OIL RESOURCES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE CAUCASUS
British Documents 1885–1978

VOLUME 6
1951–1960

Edited by
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Despatch No. 6 'E&S' from Mr L.J. Sulliman, British Legation, Bucharest, to the Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, 22 January 1953, forwarding:

Report by Mr E.A.W. Bullock, Third Secretary, British Legation, Bucharest, 'The Roumanian Petroleum Industry at the beginning of 1953', undated, reviewing both the production and distribution sides,
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Despatch No. 1531/2/53"S" from Chancery, British Legation, Bucharest, to Northern Department, Foreign Office, 5 February 1953, concerning latest government changes, and enclosing an extract from *Summary of World Broadcast*, No. 386, 2 February 1953, on ‘Economic Cooperation in Eastern Europe’

Letter No. EE.12/W2/W.1a from Mr J.N. Cooper, Shell Oil Company, London, to Mr H.J. Gummer, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 19 February 1953, regarding the issue of bonds, which had been settled, notes the bonds issue dates to the destruction of the fields in 1916, encloses a memorandum on ‘Indemnity Bearer Bonds’, 18 February 1953

Despatch from Mr J.B. Kay, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, to Mr C. Howson, Northern Department, Foreign Office, 12 March 1953 commenting on the review by the Bucharest Legation on the Roumanian oil industry [see above], suggesting different production figures, and enclosing three tables on refining, arranged by company and Roumanian natural gas plants

Despatch No. NR.31/4 from Northern Department, Foreign Office, to Chancery, British Legation, Bucharest, 4 May 1953, regarding Mr Bullock’s memorandum on the Roumanian Petroleum Industry at the beginning of 1953

Letter No. EE.12/W2 from Mr J.N. Cooper, Shell Oil Company, London, to Mr H.J. Gummer, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 9 April 1953, referring to previous agreements by Astra

Ministry of Fuel and Power departmental minute No. PET(53)303 by Mr V. Butler for the Secretary, 16 April 1953, on seized Roumanian assets

Despatch No. 587/49 from Mr H.J. Gummer, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, to the Hon. P. Ramsbotham, Foreign Office,
23 April 1953, refers to British companies’ outstanding claims against Eastern European countries, enclosing a summary of the position of British Oil interests in East European countries, listing problems by countries

[POWE 33/2047]

Despatch No. 1531/6/53 from Chancery, British Legation, Bucharest, to Northern Department, Foreign Office, 14 July 1953, regarding the level of production of crude petroleum in Roumania

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Summary of articles in Scanteia, ‘New Sources of Petroleum’ by P. Dinescu, 20 September 1953, and ‘Valea Caselor’, 6 October 1953

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Despatch No. 1531/9/53 from Chancery, British Legation, Bucharest, to Northern Department, Foreign Office, 8 October 1953, further details on Roumanian oil production, including the American Oil Executive’s views

[FO 371/106474]

Despatch No. PD14/2 from Mr J.B. Kay, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, to Mr P.V. Killick, Northern Department, Foreign Office, 16 November 1953, local disagreements as to exact production figures, noting information received is inadequate, and referring to difficult conditions in the field

[FO 371/106474]

Despatch No. NR.1531/7 from Mr J.J. Cooper, Northern Department, Foreign Office, to Mr E.A.W. Bullock, HM Legation, Bucharest, 21 November 1953, news about oil exploration in the Pitesti region

[FO 371/106474]

Letter from Mr Duncan McKellar, Liquidator [Board of Trade ?], London, to Mr C.G. Thorley, HM Treasury, 21 December 1953, regarding Phoenix Oil and Transport Co. Ltd

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1.6 Offers of Russian and Roumanian oil, and appraisals of the trade position in these countries, 1953

Note No. 45/Q on the subject of importation of Roumanian oil into Belgium, 13 March 1953

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Ministry of Fuel and Power departmental minute No. 50, 31 March-7 April 1953, offers of fuel oil from official Russian sources for sale via Shell

