bessarabia.
- 21 Balkan States: The Red Star stated that the USSR, "faithful to its policy of peace and neutrality in the present war, is staying out of the imperialist struggle in the Balkan peninsula." (cf. 26 September.)
Bulgaria: Communist members of the Parliament protested the approval of the Craiova Agreement with Rumania, accusing the Government of pursuing a pro-German policy which would lead Bulgaria to disaster.
Germany: The Stürmer published a cartoon vilifying the Jews, as Bolshovists and destroyers of civilization. This was the first press attack on Bolshovism since July 1939.
- 24 United States: The New York Times published a memorandum stated to contain Germany's war aims; according to it, in the Spring of 1941 Germany would move into the Balkans and attack Russia, to restore the Brest-Litovsk Treaty frontier.
- 26 Balkan States: The Red Star repudiated a statement in its issue of 21 September suggesting that the Soviet Union was disinterested in the fate of the Balkan Peninsula.
Turkey: Tass Agency issued a denial of a foreign report that the Soviet Government wanted M. Sarajoglu (Foreign Minister) removed.
United States: V. Molotov received the U.S. Ambassador, who had just returned to Moscow after 4 months' absence.
- 27 Axis: A 10-year Pact between Germany, Italy and Japan signed in Berlin. Article 5 stated that the three Powers "affirm that the aforesaid terms (Art. 1-4) do not in any way affect the political status which exists at present as between each of the three contracting parties and Soviet Russia."

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September

29 Germany: Radio bulletins, referring to the Axis Pact, stated that "Political circles in the Soviet Union who, of course, were informed of the signing of the pact, note with particular attention the fact that it will in no way change the relations between the three Powers and the Soviet Union. On the contrary, the pact provides for a further development of these relations."

Japan: The Nochi Shimbun recommended the negotiation of a pact of non-aggression with Russia as a counter arrangement to the U.S... attitude in the international situation.

Japan: The Moscow radio, in a review of developments in Indo-China, made no reference to the Axis Pact with Japan, but summarized American and other press statements on the Japanese operations against Indo-China. American resentment against the Japanese move was referred to, and the review ended with the words: "Tension in the Pacific is growing week by week." Pravda stated that the Pact with Japan came as no surprise; "Moreover, information about the proposed signing of the Pact had been forwarded to Moscow before the signature." The clause regarding the Soviet Union expressed respect for Russia's neutrality, confirmed the strength and significance of the Soviet-German non-aggression pact. The paper attributed the conclusion of the Pact to the increasing cooperation between Britain and America, and to an agreement for handing over further bases in Australia and the Far East, which it stated had been concluded. It was true that the U.S.A. had not yet entered the war, but this was not important, as she was "already in one of the warring camps."

October 1940

October

- 2 Soviet Union: A decree establishing a system for State Labor Reserves.
- 3 Soviet Union: A decree eliminating stipend for most students and establishing tuition fees for study above the seven-year-school level has been passed.
- 6 Soviet Union: Defense Commissar Timoshenko reviewed Red Army maneuvers in Leningrad military district.
- 8 Soviet Union: A.I. Zaporozhots was appointed Chief of Political Administration of the Red Army.
- 12 Soviet Union: Pravda, commenting on military tactics, called for changes in tactics, training, etc. to conform with realities experienced in Finland and the Far East.
- 13 Black Sea: The Russian government was understood to have issued orders, a few days earlier, forbidding navigation by foreign vessels in the waters of the Soviet Black Sea. Soon afterwards a Yugoslav steamer was sunk near Sulina, and the Rumanian monitor Tiraspol, on the way from Odessa.

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October

- 13 Rumania: Strong concentrations of troops reported in Bukovina and Bessarabia, and Cornauti stated to have been largely evacuated by civilians in order to be converted into a large military center.
- 14 Soviet Union; Foreign policy: Articles published in press reaffirming that neutrality remained the cornerstone of Soviet foreign policy.
- 15 Germany: Dr. Schunro, deputy head of the Economic Department of the Reich Foreign Office, arrived in Moscow leading the trade delegation.
Rumania: Tass denied the report of the Berlin correspondent of the Danish paper Politiken in which he said that the Soviets knew in advance the objects and the numbers of German troops sent into Rumania.
Turkey: Molotov received the Turkish Ambassador.
- 17 Germany, Japan: Molotov received the German and Japanese Ambassadors
Soviet Union: Portuguese sources stated the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, at its last meeting, had decided to ask for a credit of 57,000 rubles for national defense, representing almost 32% of the whole budget.
- 20 Soviet Union: A decree was issued authorizing the transfer from their residences to any place where their services were needed of all engineers, designers, technicians, economists, accountants, and skilled workers of all kinds. All such men transferred would receive a bonus of 3 to 4 months' wages and other benefits.
- 22 Gt. Britain, Baltic States: Sir Stafford Cripps handed a note to Deputy Foreign Commissar Vishinsky containing the following proposals as a basis for discussion: (1) a de facto recognition of the incorporation of the 3 Baltic States into the Soviet Union; (2) a British pledge not to join any anti-Russian military coalition; (3) an undertaking to give Russia a voice at the peace conference. In return, the British asked Russia to observe neutrality in the war and to undertake no anti-British propaganda in British territory. Vishinsky was reported to have suggested that the undertaking about propaganda would be one-sided, to which Cripps had replied it would be reciprocal.
- 25 Danube Conference: Delegates left Moscow for the Danube Conference.
Japan: Molotov received the new Japanese Ambassador, General Tatekawa.

