

# Comintern Archives: Files of the Communist Party of Japan

Unique, formerly classified documents

- Unique documents on the foreign policy of the USSR in the Far East
- The original records of the Communist Party of Japan
- Rare periodicals and newspapers



Online Finding Aid at [www.idc.nl](http://www.idc.nl)

Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI), Moscow

# Files of the Communist Party of Japan (CPJ)

Classified as top secret, the Comintern archives were inaccessible to researchers until late 1991, when the archives were opened to the public. However, even though they are now public, the archives are still difficult for researchers to access. This situation is now changing as IDC Publishers is making accessible the files of the national communist and left socialist parties of various countries. The files of the Communist Party of Japan (CPJ) cover the period 1919-1941 and include extensive documentation on the relations between the Soviet Communist Party and its counterparts in Japan, the Far East, Europe, and America.

## 'General Staff of the World Revolution'

The Communist, or Third, International (Comintern) was founded in early 1919 as an international revolutionary proletarian party. For more than a quarter of a century, the Comintern deeply influenced the political life of many countries. The semi-legal and clandestine activities instigated by the Comintern made this federation of about 70 parties in Europe, Asia, and America one of the most cloistered societies of recent centuries. In practice, the Comintern was a Soviet-sponsored agency designed to coordinate the overthrow of the capitalist system worldwide, acting thus as the "General Staff of the World Revolution."

## Rumors and myths

As with all such semi-secretive organizations, the Comintern soon became a source of rumors and myths that were perpetuated over the years. For a long time, historians could only speculate on the reality behind these myths, as they had no access to the Central Party archive in Moscow where the Comintern archives were stored.

With the help of IDC Publishers, this situation is now changing and new areas of historical research are being opened up.

## Top secret

After the Comintern was dissolved in 1943, its archives were transferred to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR, and later to the Central Party Archive of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism. Classified as top secret, the Comintern archives were inaccessible to researchers until late 1991, when the archives were opened to the public. However, even though they are now public, the archives are still difficult for researchers to access.

## The Comintern Archives

The archives contain 220,00 files (15 linear kilometers of shelving) in almost 90 languages, and are divided into 521 documentary units. The Comintern archives contain 55 million pages of original documents from seven Congresses, thirteen ECCI Plenums, over 70 communist and socialist parties,

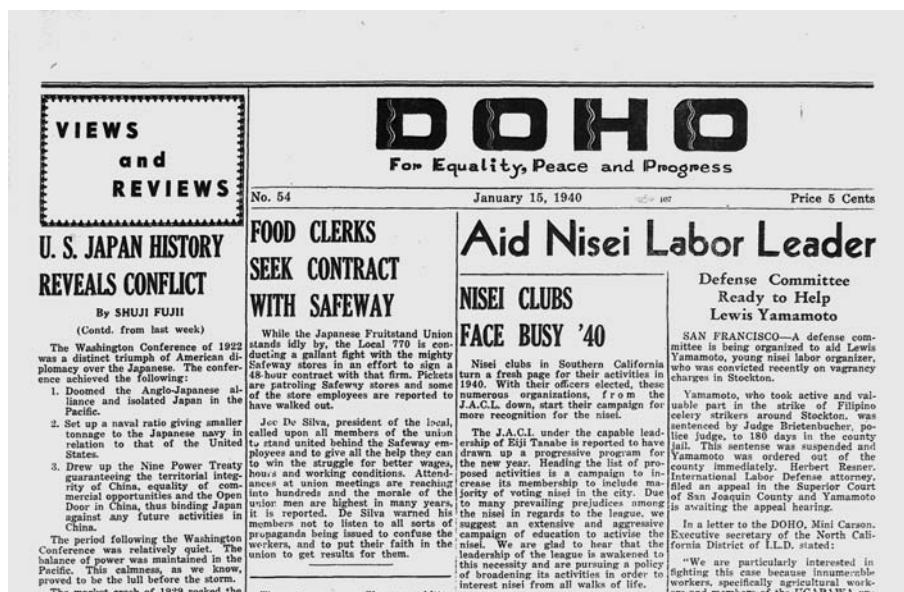
and other international organizations. Hand-written amendments and other personal corrections made by various figureheads of the communist movement make this material even more valuable. The archives cover the whole period during which the organization was active, namely 1919-1943. As a result of the increasing international tension in the 1920s and 1930s, the documents of the communist parties of Germany, Italy, France, and Romania were stored for safekeeping in the Moscow-based archive. Many materials were received directly from the national communist parties or from representatives of the Comintern.

