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Professor of surgery at the University of Moscow I.P. Aleksinsky: his life and work in Russia and in emigration

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This article reviews I.P. Aleksinsky's contribution to the development of Russian surgery and his role as a public political figure of the Russian diaspora. Archival documents from the Alexander Solzhenitsyn Center for studies of Russian emigres are presented.

Keywords: I.P. Aleksinsky, Russian surgery, sociopolitical worker, Russian abroad

Russian historiography has for some time been biasly dealing with the so-called phenomenon of Russian emigration, both the academic and the political exile. One striking example of loyalty to the Motherland while one is in a strange land is the fate of a brilliant Russian doctor and scientist, public and political figure, professor of the two largest medical faculties of Moscow (Moscow Imperial University and the Moscow Higher Women's Courses) – Ivan Pavlovich Aleksinsky.

Life and works of I. P. Aleksinsky in Russia (1871-1917)

Ivan Pavlovich was born on 1871, into a noble family in the village of Oparino, the Alexander District of the Vladimir Province. In 1889, he entered the Natural Sciences Department of Physics and Mathematics of Moscow Imperial University. There, he studied for a year and then transferred to the Faculty of Medicine. In 1894, after graduating from the university, I.P. Aleksinsky became part of the faculty at the Surgery Department clinic, which was headed by the famous Russian surgeon, Professor A.A. Bobrov. Aleksinsky held the position of a supporting physician and was also hired as a consultant for the hospital of the Iberian community of the Russian Red Cross Community (RRCC) in Moscow. In 1897, along with a group of community doctors, he assisted the wounded in Greece (during the Greco-Turkish War), as a surgeon of the military hospital. For this, he was

awarded the Order of St. Anna of the 3rd degree, the Greek gold and silver medals of Ilitaz and the Turkish silver medal in memory of the war of 1897 [1, p. 26].

In 1899, I.P. Aleksinsky defended his doctoral dissertation and was appointed assistant at the faculty of the department of surgery at Moscow Imperial University. In 1900, he was sent by the RRCC to the Far East. He worked for a year as a senior physician and surgeon at the medical units of the Iberian community military hospitals in Blagoveshchensk and Khabarovsk. For his dedicated work, he was awarded the Order of St. Anne of the 2nd degree and the right to wear the emblem of the Red Cross [1, p. 26].

In 1901-1903 I.P. Aleksinsky, as a privat-docent, was in charge of the outpatient department of the faculty of the surgical clinic at the University of Moscow. He also taught a course called "Semiotics and diagnosis of surgical diseases" and supervised hands-on training.

From September 1903 to April 1906 (during the illness and death of A.A. Bobrov), I.P. Aleksinsky served as the head of the faculty surgery at the clinic of the Imperial Moscow University. In 1907, he was elected head of the department of surgical pathology and desmurgy of the Imperial Moscow University at the Iberian community hospital of the RRCC. Here, he was both the chief doctor and the head of the surgical clinic.

On October 23, 1906, S.A. Chaplygin, director of Moscow Higher Women's Courses, presented a list for approval to the head of the Moscow educational district. This list included

the top new teachers of the medical school, which was being then created. I.P. Aleksinsky was on this list. At this time, 1906, a department of surgery was established for the 1st City Hospital of the Medical faculty of the Moscow Higher Women's Courses. I.P. Aleksinsky headed this Department until 1917.

In 1910, he headed the surgical clinic of the Novo-Catherine's Hospital, which was part of the Hospital Surgical Clinic of the Imperial Medical University. Here, taught university students surgery. In 1911 in protest against the policy of the Minister of Education, L.A. Casso who was infringing upon the rights of students, I.P. Aleksinsky together with a group of progressive-minded professors left the university [2, p. 3]. He worked with the Iberian community, taught departmental courses at the Moscow Higher Women's Courses, and conducted patient consultations.

This defiant career interruption as university professor was no surprise. His public stance had been expressed ten years earlier. In 1901, I.P. Aleksinsky's had been selected council of the Alexanderovsky County Zemstvo of the Vladimir Province. During the period of 1904-1905 he shared many of the views of the Constitutional Democratic Party (Cadets) and, having a certain authority among the Moscow intelligentsia, in 1906 he was elected deputy to the 1st State Duma of the Vladimir Province. At the end of 1906, Aleksinsky joined the People's Socialist Party.

In the autumn of 1914, Aleksinsky gave up his peaceful political and surgical activities and took up military medicine. At the request of the Russian Red Cross, he accepted the position of head of the medical department of this organization. Initially this was on the South-Western front, and then in the rear, where he worked in an Iberian community hospital that had been converted into a military hospital. After the February Revolution of 1917, the Conference of the Imperial Medical University decided to take the prominent scientists back into the Department. I.P. Aleksinsky had resigned in 1911 but was again appointed professor of surgery. In 1917-1919 Ivan Pavlovich headed the desmurgy Department of Surgical Pathology of the Imperial Medical University and the surgical and andrological hospital clinics of the University.

Being a patriot, Aleksinsky could not stand aloof from the political issues of his time (I.P. Aleksinsky's point of view was close to that of the Cadet Party, which was supported by the majority of university professors). From 1906 until the February Revolution of 1917, I.P. Aleksinsky was "under special police surveillance". This is confirmed by archival documents [4, p. 124].

I.P. Aleksinsky's relationship with people who seized power in October 1917 did not go well. The Bolsheviks regarded him as a "bourgeois scientist", an activist of banned bourgeois parties. They kept in mind that he was a deputy in the 1st State Duma.

As a surgeon and a scientist, I.P. Aleksinsky impressed his colleagues with his wide ranging scientific interests and ever-increasing range of surgical procedures. For instance, in 1896, as an assistant at the faculty of the surgical clinic, he became interested in developing surgical procedures for cerebral palsy. At the end of the century, I.P. Aleksinsky conducted a series of experiments that served as the basis for his doctoral thesis "Echinococcus in the abdominal cavity and its surgical treatment" (1899). It extensively studied the occurrence, diagnosis and surgical treatment of this disease. We should mention here that the number of observations made in this dissertation was unprecedented. In 1906 the work of I.P. Aleksinsky about Echinococcus "Surgical Society in Moscow", received one of highest awards of its kind – the Professor I.N. Nowacki medal.