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November 1940

November

- 3 Gt. Britain: An official Moscow communiqué rejected the British protest against the Soviet participation in the Axis move for control over the Danube, claiming their participation in the forming of a Danube Commission restores the justice which was violated by the Treaty of Versailles.
- Soviet Union: Non-commissioned Officer ranks created by an order to fill gaps in the Red Army between officers and troops.
- 7 Soviet Union: The 23rd anniversary of the October Revolution was celebrated in Red Square with vigilance in light of present world affairs stressed by Commissar of Defense Timoshenko.
- 9 Soviet Union: Ex-chief of the Air Force Lel'tionov appointed Commander of the Baltic Military District.
- 10 Germany: Molotov left Moscow for Königsberg and Berlin, accompanied by the Deputy Foreign Commissar, the Commissar for the Smelting Industry, the Deputy Commissars for Internal Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Aircraft Production, the head of the Central European Department of the Foreign Office, the Deputy General Secretary, and the Chief of the Diplomatic Protocol.
- Soviet Union: Lt.-Gen'l V. Kachalov named Commander of the Archangel Military District, and Lt.-Gen'l Chorovichenko named Commander of the Odessa Military District.
- 11 Soviet Union: Pravda reported severe damage in Bessarabia and part of Ukraine due to earthquake in Rumania.
- 12 Germany: Premier and Foreign Commissar Molotov had a three-hour conference in Berlin with Hitler, in the presence of German Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop and vice-Commissar of Foreign Affairs V.G. Dekanasov.
- 15 Japan, China: Tass denied a report that Japan had reached an agreement with Russia outlining the respective spheres of influence of the two countries in the Far East, and including a Soviet undertaking to cease aiding China.
- 16 Germany: German consulates at Leningrad, Vladivostok, and Batum were opened, indicating reaffirmation of German-Soviet friendship. Russia also recognized Germany's protectorate of Slovakia by publishing the two-year old treaty between the Reich and Slovakia.
- Soviet Union: Red Army reservists aged 19-49, men 40-49 lacking previous military service, and women 19-49 in defense industries required to register during December 1940.
- 20 Slovakia: A Slovak Trade Mission arrived in Moscow.

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November

- 22 Germany: Tass announced the appointment of V. G. Dekanagov, Soviet Vice Commissar of Foreign Affairs, replacing Alexander Shkhartzov, as Ambassador to Germany.
Hungary: Tass denied a report in the Hamburger Fremdenblatt asserting that Hungary in joining the Axis had had the approval of Russia.
- 23 Germany: Announcement that Dekanagov, Deputy Foreign Commissar, had replaced Shuartsevas, Ambassador to Germany.
- 29 Bessarabia: Russian sources deny the report that a revolution had broken out in Bessarabia because of scarcity and high prices of food, fuel, and medicines.
United States: The Department of State announced that it will open a U.S. Consulate General in Vladivostok after receiving approval from the Soviet government.
- 30 Soviet Union: Kalinin's speech made public, declaring that Russia was like a "besieged fortress", occupying one-sixth of the world opposed on principle by the other five-sixths.

December 1940

December

- 5 China: Constantin Smetanin, Russian Ambassador to Japan, advised Japan that Russian policy towards China had not changed despite the Japanese recognition of the Nanking regime.
- 6 Slovakia: German reports announced the signature of a trade agreement between the Soviet Union and Slovakia, for the exchange of Russian cotton, chemicals and leather for cables, electric appliances and artificial silk.
- 9 Soviet Union: The Supreme Economic Council decreed rationing of gasoline for passenger and government automobiles.
- 12 Poland; Germany: Announcement of final delimitation of frontier between Germany and Russia.
- 15 Soviet Union: Town and District Soviets elected in the first local elections in Soviet Western Ukraine and Karolo-Finnish SSR, despite some local opposition.
- 21 Rumania: Moscow protested to Rumania against the arrest of "so-called" Communists.
- 25 Germany: Growing tension between Russia and Germany indicated by the USSR's sudden withdrawal from the mixed Danubian Commission, and increasing protests to Rumania over the anti-Communist activities of Ion Antonescu's Iron Guard.

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January 1941

January

- 1- Soviet Union: Stalin's New Year's message stated that the USSR was prepared for every eventuality, and was in a state of total mobilization.
- 3 Gt. Britain: Tass denied British reports that Stalin had commented on the international situation in the Soviet press.
United States: British objections to U.S. rubber and cotton exports to Russia, constituting a leak in the British blockade of Germany, reported in American press. Martin Dies stated that he had proof that money was being transferred from the Soviet accounts to the accounts of Germany, and that the USSR was using its position in the U.S. to aid the Axis.
- 4 Bulgaria: Sofia radio revealed thousands of petitions were being received by the King and the Government urging that Bulgaria stay out of the war and that a pact be signed with the USSR to insure peace and neutrality.
China: Second part of a general Soviet-Chinese Trade Pact signed (cf. 11 December 1940, 12 January 1941).
Soviet Union: Timoshenko, Defense Commissar, ordered strict economy in use of gasoline and oil by the Red Army in order to build up reserves.
- 5 Balkans: Soviet Ministers to Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Rumania, and Hungary left for a conference in Moscow on the German penetration of the Balkans.
Bulgaria: Reports that the Soviet Government had agreed to a German occupation of Bulgarian territory were current in Belgrade.
Soviet Union; Air Force: Period of service increased from 3 to 4 years.
- 6 Bulgaria: The Director of the Central European Division of the Soviet Commissariat of Foreign Affairs arrived in Sofia as first counselor of the Soviet Embassy.
Germany: Existing agreements with the Soviet Government covering payments for commodities exchanged reported extended to August 1942.
Rumania: Tass denied rumors that the Minister to Rumania had been recalled to Moscow.
- 7 Rumania: Tass denied that the Soviet Minister to Bucharest had been recalled.
United States: Bureau of Mines revealed that the Soviet Union had become the third largest purchaser of American copper since the outbreak of the war.
- 8 Lithuania: Council of People's Commissars of the Lithuanian SSR decreed to exempt peasants and agricultural workers from arrears in taxes, levies and fines as of 1 January 1940.
United States: Conversations between Soviet Ambassador K. Gurnansky and Under-Secretary Welles.

