
Statement of Ludwig C.A.K. Martens on the Activities of the Soviet Mission: Moscow — Feb. 24, 1921.

Document entitled "The Following is the Translation of Message as Intercepted"
(probably an article from the Soviet press) by American Consul in Viborg, initials V.R.M.
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MOSCOW (February 24 [1921]).— Comrade Martens, the Plenipotentiary Representative of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic in America, who has arrived in Moscow, made the following statement concerning the work of the Soviet Mission in America:

Under What Conditions the Soviet Mission Worked.

Only a month after the Soviet Mission began its work in America, the United States Senatorial Committee dealing with the investigation of Bolshevism in America carried out its first raid on the Mission. In December 1919, another Special Committee consisting of 5 Senators was formed for the purpose of investigating my activities. Meanwhile, Palmer, Attorney General, on January 2, 1920, signed an order for my arrest. After being cross-examined I was officially arrested by the Department of Labor, which continued investigations until my departure and sentenced me to deportation.

Why Did the United States Government, In Spite of Its Hostile Attitude Toward Soviet Russia, Allow the Presence of Our Mission in the USA For So Long.

This can be explained by considerations of home policy. Our department caused a certain amount of consternation in American government circles. This is proved by the fact that we were given a definite time for liquidation our affairs and by the favorable conditions of our departure.

The Activities of the Mission.

The work of the Mission in America can be divided

into three parts: Information, Commercial work, and Technical work.

The aims of the Information Bureau were to give the American people true account of the events taking place in the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic. With regard to this, the Mission was very successful, as the American people ceased to believe the reports of the capitalist press. Our information reached all classes of the population.



One of the main objects of the Commercial branch was to arrange for the resumption of trade relations between America and Russia. The success of this branch of work is quite apparent now, when the commercial circles of America have definitely expressed themselves in favor of resuming trade relations with Soviet Russia. This branch of work also included commercial activities, which resulted in our placing large orders with American firms for various agricultural implements, machinery, and

railway stores. In reality we did not succeed in trading with America; we succeeded, however, in exporting some goods. Thus goods to the value of \$750,000 have already arrived in Moscow.

The Russian Colony.

One of the most important tasks of the work of our Mission was to come into contact with the large Russian Colony, consisting of over 3 million people. All this mass of people are undoubtedly the supporters

of Soviet Russia. Russian workmen have won for themselves one of the foremost places among workmen of other nationalities and their high qualifications distinguish them from other workmen.

The Technical Branch.

The object of this branch of work is the collection of various technical and scientific information and schemes of various works. On the initiative and under the guidance of the Technical Branch a movement has sprung up in America in favor of rendering technical assistance to the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic. So-called "Societies for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia" were formed as early as the beginning of 1919 in large industrial centers.

Our Mission Will Return to America.

It is my deep conviction [concluded Comrade Martens], that our return to America will take place in the very near future. The program put forward by the Republicans during the Presidential election contained a paragraph demanding the resumption of trade relations with all countries with which America is not in a state of war. This of course applies to Soviet Russia. I think that as soon as Harding becomes President of the USA, Soviet Russia will be given the opportunity of opening the necessary negotiations.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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