## The Communist Party of Japan

Initially a distinct group within the Communist Party of the USA (CPUSA), the CPJ was founded in 1922 and remained an underground organization until the end of WW II. During these years, many CPJ leaders were imprisoned in Japan or fell victim to the 1937-38 purges in the Soviet Union. Today, the CPJ has about 400,000 members and is represented in Japan's upper house of parliament.

## The CPJ files (Fond 495, opis' 127)

The CPJ files cover the period 1919-1941 and include extensive documentation on the relations between the Soviet Communist Party and its counterparts in Japan, the Far East, Europe, and America. The collection contains, for example, the proceedings of CPJ conferences, the plenums of the Central Committee, and records of local organizations; documents of the Executive Committee of the Comintern (ECCI) and correspondence between the leaders of the CPJ and the ECCI in Moscow and its Shanghai- and Vladivostok-based Bureaus; materials about the labor history of Japan, trade unions, and youth organizations; and many rare periodicals and newspapers from Japan and the USA.



## IDC Publishers and Comintern Archives

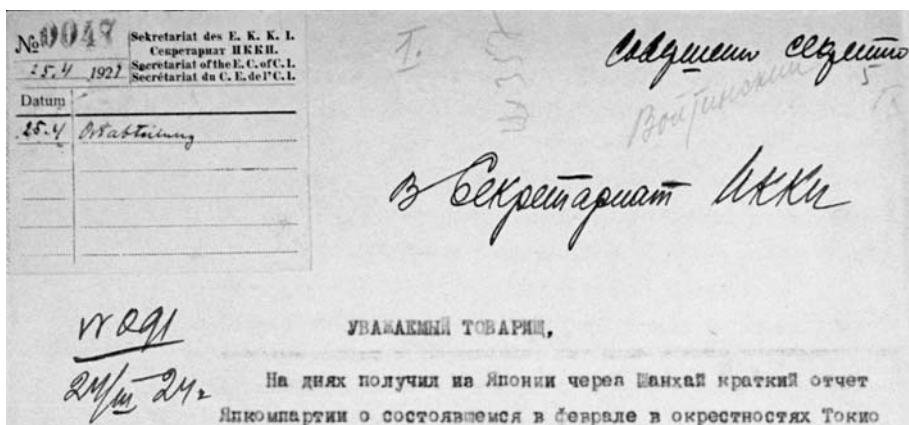
IDC Publishers is continuing its extensive project on the 'Files of National Communist Parties in the Comintern Archives.' Following the successful release of the collections *Comintern Archives: Materials of Congresses and Plenums of the ECCI* and *Comintern Archives: Files of the Communist Party of the USA (CPUSA)*, we will expand our offer of source materials from the Comintern archives, which are stored in the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI) in Moscow. Our intention is to film the files of the national communist and left socialist parties of various countries. If you are interested or if you have got questions, comments, or suggestions concerning this matter, please contact us at [info@idc.nl](mailto:info@idc.nl)

*Dr. K. Anderson*

Director of the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI)

This collection (*fond 495, opis' 127, 616 files*) includes materials on:

- Foreign policy of the USSR in the Far East
- International revolutionary organizations
- Japanese military occupation of China
- History of Communist Party of Japan
- History of Communist groups in USA and China
- Labor history, trade unions and youth organization in Japan
- Shanghai and Vladivostok Bureaus of ECCI
- Communist University of the Labors of the East
- Japanese students in Moscow
- Collection of periodicals and newspapers