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January

- 10 Argentina: Soviet Trade Mission reported en route to Buenos Aires.
 Germany: Three accords signed with the Soviet Union: Trade agreement extending for one year the agreement signed on 11 February 1940; an agreement on the settlement of mutual property claims concerning Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia and on the exchange of nationals; a Treaty on the Soviet-German frontier from the River Igorika to the Baltic Sea.
 United States: Presidential proclamation on the licensing system (cf. 3 February).
- 11 Soviet Union: Izvestiya editorial protesting that leading political personalities in Great Britain and U.S. accused USSR of infringing the laws of neutrality by selling grain to Germany while condoning U.S. selling warships to Britain; predicted that in 1941 USSR would conclude new trade agreements with neutral and belligerent powers, ignoring the strictures of other powers of Soviet dealings with Germany.
- 12 Bulgaria: Tass agency denied that the Bulgarian government had approached the USSR with the question whether the Soviet Government consented to the arrival of German troops in Bulgaria (cf. 5 January).
 Latvia: Council of People's Commissars of the Latvian SSR decreed to cancel old debts and taxes against farmers.
 Soviet Union; Supreme Soviet of USSR: 136 deputies elected from Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian, Moldavian Republics and the Izmail and Czernowitz regions of the Ukrainian SSR.
 Decree for reorganization and expansion of local industries to increase production of consumers' goods and food products.
- 13 China: Third part of a General Soviet-Chinese Trade pact signed (a barter agreement providing for exchanging \$100,000,000 worth of tea for military supplies, and minerals for machinery) (cf. 11 December 1940, 4 January 1941).
 Soviet Union; Food: Decree for the decentralization of food and consumers' goods industries, establishment of smaller plants utilizing local raw materials.
- 14 Germany: Estimated 57,000 people to be repatriated from the Baltic States under the terms of the Soviet-German pact (cf. 10 January).
- 18 United States: Secretary Hull stated in a press conference that he doubted that any substantial supply of goods was going from South America to Soviet Pacific ports for possible reshipment to Germany.
 An executive order was drawn up freezing all foreign assets in the U.S. and was awaiting the President's signature.
- 20 Japan: Extension of the fisheries agreement signed; Tass stated this was "a step forward in the cause of improvement in Soviet-Japanese relations."
 Switzerland: Trade delegation arrived in Moscow.

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January

21 Japan: Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka, in a review of foreign policy before the Japanese Diet, declared that Japan desired to remove Japanese-Soviet misunderstanding; stated "some of these pending issues are now well on the way to settlement."

United States: State Department announced the lifting of President Roosevelt's "moral embargo" on the USSR. All the articles covered by the embargo (airplanes, etc.) were still subject to export license system.

28 Finland: Kuusinen, in a speech in Petrozavodsk, stated that the Finnish Government was persecuting the Society for Peace and Friendship with USSR.

Gt. Britain: Minister of Economic Warfare Dalton told the House of Commons that he had ample evidence that the USSR was exporting goods from Germany, replacing them in the U.S.

United States: Secretary Hull questioned H. Dalton's figures, stated U.S. cotton exports to the USSR were comparatively small; declared that the "lifting of the moral embargo" was done largely for psychological effect.

30 Bulgaria: Agrarian and Communist Deputies in Sofia urged a treaty of friendship and mutual assistance with the USSR.

Soviet Union: Pravda announced that due to organizational changes, Red Army training and activity reached maximum approximation to real conditions of warfare.

31 Gt. Britain: Ambassador Maisky protested to the British Foreign Office against the detention and sequestration by British warships of cargoes bound for Vladivostok.

Soviet Union: Press published short outlines, without comment, of Hitler's speech of 30 January attacking Democracy and British Empire.

February 1941

February

1 United States: Treasury Department liberalized the frozen fund control, permitting larger remittances. Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia affected by the ruling.

3 Japan: Japanese-Soviet Commission appointed to work out a new fisheries convention.

Soviet Union: Supreme Soviet decree dividing the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs into People's Commissariats for Internal Affairs (L. Beria) and for State Security (V. Merkulov).

L. Beria also appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars.

United States: Copper, brass, bronze, nickel, potash were added to the licensing system (cf. 7, 10 January).

Under-Secretary Welles discredited Mexico City reports that the USSR was planning an attack on Alaska.

