

Russian State Archive for Social and Political History, Moscow
РОССИЙСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ АРХИВ
СОЦИАЛЬНО-ПОЛИТИЧЕСКОЙ ИСТОРИИ (РГАСПИ)

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The Director of the Archive: Andrei Konstantinovich Sorokin

Location: Bolshaiia Dmitrovka St.,15 (the main collections and reading room) and Profsoiuznaia St., 82 (former archives of the Komsomol and its satellites).

Tel: +7 (495) 694-40-34. The archive was closed in late March but reopened on July 27, 2020.

The core of the archival collection was formed in the 1920s-70s on the basis of the documents of the Bolsheviks and other revolutionary political parties of Russia, the materials on European socialist movements, on Marx, Engels, Lenin, Rosa Luxemburg, etc. Before 1992, it was also the secret archive of the Bolshevik party (later CPSU) documents from 1919 until 1952. In 1993-2011, RGASPI received many collections from the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation, most notably the Stalin *fond* (collection). Other valuable documents are *osobaia papka* (special dossiers) with documentation prepared for decision-making of the Party Politburo and Secretariat, the State Committee for Defence, the ruling body of the USSR during the war of 1941-45, the personal collections of Nikolai Bukharin, Lazar Kaganovich, Vyacheslav Molotov, Georgy Ordzhonikidze, Aleksei Rykov, Lev Trotsky, Andrei Zhdanov, Aleksandra Kollontai, etc. In 1999 the Archive took under its wing the former archive of the Komsomol (TsKhDMO), located on Profsoyuznaia St 82.

Most of the collections in the archive have been declassified, including the *osobaia papka*, the Party protocols, the departments of the central party apparatus and of the permanent Party commissions. Researchers of any communist movements in most parts of the world, including Europe, China, India, Latin America, Japan and Indo-China, would find here the unique materials of the Comintern and Profintern (the trade union arm of the Comintern). Any work on Palmiro Togliatti, Antonio Gramsci, Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, and Ho Chi Minh cannot be done without RGASPI files. Among the declassified personal collections are: Stalin, Georgy Chicherin, Anastas Mikoyan, Nikolai Yezhov, A. Andreiev, K. Voroshilov, Grigori Sokolnikov, and Vyacheslav Molotov. For the database of recently declassified documents one can check <http://unsecret.rusarchives.ru>.

The archive has ample electronic resources. The general tour can be seen here:

<http://dana13.nichost.ru/RGASPI/index.html?prefer=html5>. The list of collections and their specifications with 2, 759 entries can be perused at: <http://rgaspi.info/fonds/>

It is very easy to start research at the archive. The registration can be done without a letter from your university, just by presenting your ID/passport at the entrance. Once in the reading room (5th floor of the building), a researcher writes by hand a personal letter of intent that includes a topic of research, fills in the *anketa* (form) and signs an agreement to respect the rules. The rules and the *anketa* can be downloaded from the link on this page: http://rgaspi.info/chit_zal/prav_raboty/. In the reading room, the first step is to order *opisi* (detailed list of collections), related to the topics. There are about 1700 *opisi* available. The staff is very knowledgeable and can help (with some use of English). Another useful hint: one can check the Russian language series “History of Stalinism” by the publishing house ROSSPEN. Many books in this series cite amply many collections from RGASPI.