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Letter from Mr A.C. Guépin, Shell Oil Company, London, to Mr V. Butler, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 1 July 1953, enclosing a paper on ‘Russian Oil’, 24 June 1953, suggesting Russia had a surplus and was therefore trying to enter western markets again, together with an additional enclosure: letter from Raven Oil Company, London, 24 June 1952 [sic], referring to ‘offer of topped crude from Poland’ [POWE 33/1867]

Two letters from Commercial Relations and Exports Department, Board of Trade, London, to Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 2 and 16 July 1953, reviewing the cessation of imports from Russia and Roumania since the end of Second World War [POWE 33/1867]

Departmental minute No. PE 857 by Mr D.H. Crofton for Mr Brook and Mr Butler, 16 July 1953, regarding offers of Russian oil in western markets [POWE 33/1867]

Letter No. PE.857 from Mr V. Butler, Ministry of Fuel and Power, to Mr C.H. Baylis, Commercial Relations and Exports Department, Board of Trade, 17 July 1953, concerning the lack of Russian and Roumanian exports since 1945 [POWE 33/1867]


Two telegrams, Nos. 277 and 281, from British Embassy, Copenhagen, to Foreign Office, 3 and 5 October 1953, concerning the ‘Danish capture’ of the Russian oil trade [POWE 33/1867]

Letter No. RAV/WLN/PM from Mr W.L. Newton, Raven Oil Company Ltd, London, to Mr S.J. Davies, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 5 October 1953, regarding the possible purchase of Russian oil from Finland for resale to Western Germany [POWE 33/1867]

Ministry of Fuel and Power departmental minutes No. PE857, 6 and 26 October, 2 and 13 November 1953, on the issue of possible imports of crude oil from Russia and the Soviet Bloc, assessing impact on Balance of Payments and other issues [POWE 33/1867]

Letter from M. Golodetz, London, to Ministry of Fuel and Power, 4 November 1953, regarding the possibility of importing Russian oil [POWE 33/1867]

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Letter from Barks, Williams and Co. Ltd, London, to Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 26 November 1953, referring to their business interest in importing Russian oil
[POWE 33/1867]

Minister of State Office minute No. 1314, 7 November 1953, regarding a barter deal with Roumania
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Minister of State Office minute No. 1328, 8/10 December 1953, note of a meeting held in the Minister of State's office, House of Commons, 7 December 1953, regarding trade interests in Eastern Europe
[POWE 33/1867]

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Despatch from Mr T.R.D. Belgrave, Foreign Office, to Mr A.K. Beckett, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 23 December 1953, regarding the need to review the official position on the ban by HM's Government of Russian oil imports
[POWE 33/1867]

Telegram No. 21 from British Embassy, Oslo, to Foreign Office, 31 December 1953, concerning an agreement by certain European oil companies to distribute Russian oil
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1.7 Imports of Russian oil: increased activity by the Soviet Union to sell on its surplus, 1954

Despatch No. CRE.24718/53 from Mr I.A.H More, Board of Trade, to Mr A.K. Beckett, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 18 January 1954, reviewing government policy on imports from the Soviet bloc, including oil, possible repercussions, expectations by some were that the ban on importing Russian and Roumanian crude was to be removed
[POWE 33/1867]

Despatch No. PE.857 from Mr A.C. Campbell, Ministry of Fuel and Power, to Mr I.A.H. More, Board of Trade, 5 February 1954, outlining previous British position on import bans, referring to the 'stolen oil' thesis
[FO 371/110175]

Ministry of Fuel and Power departmental minutes, 8–10 February 1954, regarding the import of oil from Russia
[POWE 33/1867]
Despatch from Mr J.H. Brook, British Embassy, Washington, to Mr J.A. Beckett, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 10 February 1954, regarding the true position of the Russian refining industry
[POWE 33/1867]

Foreign Office departmental minutes No. UESI176/3 by Economic Relations Department, reviewing developments in changing British policy on imports of Russian oil, 9-12 February 1954
[FO 371/110175]

Despatch No. CRE.24718/53 from Mr I.A.H. More, Board of Trade, to Mr A.C. Campbell, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 9 February 1954, increased urgency to settle the question of changing policy to allow imported oil, enclosing Minister of State Office minute No. 1441 by Mr J.C. Burgh, 8 February 1954, regarding a meeting between the Minister of State and Messrs Hobson and Grant, Directors of Stevenson & Hardy
[FO 371/110175]

