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## Register to the Rossiiskoe natsional'noe ob"edinenie records

Finding aid prepared by Natasha Porfirenko

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**Title:** Rossiiskoe natsional'noe ob"edinenie records

**Date (inclusive):** 1929-1981

**Collection Number:** 82066

**Contributing Institution:** Hoover Institution Library and Archives

**Language of Material:** Russian

**Physical Description:** 7 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize box(4.6 Linear Feet)

**Abstract:** Russian émigré community in Belgium and other European countries over the time of the Russian Civil War, World War II, and cold war period includes correspondence, reports, minutes of meetings, printed and other material

**Creator:** Rossiiskoe natsional'noe ob"edinenie

Hoover Institution Library & Archives

**Access**

The collection is open for research; materials must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use.

**Publication Rights**

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**Acquisition Information**

Materials were acquired by the Hoover Institution Library & Archives in 1982

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Rossiiskoe natsional'noe ob"edinenie records, [Box no., Folder no. or title], Hoover Institution Library & Archives

**Historical Note**

Historical Background

After the Bolsheviks seized power in 1917, Russia plunged into a bloody Civil War waged between the Red and White Armies. In the fall of 1920 the White Army was defeated, and some 100,000 demoralized White Army troops and 50,000 civilians boarded ships of the former Imperial Black Sea Fleet and fled the Crimea for Constantinople and exile. General Piotr Nikolaevich Vrangeli, Chief Commander of the White Army in Crimea, negotiated with the Ottoman Empire and the French who occupied Constantinople at the end of the First World War for permission to settle the fully armed White Army in several camps in Turkey, Yugoslavia, and the Aegean island of Lemnos. The principal camp was at Gallipoli in Turkey. There General Vrangeli prepared his army for a military campaign against the Bolshevik government.

By the year 1923 it became clear that the Bolsheviks had consolidated their control in Russia and hopes of a military campaign against them vanished. The White Army troops had to be reintegrated into civilian life. In 1924 Vrangeli formed the Russian General Military Union ( *Russkii Obshche-Voinskii Soiuz*). This organization preserved the army structure of the demilitarized White Army and played an important role in the very survival of military refugees. At the same time many regimental associations and societies of First World War and Civil War veterans started to form in émigré communities.

Historical Note

Russian National League was founded in 1948 due to the extremely difficult situation of the Russian émigré community and its desire to unify the majority of the Russian organizations in Belgium. The main purpose of the organization was the representation, unification and protection of Russian émigrés living in Belgium. It was based on unconditional devotion to Russia (not the USSR), loyalty to the national ideal, and adherence to Christian culture and civilization.

The organization supported a wide range of legal and social assistance to its members, established contact with all Russian national organizations inside and outside Belgium, provided assistance in founding a Russian Foreign National Center and supported all national-patriotic forces. It was not a political organization, because its main purpose was serving to their Motherland and preserving memory of the heroes of the White movement.

In 1964 the Russian National League initiated a celebration of the 1100th anniversary of the Russian State. It also commemorated the anniversary of the founding of Saint Petersburg, and organized various art and book exhibits, opera concerts, and other events in Brussels and provinces. It built a cathedral-monument to the martyred Russian Tsar and other victims of Bolshevism.

By resolution of the Russian National League Council of February 21, 1982, the existence of the Russian House and Library came to an end due to financial difficulties. The last information bulletin, Number 292, was issued in April 1982.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

Russian National League papers contain information about the activities of this organization and Russian émigré community in Belgium after World War II. Materials were divided into six series.

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The Office Files document the history, statute, purpose and objectives of the organization. The papers show the connections between the Russian National League with the Russian Union (ROVS - *Russkii Obshche-Voinskii Soiuz*), formed by General Peter Vranghel in 1924, which played an important role in the survival of the military refugees. Scattered across the globe, often without property or a steady source income, many émigrés faced a life of poverty and destitution. They did not have easy access to government institutions, local charity organizations, or in family host countries. Correspondence file includes letters to the state and governmental officials regarding Russian émigrés and their needs, and to members of the Principal Headquarters of the Russian National League with discussion of the issues on the pages of *Chasovoi* magazine. The minutes of meetings of the Russian National League cover period 1948-1979. Of special interest in this collection are the testimonials on the kidnapping in Paris of Russian Generals Evgenii Miller and Aleksandr Kutepov. Oversize Materials contain fabric banners and advertisements about Russian book exhibits in Brussels.

The Publications File contains a collection of various émigré publications and monthly bulletins of Russian workers in Belgium. Vasili Orekhov was the editor of *Chasovoi* magazine - the most prominent anti-Bolshevik émigré "white" magazine reflecting the ROVS position. In 1936 after the magazine openly supported General Francisco Franco in the Spanish Civil War, V. Orekhov was forced to relocate this publication from France to Belgium. After World War II Vasili Orekhov founded the Russian National League and continued his publication of *Chasovoi* magazine and the monthly bulletin of Russian workers in Belgium.