On April 29, 1900, at the meeting of the Moscow Society of Russian Surgeons, I.P. Aleksinsky exhibited Russia's first X-ray [2, p. 67]. In 1908, at the VIII Congress of Russian surgeons, he spoke about his method for treating postoperative hernia, which included herniotomies and plastics of hernia collars of two layers of fascia (Aleksinsky's method) [3, p. 237]. In 1909, he proposed a modification to the technique of dissecting highly localized malignant tumors from the rectum and suturing the bowel to the pelvic peritoneum. In 1910, he developed the operation of partial excision of synovitic bursa. In 1913, he was one of the first in Russia to prove the possibility of stomach resection for gastric ulcer disease.

The high regard of I.P. Aleksinsky among Russian surgeons can be demonstrated by the

following facts: in 1896 he became one of the founding members of the Society of Russian surgeons, in 1912-1913 he was its Chairman, and in 1913 he was elected Chairman of the VIII Congress of Russian surgeons.

In 1902-1916 I.P. Aleksinsky repeatedly spoke at meetings of Congress of Russian surgeons (made 9 reports and 56 times spoke in the debates).

Life and work of I.P. Aleksinsky in emigration (1917-1945)

In 1919 Professor I.P. Aleksinsky, like many people around him who shared the same views and did not accept the October Revolution and its results, left for the south with his family, where he joined the Volunteer Army, and worked tirelessly in military hospitals till the end of 1920, after which he emigrated to Turkey (Constantinople) with the troops of General P.N. Wrangel [1, p. 27].

On January 1921, I.P. Aleksinsky became a member of the "inner sanctum" of General Wrangel. He then became a member of the Political Joint Committee. Subsequently, I.P. Aleksinsky participated in the creation and activities of a number of other emigrant political organizations: Russian Patriotic Association Abroad, Russian Committee of United Organizations and others.

In the spring of 1921, the "Russian Council" was established in Constantinople; in the Russian diaspora, often called "the Russian government in exile". According to P.V. Wrangel's idea⁵, it was

⁵ Peter Nikolaevich Wrangel, Baron (15 (27) August 1878, Novoaleksandrovsk — 25 April, Brussels, Belgium) — Russian warlord, the participant of the Russian-Japanese and the First World War, one of the main leaders (1918-1920) of the White Movement during the Civil War. He was Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army in Crimea and Poland (1920). He accepted Voluntary Army under the conditions when all the White movement had been lost by his predecessors. Nevertheless, Wrangel did his best to save the situation, and, eventually, had to take away the rest of the Army and civil people who did not want to stay with the Bolshevik government. Since November 1920 Peter Nikolaevich was in emigration. In 1924 Wrangel created the Russian All-Military Union, which was a kind of union of the majority of participants of the White movement in emigration. In November 1924 Wrangel accepted as the leader of the RAMU Grand Duke Nikolay Nikolaevich who during the First World War was the Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Army of Russia.

meant to provide "a continuity of Russian power in unity between the Commander in Chief and social forces representing the Russian national idea" [5, p. 35]. It included representatives with a wide variety of views and from various associations — monarchists, socialists, cadets from members of both houses of parliament (I.P. Aleksinsky, A.I. Guchkov, V.V. Lashkevich, N.N. Lvov, A.A. Musin-Pushkin and others) from the municipalities (VF Malinin, Znamenskii VM et al.) and zemstvo commons (N.I. Antonov, Count I.A. Uvarov and others), from trade and industrial unions (N.A. Rostovtsev, I.N. Chumakov, V.P. Schmidt and others), etc. Baron P.V. Wrangel was elected Chairman of the Council and I.P. Aleksinsky became its "senior fellow" (First Deputy).

In his main speech at the first meeting of the Council, I.P. Aleksinsky noted that the creation of the "Russian Council" coincided with the four-year anniversary of the start of the Russian Revolution, "which was opening a new path towards the free development of its creative forces, as we then hoped, and which, as a result, led to collapse and destruction of Russia". The results of the October Revolution, according to I.P. Aleksinsky were disastrous for Russia: "Instead of the strong growth of the productive forces of the country, we have poverty; instead of a friendly union of the forces of people towards creative social and public works, we have an unprecedented brutal civil war; instead of a free democracy, we have a vile tyranny..." [5, p. 35].

Ivan Aleksinsky's particular oratorical style could clearly be seen in this speech. According to eyewitnesses, it featured a metaphorical description of the tasks of the anti-Bolshevik struggle, which was like a complex and almost surgical procedure aimed at saving a Russia on the edge of destruction. He gave reasons for the need to unite anti-Bolshevik forces under a single leadership and saving the army as the main instruments of struggle for the revival of Russia.

In the early 1920s, I.P. Aleksinsky participated in the establishment and activities of medical nursing courses for the Red Cross in Constantinople, Serbia and Bulgaria. Many qualified nurses who had the right to work in foreign hospitals were trained there [6, p. 32].

In 1922, Aleksinsky moved to France and took the lead in the Society of Russian physicians named after I.I. Mechnikov. In addition, he was Vice-Chairman of the Board of the Russian-French hospital, located in the Parisian suburb of Villejuif.

At this time, not medical but political activities were more important for I.P. Aleksinsky. In April 1926, Paris held the first Congress of members of the Russian emigration (Russian Congress Abroad⁶). Ivan Pavlovich took an active part in its preparation and events. His financial role in the Congress was significant. It was not only friends such as Wrangel and the Grand Duke Nicholai Nicolaevich (Jr.)⁷ who provided assistance. There were also Aleksinsky's personal and usually informal connections with wealthy sponsors. After the Congress, emigrants interested in politics split into two pools. One of them, which included the right-wing participants of the Congress and members of the Supreme Monarchist Council, the Russian Patriotic Association Abroad, was headed by I.P. Aleksinsky [7, p. 54].