Despatch from Mr T.R.D. Belgrave, Foreign Office, to Mr A.C. Campbell, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 15 February 1954, agreeing to imports of Russian oil to the UK, in principle
[POWE 33/1867]

Despatch No. 22/055/54 from Mr P.D. Martyn, Ministry of Defence, to Mr A.C. Campbell, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 16 February 1954, qualifying the position concerning the import of oil from the Soviet Bloc
[POWE 33/1867]

Ministry of Fuel and Power Departmental minutes No PE 857, 18-24 February 1954, reviewing the position
[POWE 33/1867]

Despatch No. PD.857 from Mr J.A. Beckett, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, to Mr J.H. Brook, Petroleum Attaché, British Embassy, Washington, 18 February 1954, regarding the change of policy concerning Russian oil
[POWE 33/1867]

Despatch from Mr C.H. Baylis, Commercial Relations and Exports Department, Board of Trade, to Mr A.C. Campbell, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 18 February 1954, following agreement in principle, plans to discuss details of allowing Russian oil imports
[FO 371/110175]

Despatch No. OD.100/243/01 from Mr A.K. Potter [HM Treasury] to Mr A.C. Campbell, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 19 February 1954, reviewing the issue of Russian oil for the UK, concerns for economic impact
[FO 371/110175]

Telegram No. 11 Fuel from Ministry of Fuel and Power to British Embassy, Washington, 23 February 1954, referring to the effect of the AIOC situation [Iranian nationalisation of British oil operation], leading to accusations of purchases of ‘stolen’ oil, noting risks of dependency on
AIOC (following Iranian nationalisation) and the need to expand British sources for oil imports
[FO 371/110175]

[POWE 33/1867]

Despatch from the Rt. Hon. Derick Heathcoat-Amory, Minister of State, Board of Trade, to the Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Lloyd, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 27 February 1954, regarding import licences
[POWE 33/1867]

Extract from an article in The Economist, 6 March 1954, 'Oil from Russia'
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Secret records of two interdepartmental meetings held at the Ministry of Fuel and Power, on 3 and 4 March 1954, to discuss 'Iron Curtain Oil', including representation from the Ministry of Fuel and Power, Treasury, Foreign Office and Board of Trade, 8 March 1954
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Telegram No. 848 from Foreign Office to British Embassy, Washington, 8 March 1954, regarding the issue to be raised with the US government
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Ministry of Fuel and Power departmental minute by Mr A.H. Norris for Mr Le Butt, 8 March 1954, response to various interested firms
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Note by Ministry of Fuel and Power on a meeting with Dr G. Tugendhat, Managing Director, Manchester Oil Refinery Limited, 8 March 1954, reporting on his visit to Moscow
[FO 371/110175]

Circular telegram No. 27 from Commonwealth Relations Office to UK High Commissioners, New Delhi, Karachi and Colombo, 9 March 1954, regarding the lifting of the oil import ban
[FO 371/110175]

Despatch from Mr J.E. Coulson, Foreign Office, to [Treasury ?], 10 March 1954, summarising the official position on Russian oil imports
[FO 371/110175]

Letter from Dr G. Tugendhat, Managing Director, Manchester Oil Refinery Ltd, to Mr V.S. Butler, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 17 March 1954, enclosing an account of his visit to Moscow, 19 March 1954; 'Notes on a journey to Moscow, 22 February-1 March 1954', concerning future trade possibilities, with separate notes on meetings with a Russian official on prospective oil importation
[POWE 33/1867]

Despatch No. PE.857 Pt.2 from Mr H.J. Gummer, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, to Mr T.R.D. Belgrave, Economic Relations Department, Foreign Office, 13 April 1954, enclosing a note on Soviet
Bloc oil exports, 'Russian Oil', undated, reviewing recent exports, 1950-1953, and reports of problems, in discharging obligations; with Annex A: summarising exports to a variety of European and Middle East countries, and Annex B: summary of current business as at February 1954
[FO 371/110175]

Foreign Office departmental memorandum by Mr T.R.D. Belgrave, Economic Relations Department, 6 May 1954, 'Russia and Roumanian oil exports'
[FO 371/110175]