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February

- 4 Turkey: Tass Agency denied that a secret Turke-Soviet agreement had been concluded under which the Soviet Union undertook to supply armaments to counteract possible German activity in the Balkans.
United States: Oil well drilling and refining machinery, calfskins, radium and uranium to come under the licensing system (cf. 10 February) to prevent transshipment to Germany via USSR.
- 6 Soviet Union: President Kalinin sent congratulations to President Roosevelt on his inauguration for a third term.
- 7 United States: Lend-lease Bill amendment, to exclude USSR from receiving aid, defeated in the House.
Maritime Commission approved the chartering of two American cargo ships by the Amtorg Trading Corporation.
- 8 Poland: The Polish Information Center in New York estimated that 500,000 inhabitants of Russian-occupied territory in Poland had been exiled to Siberia. Of these 70% were Poles, and the rest Ukrainian.
Soviet Union: Pravda called the Mexican report of an invasion of Alaska by the USSR a case of "delirium tremens."
- 9 Japan, Manchoukuo: Japan reported acceding to alleged Soviet demands that White Russian and anti-Soviet organizations be curbed in Manchoukuo.
Soviet Union: Ambassador Dodd's diary quoted by Tass to the effect that the former Ambassador, William C. Bullitt "seemingly approved unlimited aggression against the Soviet Union in the East as well as in the West", and that several attempts had been made by American and British politicians to provoke a clash between Germany and the USSR.
- 10 Bulgaria: Soviet Special Envoy, Arkady Sobolev, reported informing the Bulgarian Government that the USSR would not interfere if Germany demanded passage of her troops through Bulgaria.
- 11 Belgium: A trade delegation of three German and five Belgian officials arrived in Moscow to regulate the Soviet-Belgian exchange of goods.
Soviet Union: General G.K. Zhukov named Chief of Staff of the Red Army and Vice-Commissar of Defense, replacing K.A. Merotskov.
- 12 United States: Export licensing system: large metal drums and containers for transporting crude oil and gasoline added, effective 15 February.
- 13 Sweden: A Swedish Commission to negotiate for the settlement of property claims in connection with the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian Republics arrived in Moscow.

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February

- 14 Bulgaria: Sofia report that the Soviet Minister had stated Soviet policy vis-a-vis the German-Bulgarian relations was one of peace and non-interference in the internal affairs of any other country.
Japan: New Ambassador to Germany stated that close Soviet-Japanese relations were a logical consequence of Soviet-German relations, and necessary to the construction of a new world order.
- 15 Soviet Union: The 18th All-Union Conference of the Communist Party opened in Moscow.
- 17 Balkans: Turko-Bulgarian non-aggression pact signed in Ankara; Turkish sources quoted saying that other Balkan countries and probably Great Britain, Germany and USSR were consulted before the Bulgarian-Turkish treaty was signed.
- 18 Gt. Britain: Sir Stafford Cripps arrived in Istanbul from Moscow.
Soviet Union; Armaments: The Commissar for the State Plan, addressing the 18th All-Union Conference in Moscow, stated Russia must spare no pains for the greater production of tanks, aircraft, and warships, so as to keep the country in a state of readiness for war.
Turko-Bulgarian pact: Moscow radio stated that the pact was signed "through the intervention of Russia, Greece, and England", that Germany would have to fight for the right to march through more neutral countries, and must not forget the Turko-British pact of friendship.
- 19 Soviet Union: N.S. Voznesensky, Chairman of Council of Defense Industry and of Gosplan, reported to the Party Conference on industry and production of 1940 and plans for 1941.
Communist Party membership was 2,515,481 with 1,361,404 candidates, an increase of 1,399,319 in the two categories since March 1939.
- 20 China: Chungking denied that the Soviet Government had demanded that the Chungking Government's attitude toward the Chinese Communists be defined.
Germany: Soviet Ambassador Dekanosov added to the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Moscow.
Gt. Britain: Soviet Ambassador Maisky also added to the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Moscow.
Soviet Union; Communist Party: 18th Conference ended (cf. 15 February). Kaganovich was reprimanded for bad work.
Thailand: Col. Montri, Assistant Minister of Education, arrived in Moscow; said to be negotiating diplomatic and commercial relations.
United States: Post Office Department disclosed seizing and burning 15 tons of printed material coming largely from Germany and the USSR.

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February

- 21 China: Foreign Minister Wang Chung-hui stated that Soviet Russia's aid to Chiang Kai-shek would continue unabated; that he doubted the USSR would sign an agreement with Japan that would modify Soviet relations with China.
- Soviet Union: Voznesensky, Shcherbakov and Malenkov were made alternate members of the Politburo.
- Changes were announced in the membership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and warnings were issued to members holding important administrative posts.
- Maxim Litvinov among several others was dismissed from the Central Committee of the Communist Party for "inability to discharge obligations."
- United States: The Department of Commerce reported that Russian imports from the United States in 1940 totaled \$86,943,000, making her this country's third largest customer. U.S. imports from Russia were valued at \$22,274,000 as compared to \$25,023,000 in 1939.
- 22 Netherlands: British protests alleging that Dutch vegetable oils may be reaching Germany via Vladivostok answered by authoritative Dutch sources stating that export permits allowed the USSR only enough oil for Soviet domestic needs.
- Soviet Union: The Central Committee of the Communist Party charged Gosplan with the task of laying out a general fifteen-year plan.
- Turko-Bulgarian Pact (17 February): Tass denied Basle report that the pact was concluded with the active assistance of the Soviet Union.
- 23 Soviet Union; Defense: Emphasis in speeches commemorating 23rd anniversary of Red Army on Soviet preparedness against any foe. Marshal Timoshenko said the Red Army was ready to "annihilate any one violating our sacred frontiers."
- 24 Switzerland: Two-year trade agreement with the USSR signed; electrical appliances, dynamos, other precision machinery to be exchanged for grain, timber, oil and cotton worth 262.4 million Swiss francs.
- United States: Washington press reports alleging that the diplomatic discussions were not progressing well, owing largely to the Soviet's inability to purchase machine tools, etc. in the U.S. under the export licensing system.
- 25 Soviet Union; Budget: The Supreme Soviet voted a 26% increase in the military budget, and doubled the peasant's income tax to pay for arms production. The 1941 budget totalled 215,400,000,000 rubles, compared to 179,000,000,000 rubles in 1940.
- Soviet Union; Defense: Supreme Soviet met; budget presented by the Finance Commissar contained defense estimates totalling 70,900 million rubles.
- 26 Rumania: Two-year treaty of commerce and navigation with the USSR, whereby Rumania will ship \$4,000,000 worth of high test gasoline, mineral oils, and industrial products to Russia the first year, and will receive an equal amount of cotton, manganese, and other materials.