⁶ Russian foreign Congress - Congress of Russian emigration, which brought together representatives of the Russian diaspora from 26 countries. Held in Paris at the "Majestic" from 4 to 11 April 1926. Organization of the Congress was to unite the initiative group of Russian public organizations under the leadership of PB Struve. In 1923 Prof. IP Aleksinsky took an active part in the preparation and activities of the Congress; officially the Chairman of the Executive and Finance Committee of the Russian foreign congress. It was attended by about 400 delegates, including such prominent figures of the Russian diaspora as PB Struve, AF Trepoff, PN Krasnov, NE Markov, SS Oldenburg, IA Ilyin. The congress adopted an appeal to the Grand Duke Nicholas. The congress discussed the situation in Soviet Russia, the attitude of Russia and its upcoming national governments to the Russian people in the Red Army and Soviet service. They discussed the main features of the future economic structure of Russia and then, separately, the land issue.

⁷ Nikolai Romanov (Jr.) (November 18, 1856 St. Petersburg – January 5, 1929, France) - Grand Duke, Adjutant General, General of Cavalry. Was the supreme commander of all land and naval forces of the Russian Empire at the beginning of the First World War (1914-1915); from 23 August 1915 to March 1917 - the governor of the Caucasus and Commander of the Caucasian Front. In exile since April 1919. Among some groups of the White emigration, he was considered a contender to the throne as the eldest and the most famous member of the Romanov dynasty, although he expressed no monarchical claims.

However, after the Congress Aleksinsky's political influence in emigration began to wane. Ivan Pavlovich began moving away from politics and took up professional medical practice. The reason for this was, in our opinion, probably due to dissatisfaction with the results of his political activities, fatigue from battles with representatives of different groups and trends in Russian emigration [4, p. 144].

Ivan Pavlovich was a man of faith and could not be indifferent to the fate of the Russian Church abroad. He flatly objected to the attempts of some representatives of the Russian clergy in emigration to bring about a rapprochement with the Moscow Metropolitan Sergius, appearing in print against all expressions of their loyalty to the Bolsheviks.

In Russia, and later in Europe, I.P. Aleksinsky achieved the reputation of "a born surgeon". Words of gratitude to him could be found in the memoirs of famous Russian families (the Bunins, the Tsvetaevs, the Denikins and many others).

In late 1929, a tragedy occurred in the family of I.P. Aleksinsky: his daughter and closest confidant, Nadezhda Ivanovna Aleksinskaya, died of fleeting consumption. As a student during the First World War, she worked with her father as a nurse. In 1917, she received her medical degree and began working in frontline hospitals as "assigned." In the winter 1920, she crossed the border and headed for the Balkans, to be closer to her father again. For four years worked as a doctor in a Russian hospital in Serbia. Then she moved to Paris, where she worked with Ivan Pavlovich in the Russian-French hospital and their family clinic [5, p. 73].

At the end of 1936, I.P. Aleksinsky unexpectedly moved to Casablanca (it was the center of French Morocco, the North-African colony of France). Possibly, one of the primary reasons for the move was that in all of the French colonies Russian doctors were granted the right to treat all patients, while in the metropolis they could only treat their compatriots. Aleksinsky never had official French or Soviet citizenship. Ivan Pavlovich remained a stateless person during his entire period of emigration.

In Morocco, I.P. Aleksinsky continued medical and social work and was no longer involved with politics. However, with the help

of the church, he was elected Vice-Chairman of a church community at the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady in Casablanca. Working closely with Archimandrite Varsonofy (Tolstukhin), who was chairman of the parish community "Russian Orthodox Church and Russian community life in Morocco", he took an active part in the parish life. In building an Orthodox church, he was engaged in a variety of organizational issues. He also continued to provide medical care, often for free. Sometimes he conducted surgery.

In August 26, 1945, I.P. Aleksinsky died of typhoid fever (a disease from which he once saved hundreds of patients) in Casablanca, and was buried in the local Christian cemetery Ben M'Sik. In 2007, the remains of several dozen Russian immigrants (including Aleksinsky, Rusin, and Podchertkova) were reburied in the same cemetery, a special section called the "Russian necropolis".

The doctor's profession has always been considered to be not only noble, but extremely

important as well. Hence two characteristics of medical vocation: a doctor cannot stay away from the problems of society and always takes part in dealing with them, on the one hand; on the other hand, the problems of society, various social "turbulences" cannot pass a doctor by... The biography of Ivan Pavlovich Aleksinsky confirms this.

There is much more information available in the literature about the scientific, medical and political career of I.P. Aleksinsky, particularly during his work at the Imperial Medical University, than about his life and social activities during emigration. The documents attached, relating to the participation of I.P. Aleksinsky in public and political life of Russia abroad, are our attempt to fill this void. The documents presented below (selected articles, letters and congratulatory telegrams of 1920s) are stored in the archive of the House of Russia Abroad named after A. Solzhenitsyn (Archive DRZ) and they are part of an important cultural and historical heritage (published for the first time).

APPENDIX

LETTER OF IVAN PAVLOVICH ALEKSINSKY AND SERGEY NIKOLAYEVICH
GORODETSKY¹ TO THE GRAND DUKE NIKOLAI NIKOLAEVICH
(Archive DRZ. F.2. Op. 1. Unit. Mts. 56.)

ЕГО ИМПЕРАТОРСКОМУ ВЫСОЧЕСТВУ
ВЕЛИКОМУ КНЯЗЮ НИКОЛАЮ НИКОЛАЕВИЧУ.

Ваше Императорское Высочество,

Какъ Вашему Высочеству извѣстно, Россійскій Зарубежный Съездъ не выявилъ достаточнаго единодушія въ разрѣшеніи вопроса о созданіи своего постояннаго исполнительнаго органа.