The Radio Broadcasts include transcripts of the Russian section, Spanish radio, Madrid. At the time General Franco started his fight for liberation of Spain from communism, Soviet leaders initiated creation of international brigades and sent them to Spain. As a result, General Franco allowed Russian officers (from the Russian Imperial Army) to join the Spanish Army. Vasili Orekhov started the first Russian émigré independent radio station in Spain.

Printed matter file includes newspapers, newspaper clippings, and scrapbooks covering period 1926-1980.

Cultural life depicts various art and book exhibits, opera performances, and reflects other events in Brussels and the provinces, connecting the materials in the collection with the events of the Russian émigré community in Belgium.

Photographs commemorate significant events in the life of the Russian émigré community abroad

#### **Related Material**

David Davidovich Grimm papers, Hoover Institution Library & Archives

#### **Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Russia -- Emigration and immigration

Soviet Union -- Social conditions

Anti-communist movements

Nationalism -- Russia

Russians -- Belgium

Romanov, House of

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box 1

#### **Office file 1920-1979.**

##### **Scope and Contents note**

Correspondence, notes, memoranda, reports, newsletters, and minutes of meetings, arranged by subject

#### **General**

box 1, folder 1

**Statute of the Organization undated**

box 1, folder 2

**Purpose and objectives of the organization undated**

box 1, folder 3

**Russian National League in Belgium, memorandum undated**

box 1, folder 4

**Glavnokomanduiushchii Vooruzhennymi Silami na IUge Rossii generala Vrangelia, prikaz O Zemle ot 25 maia 1920 goda (Order of General Vranghel, Commander in Chief of the Russian Army stationed in Southern Russia, 1920 May 25)**

box 1, folder 5

**Russian émigrés killed while serving for the French Foreign Legion, list 1921-1933**  
**Russkii Obshchevoinskii Soiuz, prikaz Generala Vrangelia number 35 ob obrazovanii (Order number 35 issued by General Peter Vranghel on formation of the Russian All Military Union) 1924 September 1**

box 1, folder 6

box 1, folder 7

**Soiuz Gallipoliitsev vo Frantsii, Prikaz number 40 Predsedatelia (Order number 40 of the Chairman of the [Russian] Gallipoli Union in France) 1929 May 25**

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box 1, folder 8	<b>Obshchestvo Gallipolitshev, postanovlenie Soveta (Resolution of the Council of the Gallipoli Union) 1929 September 8</b>
box 1, folder 9	<b>Vasilii Orekhov, Chairman of the Russian National League in Belgium, membership cards 1937-1959</b>
box 1, folder 10	<b>Appeals, declarations, leaflets, open letters, and resolutions (in Russian and French) 1942-1967</b> <b>Russian National League, list of members.</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Includes addresses
box 1, folder 11	<b>1951-1952</b>
box 1, folder 12	<b>1956</b>
box 1, folder 13	<b>Russian émigrés, reunion, Brussels 1960 July 31</b>
box 1, folder 14-15	<b>Correspondence</b> <b>General 1929-1978</b>
box 1, folder 16	<b>Chasovoi (Watchman) magazine editor's office 1929-1956</b>
box 1, folder 17-20	<b>Correspondence regarding Russian émigrés and press (media) 1932-1977.</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Include letters from Russia
box 1, folder 21-22	<b>Official correspondence with state and governmental officials 1937-1977</b>
box 2, folder 1	<b>Official correspondence with state and governmental officials 1937-1977</b> <b>Chairman</b>
box 2, folder 2-3	<b>General 1937-1968, 1973</b>
box 2, folder 4	<b>Strictly confidential with the members of the Principal Headquarters of the Russian National League 1956-1971</b>
box 2, folder 5-6	<b>Congress of the Russian National League 1952</b> <b>Minutes of meetings</b>
box 2, folder 7	<b>1948</b>
box 2, folder 8	<b>1949</b>
box 3, folder 1	<b>1950</b> <b>1951</b>
box 3, folder 2	<b>General</b>
box 3, folder 3	<b>Material from the First Congress of the Russian National League, Brussels 1951</b> <b>April 15</b>
box 3, folder 4-5	<b>1952</b>
box 3, folder 6	<b>1953</b> <b>1956</b>
box 3, folder 7	<b>General</b>
box 3, folder 8-9	<b>Second Congress of the Russian National League 1956 September 13-16.</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Includes list of delegates, program, resolution, communiqué, and correspondence
box 3, folder 10	<b>Press release</b> <b>1957</b>
box 3, folder 11	<b>General</b> <b>Materials of the Congress on Rights and Freedom in Russia, Hague 1957 April 25-27</b>
box 3, folder 12	<b>General</b> <b>Publications</b>
box 3, folder 13	<b>Congrès pour l'instauration de la liberté et des droits en Russie, compte-rendu analytique.</b>
box 3, folder 14	<b>Kongress Za prava i svobodu v Rossii, sbornik materialov Kongressa (Congress For the Rights and Freedom in Russia, compiled documents).</b>
box 4, folder 1	<b>1958</b>