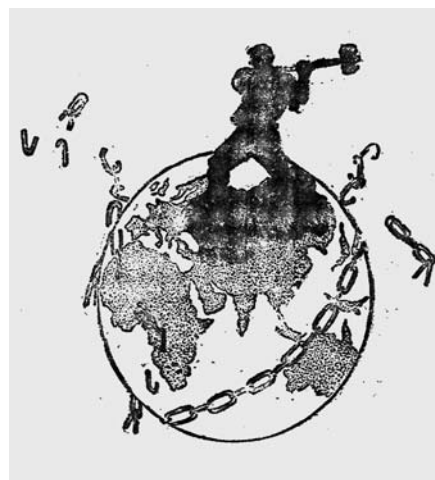
*Fond 495, opis' 127, delo 46*



## General information

Scope	616 files from <i>Fond 495, opis' 127, delo 1- 616</i>
Number of reels	132 microfilm reels
Size of reels	35 mm.
Film type	Positive silver halide
Reduction ratio	Varies depending on the size of the original
Internal Finding Aid	Title frame on every reel Archive indexes (compiled by the staff of the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History) filmed on a separate reel.
External Finding Aid	Online guide at <a href="http://www.idc.nl">www.idc.nl</a> , printed guide on request Online finding aid in Comintern Online
Languages	Russian, Japanese, English, French, German, Chinese
Dates	1919-1941

**IDC Publishers does not have the intention to include this collection in the database Comintern Online**



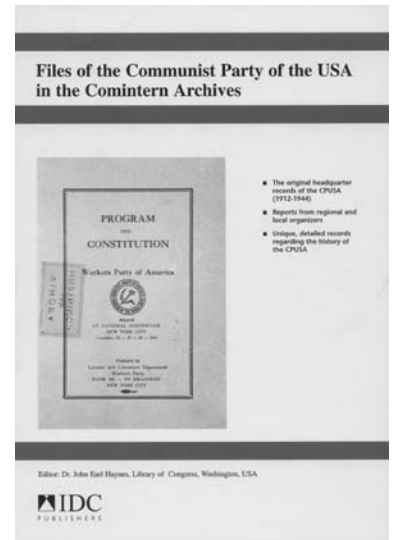
## COMINTERN ARCHIVES: FILES OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE USA (CPUSA)

**Editor: Dr. John Earl Haynes, Library of Congress, Washington, USA**

The CPUSA collection, largely the original headquarter records of the CPUSA, contains the original incoming mail, carbons of outgoing correspondence, reports from regional and local organizers, and internal memoranda produced by officials and offices of the national headquarters. For the first time it is possible to document the functioning of the local party, its relationship to the Comintern, and the importance of individual members in shaping the party's program.

The Library of Congress obtained the records of the CPUSA on microfilm for research use and preservation with no right of additional reproduction. However, in recognition of the importance of these materials to the scholarly community, the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI) granted IDC Publishers the exclusive world right to distribute these microfilms.

- 4,313 files (*dela*) from *fond* 515
- 326 microfilm reels containing 435,165 frames
- Online and printed guide by Dr. John Earl Haynes
- Online finding aid in Comintern online



## COMINTERN ARCHIVES ONLINE

Classified as top secret, the Comintern archives were inaccessible until late 1991, when the archives were opened up to the public. Containing 15 linear kilometer of shelving without a clear structure, the archives were still difficult to access. IDC Publishers is changing this situation, by providing online access to the Comintern archives. *Comintern Archives Online* consists of two components: a free online inventory to the complete Comintern Archives of 55,000,000 pages and at the start of this service 1,200,000 pages of the most frequently used documents will be available online. The number of online documents will increase as a result of future projects.

- Free online inventory to 55,000,000 pages
- 1,200,000 pages of the most frequently used documents
- For more information, please contact [info@idc.nl](mailto:info@idc.nl)



Cover illustration from: *Fond* 495, *opis* ' 127, *dela* 616



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