Тѣмъ не менѣе болѣе двухъ третей членовъ съезда, и въ томъ числѣ огромное большинство избранныхъ представителей русскихъ людей въ разныхъ странахъ, признали необходимымъ и своевременнымъ образовать внѣпартийный зарубежный органъ, который долженъ поставить себѣ задачей внести возможную организованность въ срѣду патріотически настроенныхъ русскихъ людей въ разныхъ странахъ ихъ разсѣянія, озабочиться укрѣплениемъ ихъ національнаго самосознанія, объединять, направлять и поддерживать ихъ самодѣятельность во всѣхъ дѣйствіяхъ, полезныхъ для дѣла борьбы за освобожденіе Родины и въ дѣлѣ собираанія необходимыхъ для этого средствъ.

Двѣ трети членовъ Россійскаго Зарубежнаго Съезда единогласно постановили признать руководящими началами для Русскаго Зарубежнаго Патріотическаго Объединенія

вождляемаго избраннымъ Совѣтомъ и его отдѣлами въ разныхъ странахъ, непреклонную борьбу съ коммунистическимъ интернаціоналомъ и безоговорочное подчиненіе всѣмъ указаніямъ, какія ВАШЕМУ ИМПЕРАТОРСКОМУ ВЫСОЧЕСТВУ благодно будетъ давать.

Впервые собравшійся сегодня Совѣтъ Русскаго Патріотическаго Объединенія надѣется, что ВАШЕ ИМПЕРАТОРСКОЕ ВЫСОЧЕСТВО отнесетесь съ благосклонностью къ этому единодушному проявленію дѣйственнаго патріотизма русскихъ людей. Совѣтъ счастливъ выразить ВАШЕМУ ИМПЕРАТОРСКОМУ ВЫСОЧЕСТВУ чувства своей непоколебимой преданности и непреклоннаго рѣшенія, всемърно содѣйствовать успешному выполненію мудрыхъ предуказаний ВАШЕГО ИМПЕРАТОРСКАГО ВЫСОЧЕСТВА.

ВАШЕГО ИМПЕРАТОРСКАГО ВЫСОЧЕСТВА

всепреданнѣйшіе слуги:

И. А. Гороцетский
председатель Совѣта Русской
Зарубежной Патріотической Ассоціаціи
Сергій Городецкій,
Секретарь Совѣта Русской Зарубежной
Патріотической Ассоціаціи

18 априлъ 1926.
Городецкій

¹ Sergey Gorodetsky (1867 - April 4, 1942, Paris) - judicial and public figure, an emigrant. Before emigrating - Chairman of the Arkhangelsk Regional Court. In exile in France since 1924 Member of the Committee to collect donations to the Foundation to save Russia. Member of the Supreme Council of the monarchical. Secretary of the Russian foreign patriotic association (1920). One of the founders of the former leaders of the Department of Justice (1925), was elected vice-chairman. Participated in the work of the Society of northerners, at one time served as Secretary. Delegate of the Russian Overseas Congress in Paris in 1926, Chairman of Russian Workers' Union in France (since 1926). Member of the Board, then Deputy Chairman of the Management Board of Siberians and Far East (1930).

LETTER OF IVAN PAVLOVICH ALEKSINSKY
TO GRAND DUKE NIKOLAI NIKOLAEVICH
(Archive DRZ. F. 2. Op. 1 Unit. Mts. 61)

ЕГО ИМПЕРАТОРСКОМУ ВЫСОЧЕСТВУ ВЕЛИКОМУ КНЯЗЮ
НИКОЛАЮ НИКОЛАЕВИЧУ.

ВАШЕ ИМПЕРАТОРСКОЕ ВЫСОЧЕСТВО,

Российский Зарубежный Съездъ въ единодушномъ порывѣ постановилъ обратиться съ привѣтствіемъ къ Русской Арміи и тѣмъ ея героямъ-вождямъ, которые въ тяжкихъ условіяхъ неравной борьбы съ врагами Вѣры Христовой и русского народа окружили Русское Национальное Воинство никогда не меркнущимъ ореоломъ величія и славы.

Молитвенно преклоняясь передъ героизмомъ Русской Арміи, передъ величиемъ ея жертвенныхъ страданій и передъ нетленной красотой и мощью ея духа, Российской Зарубежный Съездъ считаетъ справедливымъ и единственно достойнымъ свой восторженный привѣтъ Арміи повергнуть передъ лицомъ ВАШЕГО ИМПЕРАТОРСКАГО ВЫСОЧЕСТВА, какъ Верховнаго Главно-командующаго и нареченаго всѣмъ Русскимъ народомъ его Народнаго Вождя.

Копіи привѣтственныхъ обращеній къ Генераламъ Врангелю, Деникину, Дитерихсу, Кутепову, Миллеру и Юденичу при семъ представляются на благовоззрѣніе ВАШЕГО ИМПЕРАТОРСКАГО ВЫСОЧЕСТВА.

Вашему Императорскому Высочеству
предлагаемъ служа
19 августа 1926 г. Предс. Секции Исполнительной - пред-
старшина Членов Членов Российского Зарубежного
Собрания

SULTARY TELEGRAMS
(Archive DRZ. F. 2. Op. 1 Unit. MTS. 62)

П о ч т о - т е л е г р а м м а.

ЕГО ВЫСОКОПРЕВОСХОДИТЕЛЬСТВУ

Г Е Н Е Р А Л У В Р А Н Г Е Л Й.

Российский Зарубежный Съездъ привѣтствуетъ Васъ, какъ доблестнаго Вождя русскихъ национальныхъ вооруженныхъ силъ, героически боровшихся за освобождение русскаго народа отъ власти хищныхъ слугъ III Интернационала, какъ Вождя, сумѣвшаго спасти и сохранить для дѣла новой побѣдной рѣшительной борьбы славные кадры непобѣдленного русскаго воинства.

Честь и хвала Вождю и его воинству, вынесшимъ изъ неравнаго боя обѣянныя славой незапятнано-чистыя русскія знамена, съ честью и береженiemъ сохранившимъ ихъ среди невзгодъ изгнанія и вручившимъ ихъ столь же незапятнано-чистыми Русскому ВЕРХОВНОМУ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОМУ ВОЖДЮ.

Честь и хвала Вождю и его воинству, самоотверженно отдававшими за Родину свои силы, здоровье и самую жизнь.