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February

- 27 Balkans: Krasnaya Zvezda commented that a struggle was being waged between Germany and Britain for the remaining neutral Balkan countries.
- Japan: Through tickets to Europe via Siberia from Japan reported being limited by the USSR authorities.
- United States: Diplomatic conversations between Ambassador Oumansky and Under-Secretary Welles resumed (cf. 8 January).
- 28 United States: Former Ambassador to the USSR, William C. Bullitt, attacked the USSR in a speech before the Overseas Press Club.

March 1941

March

- 1 Bulgaria: Soviet representative informed that the government had agreed to the entry of German troops into Bulgaria for the purpose of consolidating peace in the Balkans.
- United States: Soviet Ambassador Oumansky informed the Assistant Secretary of State, Welles, that all goods bought by Russia in the U.S. were for the exclusive use of her domestic industry. Protest also made to the State Department against the seizure of mail to the U.S. from the USSR (cf. 20 February).
- 2 Hungary: Agreement with the USSR establishing direct rail communication between Moscow and Budapest, signed.
- 3 Bulgaria: Minister in Moscow informed by the Vice Foreign Commissar protesting Bulgarian attitude on the entry of German troops (cf. 1 March) and refusing Soviet support to Bulgarian policy.
- 4 United States: State Department announced that it had protested to the Soviet Government against the alleged pillaging of the American Catholic Church in Moscow. Soviet authorities promised an investigation.
- 5 Finland: Soviet-Finnish relations declared brought back to normal; in the annual report to the Finnish Parliament, by the Foreign Minister.
- Gt. Britain: Ambassador Sir Stafford Cripps returned to Moscow.
- Rumania: Belgrade report that as a result of a Soviet ultimatum to Rumania for cession to the USSR of naval bases on the Black Sea, Premier Antonescu left for Vienna to confer with Goering.
- 6 Bulgaria, Turkey: Red Star stated that the entry of German troops into Bulgaria immediately after her adherence to the Tri-partite Pact had shown the real meaning of the act of 1 March; declared that Axis diplomacy was obviously aimed at neutralizing Turkey.
- 7 Rumania: Tass denied Soviet Union demanded Black Sea bases (cf. 5 March).
- 8 Rumania: Premier Antonescu revealed that Hitler, Mussolini and Goering had been given veto power over all Rumanian economic agreements with foreign countries.

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March

- 9 Turkey: Soviet forces massed on the Turkish border as German dive bombers landed on the Isle of Rhodes.
- 11 Gt. Britain: Ambassador Cripps received by the Vice-Commissar for Foreign Affairs.
Turkey: Ambassador to Moscow assured by Molotov that Turkey would not be attacked by the USSR if it entered the war (unofficial Ankara report).
- 12 Thailand: Notes establishing diplomatic relations exchanged in Moscow (cf. 28 May).
- 15 Soviet Union: Decree making growing of silk obligatory in certain regions in order to increase 100% silk production in the next five years.
- 16 Soviet Union: Stalin Prizes awarded to Sholokhov, L. Tolstoy, Shostakovich and Eisenstein.
- 17 Turkey: Ambassador in Moscow conferred with Vice Commissar Vyshinsky.
- 18 Soviet Union: Transit of war materials banned unofficially; ban put in effect (cf. 29 April).
United States: Maritime Commission rejected the Soviet application to charter an American ship to carry a cargo to Vladivostok.
- 19 United States: Ambassador Steinhardt informed by the Soviet Foreign Office of the arrest of thieves responsible for the robbing of the American Catholic Church in Moscow (cf. 4 March).
- 20 Hungary: The Soviet Union returned flags captured in 1848.
Soviet Union: Isakov named Chief of Staff of the Navy (replacing Galler, who was appointed Vice-Commissar of Navy).
- 21 China (Occupied): USSR Consulate to be reopened in Shanghai.
France (Vichy): Charge d'Affaires A.E. Bogomolov promoted to the rank of Ambassador.
- 22 Turkey: Ankara Government reported assured by the Soviet Government that they would do nothing to embarrass Turkey should her relations with any third power grow rapidly worse.
- 23 Japan: Japanese Foreign Minister Matsuoka arrived in Moscow.
United States: Gorin, convicted of buying information on Japanese activities on the Pacific Coast, left for Vladivostok, his sentence having been suspended on the assurance that he would leave the country immediately.
- 24 Japan: Foreign Minister Matsuoka received by V. Molotov in the presence of J. Stalin.
Turkey: Turkey and the USSR exchanged statements as to their relations in the event that one of the two countries became involved in the war; neutrality and full understanding promised by both.