Circular despatch No. P.10417/1 from Information Policy Department, Foreign Office to various departments and agencies, 1 September 1954, forwarding a note on Soviet oil policy in Europe, 'Soviet Post-War Treatment of European Oil Reserves', referring to usurpation and poor practices
[FO 953/1482]

Letter No. RU.1/RU.3 from Mr J.N. Cooper, Shell Oil Company, London, to Mr H.J. Gummer, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 20 October 1954, enclosing notes regarding Shell's claims respecting the Soviet Union, 1: Russia proper, 2: Baltic States and 3: Memel (item referred to, claims for USSR, not found on file)
[POWE 33/2071]

1.8 Estimates of production and reserves in 'Iron Curtain' countries, 1954

Letter No. EE.2 from Mr J.N. Cooper, Shell Oil Company, London, to Mr H.J. Gummer, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 16 November 1954, enclosing a note and memorandum by Mr J. Mantsch of the Jersey, 21 and 18 October 1954, regarding natural gas production and reserves in Iron Curtain countries
[POWE 33/2091]

Letter No. EE.2 from Mr J.N. Cooper, Shell Oil Company, London, to Mr H.J. Gummer, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 8 December 1954, giving comments on Mr J. Mantsch's note concerning natural gas production and reserves in Iron Curtain countries
[POWE 33/2091]

1.9 Impact of sovereignty issues in the Caspian Sea on oil prospects, 1954

Secret Foreign Office minutes, 17-19 May 1954, 'the Sovereignty of the Caspian Sea', briefly reviewing the issue on a general basis
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1.10 Anglo-Saxon Oil continued claim against the Roumanian government, and monitoring of the industry, 1954-1955

Despatch No. PD 14/2 from Mr J.B. Kay, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, to Mr H.K. Matthews, Northern Department, Foreign Office, 8 February 1954, forwarding a note by Mr J.N. Cooper,

[FO 371/111644]

[POWE 33/1885]

Letter from Mr S.W. Barrett, Steaua Romana (British) Ltd, London, to Mr H.J. Gummer, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 31 May 1954, concerning Article 33 claims, under terms of the peace treaty with Roumania, enclosing a statement of their claim, 31 May 1954
[POWE 33/1885]

[POWE 33/1885]

Letter from Mr J.M. Leitch, Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate Ltd, London, to Mr H.J. Gummer, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 1 June 1954, further figures regarding fair prices claim, enclosing a statement of their claim
[POWE 33/1885]

Statement by Mr Hugo Bisov, Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co. Ltd, London, 13 January 1955, information drawn from his position as Treasurer since 1948, as to assets, previous debt of Roumanian government from 1927, value of government bonds put up against claims, noting their established value; together with an English translation of an Agreement between the Roumanian government and Astra Romana, 26 August 1927
[POWE 33/1885]

1.11 Review of claims, 1955

Ministry of Fuel and Power departmental minutes 'Soviet Post-War treatment of European Oil Reserves', by Mr H.J. Gummer for Mr Campbell, January 1955 (note: document is damaged), reviewing approaches to Russia in light of existing western oil companies' unresolved claims for compensation
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Series of departmental briefs summarising state of trade relations with Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Roumania, detailing recent negotiations with Russia and the Baltic States, enclosing an overview summary of statement of claims to be lodged at 31 May 1955
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[POWE 33/2074]

Telegram No. 14 Fuel from Ministry of Fuel and Power to British Embassy, Washington, 7 May 1955, reporting difficulties with Austrian government concerning the return of pre-war oil concession rights in Eastern Zone and difficulties with the Russians concerning the wording of Article 35 of the treaty
[POWE 33/2074]

Telegram No. 39 Fuel from Ministry of Fuel and Power to British Embassy, Washington, 21 August 1956, regarding the proposed commercial purchase of Russian oil
[POWE 33/2074]

Extract from a news article, 'Russian Oil Resources', not credited, c. August 1956, predicting future resources and offshore drilling
[POWE 33/2074]