П р е д с ѡ д а т е л ь
Исполнительно-Финансовой Комиссии
Российского Зарубежнаго Съезда

Парижъ, "19" апрѣля 1926 года.

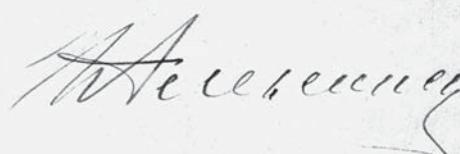
П о ч т о - т е л е г р а м м а.

ЕГО ВЫСОКОПРЕВОСХОДИТЕЛЬСТВУ

Г Е Н Е Р А Л У Д Е Н И К И Н У .

Российский Зарубежный Съездъ шлетъ Вамъ свой единодушный привѣтъ, какъ одному изъ героевъ-вождей, покрывшихъ славой русско-национальное воинство въ его неравной борьбѣ за освобожденіе Родины отъ ига ея поработителей. Въ тяжкіе дни, когда, послѣ трагической кончины одного изъ ея первыхъ творцовъ, Добровольческая Армія находилась почти на краю гибели, Вы приняли командованіе надъ оставшейся кучкой ея героевъ и въ короткое время создали изъ нея грозную армію, которая побѣдно сметая на своемъ пути красныхъ полчища, почти достигла стѣнъ Святого Кремля. Провидѣніе не угодно было въ эти дни дать конечное побѣдное торжество Вашему оружію, но проявленный Добровольческой Арміей - подъ Вашимъ водительствомъ героическій порывъ и ея великія жертвенныя страданія явили всему миру примѣръ непревзойденныхъ донынѣ доблести и любви къ Родинѣ русскихъ национальныхъ силъ, отоль дружно ставшихъ на защиту ея свободы, чести и достоинства.

П р е д с ѡ д а т е л ь
Исполнительно-Финансовой Комиссіи
Российского Зарубежного Съезда



Парижъ, " 9 " апрѣля 1926 года.

П о ч т о - т е л е г р а м м а.

ЕГО ПРЕВОСХОДИТЕЛЬСТВУ
Г Е Н Е Р А Л У М И Л Л Е Р У.

Российский Зарубежный Съездъ привѣтствуетъ Васъ, какъ одного изъ доблестныхъ вождей, возглавлявшаго въ соровихъ условіяхъ далекаго Сѣвера патріотическое дѣло непримиримой борьбы съ врагами Церкви Христовой и Страдалицы-Родины.

Да будетъ священна для Народа Русского память героевъ, отдававшихъ за его спасеніе свои силы, здоровье и жизнь.

Предсѣдатель
Исполнительно-Финансовой Комиссии
Российского Зарубежного Съезда

Н.Алексеев

"*У*" апреля 1926 года.

г. Парижъ.

CONGRESS ABROAD⁵

Of all of the items appearing in the press concerning the Congress Abroad, one document evokes a feeling of deep satisfaction. It is the declaration of the Russian National Student Association.

The declaration consisted of sincere patriotism, an awareness of the exceptional value of the projected Congress and the responsibility of the participants to their Homeland. The voice of young Russia abroad was heard, requiring from all those who had not lost their connection to the Homeland to fulfill their duty to her.

The youth of Russian abroad submitted a claim to the Congress arising from the awareness of its the national importance and correctly understood the primary tasks for its success: "we know that due to other considerations, personal and party conflicts may cause membership to fade and drain the mission of the Congress and its agencies."

The ideals of the Congress can be damaged not by its opponents, but only by participants.

Initial ideas hostile to the Congress could be seen not only then, but much earlier.

Among the Russian emigrants there were public figures and groups hostile to the idea of Russian Overseas Association. They are individuals and groups: either favoring the Smenovkhovtsy or with sectarian leanings, those who lost the ability to renounce the fetters of party dogma or purity, even in the name of the struggle for the salvation of Russia.

Party and group divisions overshadow the horizon of their Motherland. They are ready to defend their groundless identity, their ghostly influences, fighting against any patriotic movement whose goal is to unite Russian emigration. With an energy worthy of a better application, this type of politics comes from personal and narrow-minded motives trying to sow distrust in patriotic endeavors, misrepresenting their tasks, villainizing its methods, working towards the destruction of all manifestations of Russian patriotism, diverging from party direction. The tragedy of

Russia has taught nothing to these blind people. Here, away from the Homeland, they stubbornly support party membership, thus crushing Russian anti-Bolshevik forces. They do not want to see its total uselessness for accomplishing the duties of a Russian citizen - the struggle for the freedom of the Motherland from the Bolshevik tyranny.

Instead of creating a unity completely natural to Russian émigrés, this goal is subjected to division based on matters which cannot be resolved, such as the future state structure of Russia. When ideological monarchists trying to create a large patriotic association decided not to raise the issue about the form of government in Russia at the Overseas Congress, the head of the Republican-Democratic Party, former monarchist, P.N. Milyukov⁶, found it impossible to conduct the battle for the freedom of the Motherland in alliance with those who, unlike him, found it unnecessary to organize the Russian state system in the form of a democratic republic.

But for the republican P.N. Milyukov, refusing to participate in patriotic associations would not do. A relentless and malicious attack against the idea of the Russian Overseas Congress was started on the pages of his newspaper ("The Latest News"). Remember that he conducted a similar attack against previous attempts to unite Russian forces abroad: against the National Congress and against the project of Russian Committee in Turkey, a meeting of the Congress of representatives of Russian refugee united in different countries for the creation a nonpartisan

⁵ Pavel Nikolayevich Milyukov (15 (27 January 1859, Moscow – March 31, 1943, France) was a Russian statesman, historian and publicist. Entered into history as the leader of the Constitutional Democratic Party (the Party of People's Freedom, cadets). Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Government in 1917. November 1918 went to Turkey, then to Western Europe to seek allies to support the White movement. Lived in England, in 1920 he moved to France, where he headed the Union of Russian writers and journalists in Paris and the Council of professors in the Franco-Russian Institute. Was the author of the so-called "New Tactics" aimed at overcoming internal Bolshevism. "New Tactics" was rejected as a continuation of the armed struggle in Russia and foreign intervention to overthrow Soviet power

⁵ Article prof. IP Alexinsky «Foreign Convention» of the newspaper «Russian Times» (10/01/1926). Archive DRZ, form 2. Op. 1. Unit. 38.

agency intended to become a public state center for Russia Overseas. As usual, P.N. Milyukov did not hesitate to declare the project of the Russian Overseas Committee to be a monarchist plot.

