

Summary of Gustav Hilger's SECALT Diplomatic and Economic adultions between Germany and the USSR, 1922 to 1941; dated october 15, 1944, Enc-Tosure to Despatch No. 7576, November 5, 1946 from Usroll for German; to the Department of State.

From the Treaty of Mapallo, 1920 to hitler's ascent, relations between Germany and mussia were cordial. Germany sought her resurgence as a world power through sussian friendship - diplomatically and militarily and sensibly sought economic advantage in mussian markets.

The bad relations between the two countries was initiated to mitler's politics rather than sound diplomatic and economic considerations. . . ide circles in Germany were of rosed to hitlan's anti-covist propaganda particularly in the meichsechr, industry, and liberal intellectual circles.

By 1938 the Aussian defense reactions to hitler's anti-covietism were (1) her entry into the League of Mations, (2) her proclamation of the thesis of an indivisible peace, (3) her support of popular front governments, and (4) her agreements with France and Czechoslovakia. This year was the madir in dusso-German relations prior to the war.

Stalin sought a rapprochement in March 1939 but hitler did not heed his appeal until the summer, by which time he desired dussian neutrality in the coming invasion of Foland. Thus, in August Hitler proposed that Von Aibbentrop go to Moscow to draw up a musso-German non-aggression pact. The ract was concluded, along with its secret protocol, in august 1939. As a result, hitler felt secure in the projected rolish invasion, believing that the nest would not rally to Foland's aid without aussian assistance. Aussia brake her encirclement and was assured, by the secret protocol, that her interest in the Bultic region would be respected. The USSM needed that assurance as a result of the failure of the mest to stand up to Hitler - the Munich Conference.

after Germany's invasion of Poland, mussia held back until the Folish Government withdrew. Then the ded army moved into its designated to part of folund. In late September 1939 Von dittentrop again came to moscow to modify the earlier designated spheres of influence. By a new agreement gussiaf gained Lithuania in exchange for part of ioland. on her own initiative missia forced the Baltic states to cede sea bases to her. It was Finland's reculcitrance that precipitated the Finno-mission war in hovember of 1939. The secret protocol enabled abssia, in early 1940, to annex Esthonia, Latvia and Lithuania without German disapproval.

In the course of 1940 musso-German sweetness and light was dissipate rapidly. Aussia violated the fact in Lithuania and was overly ambitious in Amenia. Final pre-war diplomatic discussions were held in Berlin in November, 1940. Solotov sought agreement on an extension and clarification of the Soviet sphere of influence into Finland, Eulgaria, Iran and Sakhalin Island. Germany never replied. ambassador Schulenburg, upon Hitler's order, rejuctantly presented the last German note to molotov on

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4

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b) (2)(A) Privacy

(2)(e) Methods/Sources 7

(2)(S) Foreign Relations 🗇

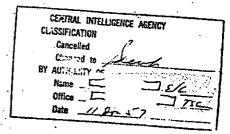
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23 June 1941. It announced that German counter measures would be taken against intolerable Soviet troop concentration at the border, wolotov asked, "Is this supposed to be a declaration of war?" behulenburg made a helpless gesture with his hands. wolotov concluded, saying that it could be nothing else since German aircraft had been bombing udessa, Kiev and Minsk for the past hour and a half.

(Comment: hilger's riting is eminently readable and his intimate relationship with the history adds great interest. ICM)



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