Telegram No. 45 Elfu from British Embassy, Washington, to Ministry of Fuel and Power, 23 August 1956, reporting that the State Department had no objection to the purchase of Russian oil by British companies
[POWE 33/2074]

2.2 Review of the extent of oil pipelines in the USSR, 1956 345

Paper No. JI.3/245 by the Joint Intelligence Bureau, Ministry of Defence, 'Oil Pipelines in the USSR', 1956 (no month supplied), reviews the extent of development of pipelines and their use, noting increased production in the Soviet Union as a factor leading to development, in relation to the sixth Five Year Plan with appendices:
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Letter No. RU.3 from Mr J.N. Cooper, Shell Oil Company, London, to Mr J.R. Jenkins, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 12 April 1956, referring to lobbying by Sir Harold Webbe and others
[POWE 33/2071]
2.4 Soviet interests in obtaining Iranian oil, 1956

Letter from Count A. de Lasta, London, to Mr William Teeling MP, London, 30 July 1956, relating Russian historical interest in oil in the Caspian region, historical knowledge of the extent of the undersea oil lakes led to Russian interests in Iranian concession [FO 371/20744]

Despatch No. EP 1537/2 from Mr D.T. West, Foreign Office, to Mr A. Beckett, Ministry of Fuel and Power, 20 August 1956, further anecdotal evidence concerning Caspian resources, as discovered in the 1920s [FO 371/20744]

2.5 Roumanian oil production and claims against the Roumanian Government in 1957

Despatch No. 1531/2/57 from Chancery, British Legation, Bucharest, to Northern Department, Foreign Office, 23 February 1957, referring to announced figures for production and exploration for 1956 [FO 371/128940]

Despatch No. PE804/19/3 from Mr J.R. Jenkins, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Power, to Mr D.R. Collard, Foreign Office, 17 April 1957, concerning the possible purchase of Steaua Romana assets by British Petroleum, enclosing a note, by the Ministry of Power, 17 April 1957, concerning an interdepartmental meeting held at the Ministry of Power, 3 April 1957, to discuss the British Petroleum Company’s proposal to acquire the interests of the former Steaua Romana SA in Turkey and Austria [FO 371/128940]

Draft despatch No. NR 1531/4 from Northern Department, Foreign Office, to Chancery, British Embassy, Vienna, June 1957, further to British Petroleum’s interest in obtaining control of Steaua Romana [FO 371/128940]

Foreign Office departmental minutes, 15-20 June 1957, regarding Steaua Romana assets in Turkey and Austria [FO 371/128940]

Detailed Foreign Office minute, 10 July 1957, further to British Petroleum’s interest in purchasing Steaua Romana’s assets in Turkey and Austria, implications that such a purchase may imply recognition of Roumania’s nationalisation without compensation of foreign-owned oil companies, weighing up advantages and disadvantages [FO 371/128940]

Telegram No. 30 Fuel from Ministry of Power to British Embassy, Washington, 11 July 1957, concerning the proposed acquisition of Steaua Romana oil assets in Turkey [FO 371/128940]
2.6 Outstanding British claims against Soviet Bloc seizures of various oil companies and their assets, in the political context of growing British Government desire to enter into trade relations with the Soviet Bloc, 1957

Despatch from Mr C.E.H. Druitt, British Embassy, Washington, to Mr J.M. Brock, Ministry of Power, 10 September 1957, regarding British Petroleum and Russian oil exchanges, without enclosure
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Memorandum by the Ministry of Power, undated, 'British Petroleum/Russian Oil Exchange'
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Extract from Hansard, No. RU.1/NE.7, 20 November 1957, on British subjects' claims in Hungary
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2.7 Russian and Soviet Bloc oil: debates about possible imports into the UK, general reviews of export potential in the context of the continuing issue of outstanding claims, 1957-1959

Extract from Soviet News Agency news report No. RU.13, East European Claims Department, 3 July 1957, 'Immense oil reserves claimed in Turkmenistan'
[POWE 33/2091]

Letter Ref: RU.3 from Mr John Cooper, Shell Oil Company, London, to Mr J.R. Jenkins, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Power, 27 January 1958, reports of a combined effort by Russian claimants to have matters settled
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Extract from Ministry of Power departmental minute by Mr J.B. Gottlieb for Mr Stock, 30 June 1958, on possible distribution of Soviet oil products in the UK
[POWE 33/2091]