Before this, P.N. Milyukov had thought it necessary to lead an attack against the Russian Council, whose main task was to collaborate with Commander-in-Chief, General P.N. Wrangel, in resettling Russian army unit evacuees in the Balkan countries.

The current attack by "The Latest News" against the Russian Overseas Congress has been particularly relentless, probably because the possible success of this patriotic endeavor aroused anxiety in the Republican-Democratic heart of the newspaper's chief. In addition to a number of editorials against the ideas of the Congress, its method of its implementation, and sponsors, etc., the newspaper included all types of announcements and writings, which could be used against the Congress.

In this regard, the editorial staff was unscrupulous enough that they even approved and printed the article by D. Kondratiev: "General Bogaevsky and the Russian Overseas Congress" ("The Latest News", № 1651), containing unfounded and obviously low quality accusations of the Russian Council. D. Kondratiev (the former chairman of the government of Kuban in Skobtsov). It dared to say that the departure of several thousand Cossacks from the island of Lemnos to Soviet Russia "is on the conscience of the unifiers from the Russian Council", having forgotten about the vigorous protests of the Russian Council against that very departure, about its representation on this matter to the French government, about the fact that the departure that took place in April could not have been influenced by the termination of negotiations with the representatives of the Joint Council of the Don, Kuban and Terek, which took place in May, not to mention the fact that by order of the Commander-in-Chief General Wrangel, the first Cossacks that were transported to Bulgaria were from the island of Lemnos. To blame the Russian Council for the fact that the Cossack representatives were not included in it, is the same as to blame the group that convened the Russian Overseas Congress for the fact that the Republican-Democratic Union or the newspaper

"The Latest News" had no wish to participate in the convocation of the Congress.

All these actions against the Russian Overseas Congress, having definite hostile elements, were not at all dangerous for its successful implementation. On the contrary, the strained relationship regarding this undertaking only shows its effectiveness and timeliness.

For the complete success of this initiative only one condition is necessary – the same strained relationships of its participants – of all Russian patriots.

In addition to interest in the Congress, which was increasing among the Russian people in all countries of the world, its success required that the views expressed in the announcements of the "Russian National Student Association" be shared by all Russian patriots.

The attitudes towards the Russian Overseas Congress, was a matter of extreme importance to the general Russian national movement, requiring all the participants to renounce personal, party and group interests and direct their thoughts, feelings and will to a common goal - devoted service to the Motherland.

It was necessary to develop the organization of the Congress in the various countries where Russian refugees fled, to organize centers there to unite Russian organizations and to establish their connections with the organizing committee in Paris. It is important to take the initiative at the local level not only to promote the ideas of the Congress and the selection of delegates, but also to find needed financial funding for the activities of the Congress.

The Russian Overseas Congress cannot be the activity of some individual groups or parties and the organizational process should be free from any party or group challenges.

The Congress should be the concern of all patriotic and state thinking Russian citizens, a means of expressing their free will, to demonstrate the effectiveness of their patriotism, but not a decoration of the community for approving the decisions already taken.

Only this way could the elected Congressional Central Body, charged to represent the Russian community abroad, obtain the authority and strong support necessary for the upcoming challenging and difficult patriotic activities.

Prof. I. Aleksinsky.

LETTER FROM PROF. IVAN PAVLOVICH ALEKSINSKY TO THE BISHOP VLADIMIR (NICE)⁷

YOUR EMINENCE,

My heart ached when I saw your name among the names of the hierarchs of the Russian Church Abroad, acknowledged by the Metropolitan Sergius⁸ as being loyal to the Bolshevik government. This is the result of your following the Metropolitan Eulogius⁹ along the slippery path of compromises with your

⁷ Archive DRZ. F.2. K. 5. Unit. hr. 62.

⁸ Patriarch Sergius (born Ivan Stragorodsky) (11 (23) January 1867, Arzamas - May 15, 1944, Moscow). Bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church, the 12th Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia.

⁹ Metropolitan Eulogius (born Vasily Semenovich St. George (10 (22) on April 1868, in the village of Somov, Tula Province – August 8, 1946, Paris) – Bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan since 1922. Managing Russian Orthodox parishes of the Moscow Patriarchate in Western Europe (1921. Since February 1931 – in the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Constantinople (Western European Exarchate of Russian Parishes). From the end of August 1945, considered himself under the jurisdiction of the Moscow Patriarchate (from September 7, 1945 the Western European Exarchate of Russian Orthodox Church). a member of the State Duma II and III convocations (1907-1912). in the early 1920s, initiated the establishment of St. Sergius Orthodox Theological Institute in Paris, 1925-1946. was the rector of the institute. Taught famous scientists such as AV Kartashov, SN Bulgakov, VV Zenkovsky, GV Florovsky, GP Fedotov, VN Ilyin et al. Relations with the Synod of Bishops, chaired by Metropolitan Anthony. Full authority in Western Europe steadily worsens. He finally broke with the Synod of Bishops 16 (29) in June 1926, after leaving a meeting of the Council of Bishops. After a 7-month dispute between the Synod of ROCOR and Eulogius, the end of 13 (26) January 1927, he decided to bring to the court of Metropolitan Eulogius sacred Council and remove him from the diocese and ban him from service to appoint another bishop. In the summer of 1927, the Diocesan Congress expressed support for Evlogy; followed by a final split of the Russian Orthodox emigration in Europe "evlogian" and "Karlovians." Eulogy, remain within the jurisdiction of the Deputy Patriarchal locum tenens. Metropolitan Sergius (Stragorodsky), agreed to the requirement of signing a "loyalty" to the Soviet government (Decree number 93 1 (14). July 1927, the deputy locum tenens of the Patriarchal throne Metropolitan Sergius), stipulating what is meant by this is an apolitical émigré church and not subordination to Soviet power. This position of the Metropolitan Eulogius caused a negative reaction from many emigrants, including IP Alexinsky. The efforts of Metropolitan Eulogius at the end of World War II, the transition to the jurisdiction of the Moscow Patriarchate was not shared by the majority of believers Exarchate. August 29, 1945, Metropolitan Nicholas (Yarushevich), arrived in Paris, was committed to an act of reunification with the Moscow Patriarchate, Metropolitan Eulogius and his vicars, Vladimir (Tikhonitsky) and John (Leonchukova).

conscience and twists that are incompatible with the dignity of a minister of the Russian Orthodox Church.