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March

- 25 United States: Under-Secretary Welles expressed U.S. satisfaction with the Soviet stand vis a vis Turkey (cf. 24 March).
Washington sources reported that the U.S. Government was looking with more favor on trade with the Soviets, in view of their position in relation to Balkan developments and their assurance that purchases in the U.S. were intended exclusively for domestic use.
Yugoslavia: Yugoslavia signed the Tri-Partite Pact of 27 September 1940. Minister to Moscow, Milan Gavrilovich (Leader of the Agrarian Party), resigned from his post in protest (cf. 19 July).
- 27 Yugoslavia: Prince Paul deposed, King Peter assumed power.
- 28 Yugoslavia: Events of 25-27 January given great prominence in Soviet press.
- 29 Soviet Union: Commissariat of Rubber Industry was established, headed by T.I. Mitrokhin.
Yugoslavia: Minister to Moscow Gavrilovich agreed to retain his post under the new government.

April 1941

April

- 1 Soviet Union: Supreme Soviet of NSFSR opened its fourth session.
Yugoslavia: Pravda denied a report that the Soviet Government had congratulated the new Belgrade Government, but stated that there would have been nothing extraordinary in this if it had been the case.
- 4 France (Vichy): Erik Labonne succeeded by Gaston Bergery as Ambassador to Moscow.
- 5 Yugoslavia: A Five-year Treaty of friendship and non-aggression with the USSR signed in Moscow; came into force on signature.
- 6 Germany: Germany invaded Yugoslavia and Greece.
- 7 Japan: Mr. Matsuoaka arrived in Moscow and had a long discussion with V. Molotov; told the press that the Yugoslav-Soviet pact would not affect Russia's relations with Germany (cf. 23, 24 March).
United States: Secretary Hull, in a press conference, declared the Soviet-Yugoslav pact (5 April) "encouraging."
- 8 Japan: Mr. Matsuoaka was the guest of the U.S. Ambassador in Moscow.
- 9 Gt. Britain: Prime Minister Churchill stated in the House of Commons that "there are many signs which point to an attempt to secure the granary of the Ukraine and the oil fields of the Caucasus."
- 10 Estonia: Supreme Soviet opened with 1941 State budget as main business.
Norway: Norway signed a trade agreement with the USSR.
United States: U.S. Government sued the Curtis-Wright Company for claims against it, assigned to the U.S. by the Soviet Government.

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April

- 11 Soviet Union: Council of People's Commissars ordered a restriction on the indiscriminate celebration of anniversaries.
Yugoslavia: Minister to Bulgaria Milanovich reported about to leave for Moscow.
- 12 Hungary, Yugoslavia: Hungarian Minister Kristoffy called on the Vice Commissar Vyshinsky, and informed him of the occupation of the Yugoslav territory north of Belgrade. Vyshinsky declared bad impression was produced by the attack coming only 4 months after the signing of the Yugoslav-Hungarian pact of permanent friendship.
- 13 Japan: A Pact of neutrality with the USSR signed in Moscow, to run for five years (cf. 24, 27 April). A joint statement declared that the territorial integrity and inviolability of Mongolian People's Republic would be respected by Japan, of the Empire of Manchoukuo by Russia.
- 14 China: Chungking reports that the USSR Government had assured the Chinese Government that its policy of aid to China was not altered by the pact with Japan.
Japan: Pravda stated that the development of both countries made it imperative for them to be good neighbors; that in signing the Pact the Soviet Union and Japan assumed "certain obligations which they will certainly fulfill."
United States: Secretary Hull declared that the significance of the Russo-Japanese Pact (13 April) "could be overestimated", the pact being merely "descriptive of a situation which has in effect existed...for some time past." The U.S. policy was declared unchanged.
- 15 Hungary: Issued a statement on its occupation of part of Yugoslavia, stating that Moscow's criticism indicated that the Soviet Government was not correctly informed of the facts.
Mongolian People's Republic: Congratulated Stalin and Molotov on the conclusion of the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact (cf. 13 April).
United States: Secretary Knox stated in a broadcast that the Russo-Japanese agreement was the latest link in chain of encirclement of the U.S. by antagonistic powers, served no useful purpose to Russia against Hitler.
- 16 Bulgaria: Reported invading Grecian Thrace. Bulgarian-Yugoslav relations reported severed.
Gt. Britain: Secretary Eden reported conversing with Ambassador Haisky in an attempt to improve Soviet-British relations.
Yugoslavia: Yugoslav aviation officers and men reported arriving in Moscow.
- 17 United States: Maritime Commission approved a charter for a tanker to carry oil to Vladivostok or Nagayev.

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April

- 18 Turkey: Ankara reports that the Soviet Government had clearly indicated to the Turkish Government their desire that Turkey should refuse concessions to Germany.
 United States: Department of Commerce released February 1941 figures for trade with the USSR (U.S. exports, \$9,342,000; imports, \$515,000).
- 19 Iran: Soviet-Iranian friction denied by Iranian sources in Moscow.
 Japan, Germany: Pravda denied that the Russo-Japanese pact was either directed against Germany or signed under German pressure; stated Russia's policy as that of maintaining peace and avoiding an extension of the war.
- 20 Iran: Reports were current that the USSR was demanding the right to occupy the northern provinces and an outlet to the Persian Gulf.
 Japan: Entry of foreigners by way of Manchuria banned by the USSR between April 17 and May 3. Japanese reports attributed this action to Russian troop movements. In Manchuli, Mr. Matsuoka stated that the conclusion of the pact with the USSR was beyond Japan's fondest expectations.
- 21 Finland: New Soviet envoy, Pavel Orlov, arrived in Helsinki.
 United States: Secretary Hull, in a press conference, minimized the importance of conversations with Ambassador Gurnansky, stated they had been desultory and concerned only minor matters.
- 22 Iran: Iranian trade representative in America issued a denial of Soviet-Iranian friction.
- 24 Japan: Pact with Russia (13 April) ratified by the Privy Council.
- 26 Soviet Union: 500 mile automobile highway was completed from Stalinabad to Khorog on the Afghanistan border.
- 27 Gt. Britain: Prime Minister Churchill, in a speech, stated that Germany may seize for a time the Ukraine and the Caucasus.
- 28 Soviet Union: Foreign Trade Commissar Mikoyan promulgated a decree forbidding the shipment of war material through the Soviet Union, listing especially munitions, airplane parts, and machine tools.
- 29 Baltic States: Internal passport system was instituted in the Baltic Republics to remove persons not engaged in productive labor from cities.
 Rumania: Foreign Office ratified an exchange agreement whereby the Soviets would receive oil in return for cotton and metal.
 Soviet Union: Commissariat of Foreign Trade decreed a ban on the shipment of all war materials through the Soviet Union.
 Tadzhik SSR: 12,500,000 rubles were voted to the Republic to repair damage caused by earthquake. Collective farmers affected were exempt of 1941 taxes.
- 30 Finland: Pravda stated that 12,000 German troops had landed on 26 April at the Finnish port of Abo, and proceeded to Tammerfors in the interior.