Appendix A: estimate of USSR supplies;
Appendix B: USSR Estimated Oil Requirements;
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Secret Ministry of Power departmental minute by Mr J.R. Jenkins for Mr Butler, 16 September 1958, enclosing a secret 'note on Soviet Bloc oil exports to the Free World', 16 September 1958, analysing the Joint Intelligence Bureau's conclusions and putting forward suggestions for policy which might be adopted
[POWE 33/2091]

Letter No. EC.1684/49/1 from Mr A.H. Reed, Commonwealth Relations Office, London, to Mr D.N. Royce, Foreign Office, 23 September 1958,
regarding Indian interest in Soviet plans to control Middle East oil, together with response, 2 October 1958
[FO 371/133256]

Despatch from Mr P.E. Thornton, Foreign Office, to Mr A.W. Taylor, HM Treasury, 5 February 1959, encloses a revised second draft paper, 30 January 1959, on British businesses interested in distribution of Soviet petroleum products in the UK, leading to a review of existing government policy, which had been a complete ban on imports since Second World War; consideration of obstacles including the objections of the coal industry, worldwide oil surplus and possible role of Russia in meeting UK needs long term; oil imports as a means of addressing Russian general complaint of trade discrimination and British desire for improved relations
[FO 371/143511]

Note from Ministry of Power to the Prime Minister, 19 February 1959, regarding trade with Soviet Russia
[FO 371/143511]

Foreign Office minute by Mr A.R. Walmsley for Northern Department, 24 February 1959, regarding the possible impact of Soviet competition if imports allowed
[FO 371/143511]

[FO 371/143511]

Note by Mr K.L. Stock, Ministry of Power, for Sir R. Ayres, 11 March 1959, Dutch concerns about Soviet oil exports
[POWE 33/2091]

Memorandum, undated, concerning Soviet Bloc Oil Exports
[POWE 33/2091]

Letter from Mr A.B. Powell, Ministry of Power, to Mr O.F. Thompson, Shell Petroleum Company, London, 7 April 1959, forwards an extract from a report by Dr A. Lahiri, undated, on a visit to the USSR with Indian Delegation of Scientists to investigate the extent of Russian resources, together with reply, 14 April 1959
[POWE 33/2091]

Despatch No. 170/13/59 from British Embassy, Stockholm, to Economic Relations Department, Foreign Office, 8 April 1959, regarding a report in the Swedish daily Svenska Dagbladet, reporting that oil from Black Sea ports would be transferred to Baltic ports starting in the spring
[FO 371/143511]

Letter from Mr O.F. Thompson, Shell Petroleum Company, London, to Mr A.B. Powell, Ministry of Power, 15 April 1959, commenting on report concerning Russian oil reserves
[POWE 33/2091]
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Despatch from British Embassy, Washington, to Northern Department, Foreign Office, 10 June 1959, enclosing Press Release No. 118 by the Soviet National Committee for Oil, 1 June 1959, attitude to the International Petroleum Congress in New York [FO 371/143511]

Despatch No. 1533/59 from Commercial Section, British Embassy, Prague, to Northern Department, Foreign Office, 10 June 1959, regarding Soviet reports of a new pipeline, forwards new article from Svobodné Slovo, 5 June 1959, with a schematic map [FO 371/142670]

Despatch No. CD 1537 from Commercial Section, British Embassy, Paris, to Mr R.F.G. Sarell, Consulate-General, Algiers, 13 June 1959, referring to impact on pipeline projects of an explosion in Poland [FO 371/142670]

Letter No. BS.1/RU.3/RU.1 from Mr J.N. Cooper, Shell Petroleum Company, London, to Mr J.R. Jenkins, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Power, 1 July 1959, forwards an extract from the Financial Times, 30 June 1959, concerning talks held in Moscow on outstanding claims from 1939 [POWE 33/2071]

Extract from East-West Trade Nexus, 2 July 1959, reporting an agreement on the settlement of Russian bonded debts to Great Britain, and implications [POWE 33/2071]