This path has led Your Grace to the precipice of defection from service to the important mission of the Church of Christ, which is to protect the good and resist the evil.

I would like to think that you have been going down this path blindfolded, driven by the servants of the Antichrist and his unconscious accomplices.

I am writing this letter to Your Grace because until recently I viewed you with sincere love and respect, and I implore you – to finally see the truth and not to cross the line, that has to separate now true servants of the Orthodox Church from its destroyers, minions of the Antichrist.

Think about what it means - the recognition of your loyalty to the Soviet government, to this theomachy, anti-Christian authority – that is actually turning you into a traitor to the Orthodox Church, a traitor to the Christian Faith.

After the decree of the Metropolitan Sergius, which made the Metropolitan Eulogius so pleased, this issue became absolutely clear to every conscientious person.

Now, it is no longer a breakaway of Eulogius and Plato from the Council of Bishops, but a retreat of a certain part of the clergy in favor of Bolshevik, anti-Christian government, from service to the bright spirit of the Church of Christ. The enemy is strong and cunning. Its destruction and decay, which was earlier done with bait and members of the Renovation Church has been passed on to the head of the Church Administration in Russia. The Loyal Metropolitan Eulogius receives an order for him to convert the godless authorities of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.

He earned this honorable assignment through the betrayal of his brothers - the worthy hierarchs of the Russian Church. I think that he has enough impudence to implement this order, to actually prove that very loyalty, which he tries to verbally deny. And what arguments he made to deny his loyalty to the Bolshevik government. It is shameful for the hierarch of the Russian Church. He is not a subject of the Soviet regime, and therefore he cannot be loyal to the French authorities and laws. Who else does he hope to deceive, after he achieves

the label of loyalty to the Soviet regime, as a result of the obligations sent to him from Moscow?

Are you pleased with this label Your Grace, which due to him adorns you? No, Your Grace, if the distemper caused by Metropolitan Eulogius out of personal motives in the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad was detrimental to Russian affairs, then his present behavior can only be called a false and treacherous act.

How else can he be looked upon after he declared loyalty to the ungodly government tormenting our Motherland, after he made a commitment of submission to the hierarch, offering prayers for the

servants of the Antichrist? Are not all his unctuous words of love, humility and "apolitical" Church the same hypocrisy, as the one Bolsheviks use to disguise their blasphemous and criminal acts?

Please, do not blame me, Your Grace, for the harsh expressions in this letter. It is much less than the emotional resentment that I feel at the sight of the misconduct of several Russian hierarchs, who by virtue of their position should guard the truth of Christ and set an example of pastoral gallantry.

The obedient servant of Your Eminence,
I. Aleksinsky.
July 2, 1928.

TO RUSSIAN PATRIOTS¹⁰

"Live in peace not only with friends, but also with enemies; but only with your enemies, not with the enemies of God."

St. Theodosius of Kiev

Pursuant to the Decree of Metropolitan Sergius and his Synod, Metropolitan Eulogius forwarded the "decisions of the said Decree" to the hierarchs of the Russian Church Abroad, with a request to inform him of the decision to be made "**pursuant to the regulations contained in this Decree.**" The attitude of Metropolitan Eulogius to those regulations can be seen in the concluding lines of his accompanying letter:

"I would be extremely happy if Your Grace found it possible to put an end to our sad schism, and restore, for the sake of our suffering people, peace in the church by renewal of our mutual fellowship communication, as well as unity with our Mother Russian Church."

Accordingly, the only thing needed to make Metropolitan Eulogius deeply happy, is for the Russian Orthodox hierarchs to give him loyalty similar to that given to the Soviet regime and to recognize him as head of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad.

That this is so is seen from the contents of the Decree regulations. To eliminate any doubts about this, one should read just two chapters from the Decree: I and VIII:

I. – *Eminences: Head of Russian churches in Western Europe Metropolitan Eulogius, archbishop,*

former Belostoksky Vladimir, bishops: former Belsky Sergius and former Sevastopol Benjamin with the other clerics who have made the commitment required from them (concerning their loyalty to the Soviet regime – Ed.), are to be considered as before in the administrative-canonical jurisdiction of the Moscow Patriarchate.

VIII. – *Upon receipt of the detailed report, it is necessary to have a special decision on the following about the bishops and other clergy of Karlovy Vary¹¹ groups so that a) those who after the adoption of these provisions (about going out of the control of the Council and Synod. – Ed.) will give a commitment of loyalty to the Soviet authorities must be recognized as remaining in the canonical*

¹⁰ Russian Orthodox Church Overseas (ROCOR abbreviated; another name – the Russian Church Abroad, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad) is a self-governing part of the Russian Orthodox Church (17 May 2007). Emerged in the 1920s as a Russian emigre Orthodox church organization, released from administrative subordination to the Moscow Patriarchate. In the literature of the Moscow Patriarchate before the 2000s, usually called the "Karlovi split" in honor Vsezagranichnogo Russian church meetings, which took place November 8-20 in the old style in Sremska Karlovci. The meeting was subsequently renamed the Cathedral, in the literature often referred to as the First Vsezagranichny Church Cathedral. A number of statements of the Council were purely political in nature, in particular the call for the restoration of the Russian throne "legitimate Orthodox tsar of the Romanovs" and a direct appeal to world powers to assist the armed overthrow of the regime in the RSFSR.