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May 1941

May

1. Soviet Union: Annual May Day parade on Red Square displayed new motorized artillery and new long range guns in addition to familiar equipment. Defense Commissar Timoshenko stated in his May Day proclamation the readiness of Red Army to rebuff any encroachment on Soviet territory; declared that the country was "in a capitalist encirclement."
3. Iraq Government proposed through Ankara, to establish relations with the USSR without making any conditions (cf. 12 May). Previous proposals, at the end of 1940, included a suggestion that Moscow should publish a declaration recognizing the independence of the Arabian countries as a whole.
Poland: Purchase of \$100,000 worth of food products in the USSR by the Commission of Polish Relief, for children in German-held Poland, reported by the American Red Cross.
4. Iran: Reports from American sources that 6000 German "tourists" arrived in the country.
5. Rumania: The Soviet Government announced that it had effected the release from a Bucharest prison of Anna Paulker, Rumanian labor leader. She will reside in the USSR.
Soviet Union: Stalin addressed graduates of Red Army Academics, announcing that the Red Army had been rebuilt and rearmed.
Decree was issued to mobilize 700,000 boys and girls between 14 and 17 for enrollment in trade schools.
Press reports of Hitler's speech omitted his references to Turkey or to Mr. Churchill.
6. Soviet Union: Stalin replaced Molotov as Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR. Molotov became Vice-Chairman.
United States: A Soviet citizen, G.B. Ovakimian, arrested on charges of failing to register as a foreign agent.
United States: Export Control Administrator, Brigadier General Maxwell, stated that machine-tools were being withheld from the USSR as essential to U.S. defense needs.
7. United States: State Department reported seeking an exit visa from Soviet Poland for U.S. citizen, Dr. W. Putkowski; Secretary Hull stated that failure to obtain one would be "regarded with concern."
Maritime Commission refused permission to American oil firms to charter tankers to carry oil to the USSR.

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- May 8 Soviet Union: Tass denied that troops were moved from the Far East to the Kiev Military District and that submarines and destroyers were sent from Baltic bases to Caspian and Black Seas.
- Sweden: Legation in Washington issued a statement by Foreign Minister Christian Guenther stating: "Not only we wish to maintain good relations with a Russia which has friendly intentions as to the northern countries, but we wish also to deepen and broaden those relations."
- 9 Belgium, Norway, Yugoslavia: Legations no longer recognized by Soviet Government, "owing to their countries' loss of sovereignty."
- Soviet Union: Presidium of the Supreme Soviet decreed introduction of ranks in the diplomatic service: Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Minister and Charge d'Affaires.
- United States: Ambassador Steinhardt effected the release from Soviet prisons of an American boy and girl.
- 10 United States: Department of Commerce released March, 1941, figures for trade with the USSR (U.S. exports, \$3,590,000, including \$1,058,000 worth of sole leather; U.S. imports, \$4,264,000, largely undressed furs).
- 11 Finland: The Central Mixed Frontier Commission completed the work of demarcation of the Soviet-Finnish borders established by the peace treaty of March 12, 1940.
- 12 Germany: First Vice Commissar of Foreign Trade Krutikov left for Moscow after a visit of several weeks in Berlin discussing transport problems.
- Iraq: Diplomatic relations with USSR established (cf. 3 May).
- 14 United States: Export licenses for \$1,000,000 worth of machine tools to the USSR granted during the week (cf. 6 May).
- Soviet-American trade discussed by Ambassador Oumansky and Secretary Hull.
- 16 Iraq: In Ankara notes exchanged between Russian and Iraqi representatives establishing diplomatic, trade, and consular relations between the two countries.
- United States: Ambassador Oumansky protested an American seizure of a Russian cargo of wool and hides aboard the Swedish merchantman Columbia in San Francisco.
- 17 Iraq: Ex-premier, Hikmat Sweiman, released from prison, appointed Ambassador to the USSR. In Moscow, Tass denied that USSR Government permitted recruiting volunteer pilots to fight with the Iraq army.
- Soviet Union: Commissariat of Foreign Affairs issued regulations restricting travel of foreign diplomats in border zones and certain key cities.
- Soviet Union; Defense: 250,000 civilians took part in tactical defense exercises held in the Moscow region.

