
Russian Soviet Colonies in U.S. to Meet in N.Y. : Second Annual Convention of All-Russians to be held January 6 to 9 [1919].

Published in *The New York Call*, vol. 12, no. 4 (Jan. 4, 1919), pg. 6.

The second annual convention of Russian Socialists in the United States, and members of the Soviet deputies of Russian workers, will agitate against intervention in Russian and will adopt resolutions appealing to the American delegates to the Versailles peace conference to stop Russian intervention and work for the recognition of the Soviet government of Russia.

A. Marcus, organizer of the Russian Workers' Soviet of New York City, explained yesterday afternoon that the convention, which will be held in Manhattan Lyceum, 64 East 4th Street, on January 6 until 9, inclusive, will be by far the most important gathering of Russians ever held outside of Russia.

This is the second of the All-Russian colonial conventions in this country. The first was held last year in January and adopted plans for the organization of Russians in this country and Canada. The committee appointed to complete the organization is expected to bring in a definite report at the coming gathering.

Resolutions will be adopted and forwarded to the American delegates to the peace conference. The documents will demand that Russia be allowed to work out its own destinies without interference by other countries.

The New York Soviet of Deputies of Russian Workers has been issuing a weekly for the past 28 weeks. Every issue thus far has been held up by the Post Office Department, Marcus said.

An attempt will be made at the conference to turn the paper over to the National Executive Committee of American Soviets of Deputies of Russian Workers.

Marcus explained that more effective work can be done through the national organization.

The paper published by the Russians is known as the Worker and Peasant [*Rabochii i Krest'ianin*]. It is a weekly devoted to discussion of Russian affairs.

“Every one of our issues was held up,” said Marcus, yesterday afternoon. “We have, however, been successful in distributing more than 5,000 copies weekly [via] personal messengers and we will continue to print the paper.

“Hundreds of Russians now in jail in this country because of opposing the Selective Service Act from a conscientious point of view or held under the Espionage Act, will be voted aid by the convention,” he continued.

A legal aid bureau has been maintained by the Soviet of Deputies of Russian Workers for the past year. Funds will be collected to assist in obtaining general amnesty for political and industrial prisoners.

“There will be thousands of Russians returning to Russia as soon as conditions permit,” declared Marcus. “It is the aim of the organization which I represent to help such persons obtain passports and, if necessary, give them financial aid.

“The report of the Executive Committee is looked to bring out startling news to Russians in this country. Organization and educational plans among Russians in America will be adopted at the gathering.”

More than 100 branches have been established within the past year. The four-day gathering will discuss means of increasing the organization membership.

The branches are scattered all over the United States and Canada. The New York headquarters are at 133 E 15th Street. Classes are held there every evening. A social room is maintained in the basement.

A *Call* reporter asked Marcus whether he knew anything about the allegations of the Philadelphia police regarding the bomb throwing in that city, the police having thrown suspicion on the branch of the organization there.

The Russian organizer said that there were many Russians in Philadelphia active within the Socialist Party, and that the police, in order to cover up their neglect of apprehending the real criminals, are trying to discredit the Russians.

“I don't believe any Socialist or Russian in Philadelphia is mixed up in the bomb outrage,” said Marcus.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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