¹⁰ Separately published leaflet; printing data and circulation is not specified. Archive DRZ, form 2. K. 5. Ed. chron. 63.

subordination of the Moscow Patriarchate; b) those who are subject to the resolution on the abolishment of the Karlovsky Council and Synod, but do not make the pledge, must be recognized as excluded from the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate, giving the Metropolitan Eulogius the right to release them from their posts, in that jurisdiction, and finally, c) those who refuse to submit to this provision, or to respond to it within the specified time, irrespective of whether the above mentioned resolutions are made or not, must be brought to justice before the collegiate court as for violation the legal hierarchy and initiating a schism, with the prohibition (depending on the guilt and admission) of further service until court hearing or repentance.

Those two chapters of the Decree obviously show its political nature, namely the requirement of the Orthodox clergy to issue oaths of loyalty to the Soviet anti-religious government as a precondition for remaining in the Moscow Patriarchate. It is also apparent that the Metropolitan Eulogius and the other three hierarchs were recognized as loyal to the Soviet government as a result of the oaths they gave. The same applied to other officials from the Russian Orthodox clergy abroad, the list of which was provided by the Metropolitan Eulogius to Moscow 6 (19) April 1928.

This Decree was sent from Moscow to be executed by the Metropolitan Eulogius, trustworthy in the eyes of the Soviet regime. In an effort to verbally deny conciliation with the godless government, he hurried to prove his loyalty by accepting an order disgraceful to the Orthodox hierarch.

Having forgotten about his notorious political apathy, Metropolitan Eulogius "accepts his duty" to forward to the hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad the obviously political requirement of the Bolsheviks.

It may have seemed that one fact, Metropolitan Eulogius' complicity in proposing that the Russian hierarchs commit an act of treachery towards Russia and blasphemy in respect of the Christian Church, would have been enough for all Russian patriots to turn away from the new Bolshevik agent in Metropolitan garb. No matter how difficult the knowledge of this new infamous phenomenon in Russian timelessness could be, it should not be hidden. Patriotic feeling cannot but condemn this act of hypocritical treachery, cannot help rebelling

against it in the name of the honor of the Russian name and the dignity of Russian Orthodox Church.

We can not keep silent when the Bolshevik government is executing its diabolical plan not only to mortify the Russian Orthodox Church, but to make it an instrument for spiritual enslavement of the people.

In the face of imminent danger, I consider it my duty to add my voice to the voices of honest Russian patriots to warn those Russian people who are still under some incomprehensible blindness. This blindness, conscious or unconscious, which manifested itself loudly when addressing Metropolitan Eulogius, loyal to the Soviet regime, by some anti-Bolshevik leaders and military organizations and even military alliances with a request of having a funeral service for the villainously murdered Tsar Nicholas II and the Royal Family by the Soviet authorities.

Metropolitan Eulogius could not refuse, because the refusal would undoubtedly mean the most deplorable consequences for him, and it would hardly correspond with the Soviet government's plans, which would try to use the loyal Metropolitan for its needs.

But what explanation or justification for their actions can anti-Bolshevik leaders and military organizations find when they keep in touch with the person who executed the Bolsheviks' order?

One cannot be serious about those pathetic attempts at the rehabilitation of Metropolitan Eulogius, which appeared in several examples of the Russian press in Paris. To the credit of the Russian press, those attempts have already found their proper assessment on the pages of Russian newspapers in other countries. It is an extremely thankless task to protect the notoriously unjust cause. That probably explains the absurd content of the articles written to justify the compromise of the Orthodox Metropolitan with the godless Bolshevik regime. The "National" newspaper "Revival" standing in the defense of Metropolitan Eulogius, dared to call those hierarchs who did not agree with Metropolitan Eulogius' Russian Church Abroad, or his with like-minded clergy and laity, as a "Karlovsky Sect".

It is obvious, that for the "national" newspaper "Revival", other members of the sect included: the Metropolitan Peter Krutitsky, Metropolitan Agafangel, Deputy Patriarch Tikhon,

Metropolitan Joseph of Petrograd, Archbishop Seraphim of Uglich and Barlaam, Vicar Lyubimsky, Bishop Eugene of Rostov, Dmitry Gdovskiy, Sergei Narvsky and many others honorable ministers of the Church of Christ, who condemned the treacherous activity of Metropolitan Sergius and refused to recognize his and his "Synod"'s right to head the Church. From the appeals of these hierarchs to Metropolitan Sergius, we know about the terrible evil that Metropolitan Sergius' conciliation with the satanic power brought to the Orthodox Church, about the ever-increasing persecution of the dignified clergy guilty only of the fact that they did not go against their Christian conscience. Now it is not to be doubted that, no matter how incredible it may sound, that part of the Orthodox Church in Russia, headed by Metropolitan Sergius, has gone into the service of the godless Bolshevik regime and is helping it to fight with persistent advocates of the truth of Christ.

Overseas, the Soviet part of the Russian Church has found its representative in the person of Metropolitan Eulogius, who in search of support for himself, in the turmoil introduced by him in the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, ignored his conscience by obtaining support from Satan.

By praising the work of Metropolitan Sergius, whose servility before the Soviet authorities extends to paying tribute to deal with the church, i.e., for desecrating Russian sanctities, for the destruction of churches, the extermination and torture of clerics, Metropolitan Eulogius becomes an accomplice in the persecution of honorable bishops and priests in Russia who did not accept the blasphemous orders of Metropolitan Sergius to pray for God's enemies.

Metropolitan Eulogius, knowing full well that the Council of Bishops, firmly keeping faithful to the canons and precepts of Russian Orthodox Church, has always been in spiritual union with the Mother Church, dares to suggest that Russian hierarchs abandon their pastoral duties and to join him in the Soviet church, led by the Church State Political Directorate.

Hypocrisy has its limits. The role of Metropolitan Eulogius now finally has been revealed.

Can the Russian people, children of the Orthodox Church, remaining loyal to national Russia in exile, have as their spiritual leader the executor of the Bolshevik conspiracy?

Prof. I. Aleksinsky

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