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box 4, folder 2           **1959**  
box 4, folder 3           **1960**  
box 4, folder 4           **1961**  
box 4, folder 5           **1962**  
box 4, folder 6           **1963**  
box 4, folder 7           **1964**  
box 4, folder 8           **1965**  
box 4, folder 9           **1966**  
box 4,                       **1967.**  
folder 10-11

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes list of events (in Brussels and Paris) commemorating 50th anniversary of the victory of the Russian revolution, 1967. Includes extensive correspondence and minutes of meetings

box 4, folder 12           **1968**  
box 4, folder 13           **1969**  
box 4, folder 14           **1970**  
box 4, folder 15           **1971**  
box 4, folder 16           **1972**  
box 4, folder 17           **1973**  
box 4, folder 18           **1974**  
box 4, folder 19           **1975**  
box 4, folder 20           **1977**  
box 4, folder 21           **1978**  
box 4, folder 22           **1979**  
box 4,                       **Reports for meetings Mostly undated.**  
folder 23-24               **Scope and Contents note**

Includes reports dated 1956 and 1970

**Russian émigré community, materials on unification.**

box 4, folder 25           **General 1952-1979**  
box 5, folder 1           **General 1952-1979**  
box 5, folder 2           **League of Russian Veterans, subsidies 1958-1967**  
box 5, folder 3           **Oppression of religion in the USSR 1961**

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes correspondence and resolution

box 5, folder 4           **Petition to free families of Agatov and Soitu from the USSR 1975**

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes correspondence

box 5, folder 5           ***Chasovoi (Watchman) magazine, materials on financial hardship of publication and distribution 1974-1981***

box 5, folder 6-8       **Kidnapping in Paris of Russian Generals Evgenii Miller and Aleksandr Kutepov 1937-1962.**

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes correspondence and testimonials

**Publications 1945-1982.**

**Scope and Contents note**

Booklets, reports, information bulletins, press releases, and surveys, arranged chronologically by physical form

**General**

box 5, folder 9           ***Russkii korpus (Russian Corps), promotion booklet undated***

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box 5, folder 10	<p><b><i>Za prava i svobodu v Rossii, (For the Rights and Freedom in Russia) undated.</i></b>  <b>Scope and Contents note</b>                  Printed matter</p>
box 5, folder 11	<p><b><i>Kto on? (Who is He?) undated</i></b>  <b>Baikalov, A. V., <i>Programma meropriatii na perekhodnyi period - v poriadke obsuzhdeniia (Program of Action for the Transition Period - as a matter of discussion) undated</i></b></p>
box 5, folder 12	
box 5, folder 13	<p><b><i>Likhnovskii, Duke, Kto viniovnik voiny 1914 goda? (Who is responsible for the War of 1914?) undated</i></b></p>
box 5, folder 14	<p><b>George, Thomas, <i>Decision Will be in Asia</i>, excerpts from his book, translated into Russian undated.</b>  <b>Scope and Contents note</b>                  Typescript</p>
box 5, folder 15	<p><b>Arian, A., <i>Le Problème Ukrainien</i> undated</b>  <b>White, William L., <i>Reportage sur les Russes (Report on the Russians, unique revelation of life in the Soviet Union, The Reader's Digest 1945 February Press releases 1956-1970</i></b></p>
box 5, folder 16	
box 5, folder 17	<p><b><i>Vestnik Rossiiskogo Natsional'nogo Ob'edineniia v SHvetsii (Bulletin of the Russian National League in Sweden), Stockholm, 1957, number 16</i></b></p>
box 5, folder 18	
box 5, folder 19	<p><b><i>Cinquante ans de communisme en Russie, 1917-1967, èditè par Comitè de l'Emigration Nationale Russe en Belgique 1967</i></b>  <b><i>100e anniversaire de la naissance de Lenine, publiè par le Comitè de l'Emigration Nationale Russe en Belgique 1970</i></b></p>
box 5, folder 20	
box 5, folder 21	<p><b><i>Sviaz' (Connection), monthly bulletin of Russian workers in Belgium 1949,</i></b>  <b>Scope and Contents note</b>                  number 1, December</p>
box 5, folder 22	<p><b>1950,</b>  <b>Scope and Contents note</b>                  number 2-8; number 1-3</p>
box 5, folder 23	<p><b>1951,</b>  <b>Scope and Contents note</b>                  number 4-14</p>
box 5, folder 24	<p><b>1952.</b>  <b>Scope and Contents note</b>                  number 15-26 Includes two special issues on the Congress of the Russian National League</p>
box 6, folder 1	<p><b>1953,</b>  <b>Scope and Contents note</b>                  number 27-36</p>
box 6, folder 2	<p><b>1954,</b>  <b>Scope and Contents note</b>                  number 37-46</p>
box 6, folder 3	<p><b>1955,</b>  <b>Scope and Contents note</b>                  number 47-55</p>