Letter from Mr J. McLean, Motherwell Bridge Engineering Co. Ltd, to Russian Section, Foreign Office, 29 September 1959, reporting possible contract to build oil storage tanks for Russia, and the visit of a delegation to Russia, together with reply, letter No. NS 1531/13, 7 October 1959 [FO 371/143511]

Despatch from Commercial Department, British Embassy, Moscow, to Northern Department, Foreign Office, 22 December 1959, regarding the agreement signed in Moscow concerning the proposed Eastern European Oil pipeline [FO 371/142670]

2.8 1 UK–Soviet Trade Agreement reached in 1959 – implications for oil imports 467

Five Year Trade Agreement signed in Moscow, 24 May 1959 [FO 93/81/109]

2.9  Eastern European and Soviet Bloc exports, pipeline projects, 1959 475

Despatch No. 1533/5/3 from Commercial Secretariat, British Embassy, Warsaw, to Northern Department, Foreign Office, 6 March 1959, forwards extracts from The Polish News Bulletin No. 52, 4 March 1959, on

1 Marking the end of Soviet exclusion from British trade, the agreement was for an initial five years, and paved the way for reconsideration of the raising of several import bans
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a possible new pipeline project, translated, 'The GDR Pipeline, Petro-
Chemistry on the Oder'
[FO 371/142670]

Letter from Mr A.A. Rawlings, Planning Division, Supply and
Development Department, British Petroleum, London, to Mr Doyle,
Foreign Office, 23 March 1959, 'Oil Exports from Iron Curtain
Countries', with a table on 'Estimated Black Sea crude and product
exports - 1959'
[FO 371/142670]

Letter No. EE.7/EE.12 from Mr J.N. Cooper, Shell Petroleum Company,
London, to Mr J.R. Jenkins, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Power,
19 June 1959, reviewing outstanding East European claims, encloses
an annual statement in tabular form of claims lodged with the British
government at 1 April 1959, arranged by former and current oil
cOMPANY name, e.g. Anglo-Saxon/Shell, and Associates, 15 April 1959,
outlining the claim in each country of operation, e.g. Hungary, and
Peace Treaty Claims
[POWE 33/2047]

2.10 Review of problems affiliated with Soviet oil development, 1959

(Annex) Brief by the Ministry of Power [probably for a Joint Intelligence
Committee meeting], 19 March 1969, information to be submitted by the
UK to the NATO Study Group on Soviet Oil
[POWE 33/2074]

Ministry of Power memorandum, undated, 'Bloc Oil Exports to the Free
World in 1959', with several tables depicting exports
[POWE 33/2480]

Translation of an article in Foreign Trade, No. 8, by Mr B. Rachkov, on
the fabrication of the western press regarding the export of Soviet oil,
Moscow, February 1959
[POWE 33/2480]

Secret note by Ministry of Power, 19 March 1959, possible discussion of
acceptance of Russian oil import
[POWE 33/2074]

2.11 Soviet Bloc (including Russia): British government and oil
industry reviews of oil exports, assessments of potential oil
reserves, deep concerns as to the effect on world markets of
increasing Soviet oil exports, and how to meet these, 1960

Ministry of Power departmental minutes, 5-8 January 1960, regarding a
study of Soviet oil exports
[POWE 33/2480]

Secret circular telegram No. 21 from Foreign Office to all posts, 5
February 1960, 'The International Oil situation', reviewing supply
situations by country
[POWE 33/2074]
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Ministry of Power departmental minutes, 26 February–2 March 1960, on ‘Russian Oil’ and 11 March ‘Soviet Bloc exports’ [POWE 61/2]

Memorandum No. R.O. (60) 3 by the Ministry of Power to HM Treasury, for the Working Party on Russian Oil, 24 March 1960, ‘Present and future Russian oil exports to the free world’, with appendix: countries in the Free World to which Russian oil has recently been exported [POWE 33/2480]

‘Notes on the Oil Industry in Soviet Sphere Countries’, April 1960: a bulletin of information from various sources, in form of translated notes, articles and statements from Russian journals: a variety of brief pieces for instance, reference to use of natural gas for the chemical industry; précis of a Soviet book on oil from the eastern regions, reproducing several maps of oilfields, e.g. Perm Oblast field, Bashkir ASSR, Eastern Ukraine, together with a translation an article by A.K. Kortunov, ‘The Gas Industry in 1960’ [POWE 33/2091]

