

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
INCOMING TELEGRAM

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C Paraphrase before communicating to anyone.

A_R
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SECSTATE

3306, August 25, 9 a.m.

Release of Litvinov from position as Junior Deputy Minister Foreign Affairs is logical culmination of gradual process his exclusion from active participation in Soviet Foreign relations. Dept will recall that in June he was reported having said he was definitely out of the picture and was functioning only as observer.

At this juncture, we believe, it useful to recall as well, his observations reported at that time based on his conviction that irreconcilable differences between East and West grew out of Kremlin ideology with its insistence on inevitability of conflict between Communist and capitalist considerations.

We have always considered Litvinov a westward looking Soviet official. Although never a member of the Kremlin inner circle and accordingly never as influential as his reputation abroad led many to believe his periods of active participation in Soviet diplomacy coincided with periods of greatest cooperation with the Atlantic community and loudest professions in support of principle of collective security.

Since his dismissal from position as Foreign Commissar in 1938, Litvinov has had no positive role

in formulation

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
Dept. of State letter, Aug. 10, 1972
By MLT, NARS Date 12-11-77

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-2- #3306, August 25, 9 a.m., from Moscow

In formulation of Soviet policy despite fact that he was brought out of political obscurity in 1941 and dusted off to serve as a front man to assure full American aid and cooperation in war effort. Since his return here, he has been but a nominal member of PONOFF. During this time he has apparently come to conclusion that policies being pursued by Politburo will only lead to further difficulties for Soviet Union and might even lead to eventual open clash with West. Announcement of his removal at this time is but another manifestation of Kremlin's decision to relegate cooperation with western allies and world organization to secondary position in Soviet policy.

Repeated London as 352, Paris as 327.

DURBROW

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