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- May
18 China: Chungking official paper reported that China and Russia had decided "in principle" to prolong their barter agreement.
Soviet Union: Government announced a 15 year plan to drain and cultivate 10 million acres of swamp land in Byelorussia.
United States: Ambassador Steinhardt visited by Vice Commissar of Foreign Affairs A.Y. Vyshinsky.
- 21 Denmark: A new barter agreement with USSR signed.
Finland: Legation in Washington denied the presence of 5 German divisions in Finland.
Germany: Large German army concentrations along the Soviet border reported (from Istanbul).
- 22 United States: Assistant Secretary Berlo stated in Atlantic City that the Axis armies were trying to get control of Russia by guile or force; intimated they would not stop at the Atlantic shoulder of Africa.
- 24 Germany: Berlin denied arrangements had been made for transit of military materials through the USSR and Iran for use against the British in the Middle East.
- 25 Germany: Pravda declared that the report that the USSR would lease the Ukraine to Germany was "political nonsense and an idiotic lie."
Soviet Union: All-Union Agricultural Exposition opened for the third year.
- 27 Latvia: A. Kirchenstein, Chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet, announced that landless peasants received 2,373,000 acres of land and 25 million rubles of State credits. The population received 143 million rubles for medical needs.
- 28 Thailand: Establishment of diplomatic and trade relations with the USSR proclaimed in the official Bangkok Gazette; relations were in effect since 12 March.
United States: Export licensing system extended to cover the Philippines.
- 29 United States: Soviet press published short versions of President Roosevelt's speech of 27 May, with no reference to the mention of Dakar.

June 1941

- June
1 Finland: Retiring Envoy to Moscow, Paasikivi, received by Stalin.
Germany: Soviet press reported border violations in the region of Lvov.
- 2 Slovakia: Minister to Moscow Frank Tisso replaced by Julian Sinko
Sweden: Agreement with USSR signed, settling Sweden's financial claims against the Baltic States when they became a part of the USSR.

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- 3 Belgium: Minister to Moscow left for America.
Greece: USSR Government withdrew their recognition on the ground that Greek sovereignty was lost and that there was no Soviet representative in Athens.
Japan: Food shipments to Germany via USSR reported in Tokyo.
Yugoslavia: Minister to Moscow left for Palestine.
- 5 Germany: Ankara reports that Germany, with the aid of Rumania, was planning to invade the Ukraine.
United States: John Scott, an American writer, ordered by Soviet authorities to leave Russia immediately for publishing "scandalous" material about the Soviet Union in an English newspaper.
- 6 Gt. Britain: Ambassador Sir Stafford Cripps left for London for consultation with the Foreign Secretary. Agreement reached in London for the repatriation of 250 Baltic seamen stranded in England; ships were not released by Great Britain.
Rumania: Antonescu denied rumors that Rumania was going to war during the next few days.
- 7 Hungary: Arrangements were being completed for a Russian free port in the Danubian wharves area in Budapest.
- 8 Finland: Soviet Government shipped 20,000 tons of grain above 15,578 tons previously delivered, because of the Finnish food shortage.
- 10 Rumania: Three Germany Army Corps reported to have arrived to join the forces on the Bessarabian frontier; all roads from Bucharest to the Russian border were stated to be filled with military transport.
Soviet: Defense Commissar B.L. Vannikov replaced by D. Ustinov, for failure to fulfill his duties.
- 11 Gt. Britain: Ambassador Haisky assured the British Government that the Soviet Union was not entering any new military, political or economic agreement with Germany.
Germany: Stockholm reported 10,000 German troops had arrived in Finland. London heard that Nazi soldiers were concentrated along the Soviet Border.
Japan: A commercial agreement with the USSR was initialed; provided for the most-favored nation treatment on both sides and for the barter of goods up to 30 million yen a year, for five years.
- 12 Gt. Britain: Sir Stafford Cripps arrived in London for consultation with the British Government.

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- June
13 Germany: Tass issued a denial that Germany had presented demands to the Soviet Government; declared that both Russia and Germany were abiding by the provisions of the Soviet-German Non-Aggression Pact; stated that the call-up of Russian reservists and an announcement of maneuvers were in keeping with usual annual procedure. "Allegations that Soviet Russia is carrying out acts hostile to Germany are absurd."
Iran: A.A. Smirnov named Soviet Ambassador, to replace N. Filimonov.
- 14 Rumania: General mobilization (according to London reports).
- 15 United States: Baltic Freedom Rally in New York adopted a resolution calling for the severance of diplomatic relations with the USSR.
- 16 Japan: Agreement with the USSR on the demarcation of the Mongolian-Manchoukuo border in the vicinity of Nomonhan announced. The work was to begin 27 June.
United States: Freezing of funds of all countries of Europe, including the USSR ordered by the U.S. Government. Provision was included that a general license could be issued for Russian funds, if the Soviet Government gave assurances that they would not be used for anti-American propaganda.
- 17 Finland: Soviet troops reportedly being removed from Petsamo.
Gt. Britain: London report that the British had stopped giving navicerts for ships going to Petsamo.
- 18 Hungary: Repatriation of 13,000 Magyars from Northern Bukovina revealed in Budapest.
Turkey, Germany: Non-aggression Pact signed between the two countries.
- 19 Finland: Called up all reserve officers.
Germany, Rumania: Rumors emanating from Turkey that ultimata had been presented to the Soviet Union by Germany and Rumania.
Rumania: Mobilization ordered of new grades of specialists and technicians; 25 divisions reported in arms along the Soviet border.
- 20 Finland: General mobilization was ordered.
- 21 Germany: Ribbentrop's note to the Soviet Ambassador listed hostile acts by the USSR. It was delivered on the 22nd.