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box 6, folder 4	<b>1956,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 56-65
box 6, folder 5	<b>1957,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 66-71
box 6, folder 6	<b>1958,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 72-79
box 6, folder 7	<b>1959,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 80-87
box 6, folder 8	<b>1960,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 88-95
box 6, folder 9	<b>1961,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 96-105
box 6, folder 10	<b>1962,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 106-114
box 6, folder 11	<b>1963,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 116-121
box 6, folder 12	<b>1964,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 122-133
box 6, folder 13	<b>1965,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 134-142
box 6, folder 14	<b>1966,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 143-152
box 6, folder 15	<b>1967,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 153-163
box 6, folder 16	<b>1968,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 164-175

box 6, folder 17	<b>1969,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 176-184
box 6, folder 18	<b>1970,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 185-195
box 6, folder 19	<b>1971,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 196-204
box 6, folder 20	<b>1972,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 205-216
box 6, folder 21	<b>1973,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 217-228
box 6, folder 22	<b>1974,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 229-240
box 6, folder 23	<b>1975,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 241-252
box 6, folder 24	<b>1976,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 255-260
box 6, folder 25	<b>1977,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 261-266
box 6, folder 26	<b>1978,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 269-273
box 6, folder 27	<b>1979,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 274-280
box 6, folder 28	<b>1980,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 281-290
box 6, folder 29	<b>1981,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> number 291-296



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box 6, folder 30	<b>1982,</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Number 297, January-February
box 6, folder 31	<b>Bulletin of the Russian National League in Japan 1957</b>
box 6, folder 32	<b>Information Bulletin of the Russian National League in Great Britain 1956-1957.</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Includes statute and news
box 6, folder 33	<b>Radio broadcasts, Russian section, Spanish radio, Madrid 1937, 1961</b>
box 7	<b>Printed matter 1926-1980.</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Newspapers, newspaper clippings, and scrapbooks, arranged by physical form
box 7, folder 1	<b>Newspapers. Raduga (Rainbow), Brussels (Belgium), 1946, numbers 1-8.</b> <b>Clippings.</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Includes two scrapbooks
box 7, folder 2	<b>1926-1927</b>
box 7, folder 3	<b>1937-1965</b>
box 7, folder 4	<b>1952</b>
box 7, folder 5	<b>1954-1955, 1977.</b>
box 7, folder 6	<b>1959-1964</b>
box 7, folder 7	<b>1970</b>
box 7, folder 8	<b>1979-1980</b> <b>Scrapbooks</b>
box 7, folder 9	<b>undated</b>
box 7, folder 10	<b>1956-1957</b> <b>Cultural life of the Russian émigré community in Belgium 1949-1979.</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Concert programs, advertisements, leaflets, invitations, arranged chronologically by physical form
box 7, folder 11	<b>General. Concert programs, advertisements, leaflets, invitations 1949-1962</b>
box 7, folder 12	<b>Russian opera performance 1951 October 16</b> <b>Russian book exhibits, Brussels</b>
box 7, folder 13	<b>1972-1973.</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Includes extensive correspondence
box 7, folder 14	<b>1973 December 14-16</b>
box 7, folder 15	<b>1977 November 18-20</b>
box 7, folder 16	<b>1979 December 14-16</b> <b>Photographs 1939-1956</b> <b>Russian National League member's portraits, 5 prints undated</b> <b>Russian émigrés' group portraits, 7 prints undated.</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> 2 of them dated 1949 <b>Russian house in Brussels (Belgium), 2 prints undated</b> <b>Monument to the unknown soldier, 4 prints undated</b> <b>Memorial services to the Russian soldiers, 4 prints undated</b>

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**First Congress of the Russian National League, 3 prints 1951**  
**Second Congress of the Russian National League, 2 prints 1956**  
**Children's life in the Russian émigré community, 5 prints undated**  
**Russian soldiers in Spanish Army of General Franco, 2 prints circa late 1930th**  
**Finno-Russian War, scenes from, 4 prints 1939**  
**Miscellany (Financial records) 1955-1977**

box 8

**Oversize box undated**

**Fabric banners**

***No one has the right to excuse you from executing your duty to the Motherland***  
**undated**

***Only in fighting do we obtain our freedom*** undated

**Russian book exhibits, advertisements undated**