Overview of the Pravoslavnoe palestinskoe obshchestvo records

Finding aid prepared by Hoover Institution Archives Staff.
Hoover Institution Archives
434 Galvez Mall
Stanford University
Stanford, CA, 94305-6010
(650) 723-3563
hooverarchives@stanford.edu
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Title: Pravoslavnoe palestinskoe obschestvo records
Date (inclusive): 1922-2015
Collection Number: 2016C38
Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives
Language of Material: Russian
Physical Description: 3 manuscript boxes (1.3 linear feet)
Abstract: By-laws, minutes, correspondence, memoranda, reports, and legal documents, relating to administration of Orthodox Church property in Palestine and to legal disputes over its ownership.
Language of the Materials: Russian and English
Location note: Hoover Institution Archives.
Creator: Pravoslavnoe palestinskoe obschestvo.

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Preferred Citation
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Acquisition Information
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Historical note
Orthodox Palestine Society; affiliate of Russkai͡a pravoslavnai͡a t͡serkov' zagranit͡seĭ. This organization was founded in 1882 as the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society. Its governing Council was reconstructed in Berlin in 1919 and later transferred to Paris.

Scope and Contents of the Collection
The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence and supporting documents related to the arbitration of the dispute over the administration of Pravoslavnoe palestinskoe obschestvo properties in Palestine from 1990-1993. Anthony Grabbe, former Chief of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem and head of the Pravoslavnoe palestinskoe obschestvo claimed that the section, which was founded in 1970, was separate and independent from the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR) and the Pravoslavnoe palestinskoe obschestvo Supreme Council. ROCOR and the Pravoslavnoe palestinskoe obschestvo asserted that the Pravoslavnoe palestinskoe obschestvo Holy Land Section was not the property owner, but just the custodian, or trustee, for the entire Society. There is also earlier correspondence from 1989 about a possible criminal case to be filed against Anthony Grabbe for the alleged theft and sale of Church property such as icons and books.

Earlier Pravoslavnoe palestinskoe obschestvo property issues from 1963-1977 are documented in the correspondence of Archimandrite Anthony Grabbe, while Chief of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem, Prince Teymuraz Bagration-Mukhranskii, and others concerning disputes with the governments of Israel and Jordan related to the status of properties belonging to the Russian Orthodox Church and the Pravoslavnoe palestinskoe obschestvo which had been in part surrendered to the Soviet government or on which the Soviets were making claims.

Other correspondence and archival documents relate to the activities of the Pravoslavnoe palestinskoe obschestvo Supreme Council and its United States and European Sections. This includes by-laws, meeting minutes, resolutions, pilgrimage brochures, appeals, and clippings.

Of special interest is a dossier containing correspondence with Grand Duchesses Elena Vladimirovna and Vera Vladimirovna and others dating from 1922-1970, as well as photostats of pre-1917 ground plans of Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society property in Jerusalem and an original copy of a map of the Russian Compound in Jerusalem (1929, revised 1937).
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Orthodox Eastern Church--Palestine.
Russkaïa pravoslavnai òserkov' zagranitšeî.