Letter No. EE.2 from Mr J.N. Cooper, Shell Petroleum Company, London, to Mr A.B. Powell, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Power, 6 April 1960, enclosing a paper by Mr Geoffrey Chandler, 15 March 1960, on Soviet external economic activity, which includes a review of the oil industry’s development since 1945, aspects of state aid to oil companies; impact on the west of the Soviet move into international markets [POWE 61/2]

Letter from Mr A.A. Rawlings, Supply and Development Department, Planning Division, British Petroleum, London, to Mr Doyle, Foreign Office, 8 April 1960, ‘Russian Oil Developments’, regarding technical developments in the Russian petroleum industry, with following table [FO 371/151324]

Despatch from Mr A.B. Powell, Ministry of Power, to Mr J.T. Fearnley, Foreign Office, 8 April 1960, enclosing a paper, ‘Soviet Bloc: exports to the Free World’, reviewing implications for British interests of increasing Russian oil exports to the west; consideration of possible ways and means of countering impact on other oil exporters reviewing the growth of the export trade from the mid-1950s, referring to political factors to be considered, with a schematic map depicting USSR pipelines, including the implications for UK oil interests; in general reflects the perceived threat from Russia, and ‘flooding’ of the market, not a problem when Russian production was used within the Soviet Union, with:

Appendix 3: Russian production review
Appendix 4 The European satellites
[POWE 61/2]

Ministry of Power departmental minute by Mr A.A. Jarratt for Mr A.B. Powell, 17 May 1960, commenting on Mr Powell’s draft paper analysing Russian Oil Exports, detailing the political objections to the import of Russian oil and of possible Russian policy, averring that concerted political action, including pan-European, to prevent wide exports would
not be possible, raising the possibility of the UK purchasing some of Russia's surpluses

Ministry of Power departmental minute by Mr A.B. Powell for Mr Stock, 19 May 1960, referring to work on monitoring Russian exports, and Foreign Office interest in same

Note for the file by Mr A.B. Powell, Ministry of Power, 24 May 1960, commenting on British Petroleum's position

Ministry of Power departmental minute by Mr K.L. Stock for the Secretary, 25 May 1960, implications of the Anglo-Russian trade agreement vis-à-vis Russian oil, and the political context generally, summarising the conclusions of a working party, which concluded that the advantage rested in continuing import restrictions

Ministry of Power departmental minute by Mr F.J. Perkins for Mr A.B. Powell, 26 May 1960, reviewing major purchasers of Russian oil, enclosing a table summarising imports by country, 10 May 1960

Ministry of Power departmental minute by Mr A.B. Powell for Mr F.J. Perkins, 20 June 1960, views of a Shell Oil executive on the Russian move to export more oil

Ministry of Power departmental minute by Mr A.B. Powell for Mr McNeill, and circulated to Foreign Office, 23 June 1960, noting suggestions made by oil company representatives and others to his paper on Russian oil

Despatch No. B 30/G3 from Mr P. Brightwell, Ministry of Defence, to Mr McNeill, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Power, 28 June 1960, commenting on paper regarding Russian oil exports

Letter from Mr O.F. Thompson, Shell Petroleum Company, London, to Mr A.B. Powell, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Power, 4 July 1960, noting that Russians were mainly wholesale suppliers, enclosing:
- Appendix A: Range of products offered by USSR for export
- Appendix B: Adverse press comment on quality of Russian oil

Ministry of Power departmental minutes 5-22 July 1960, commenting on aspects of Russian oil exports and possible impact on Western Europe

Foreign Office circular telegram No. 86 to various diplomatic posts, 12 July 1960, outlining the problem of Soviet Bloc oil exports within Eastern Europe, and effect on western oil companies
Letter from Mr A.B. Powell, Ministry of Power, to Mr O.F. Thompson, Shell International Petroleum Company, London, 2 August 1960, forwarding a revised and shortened version of the paper, ‘Russian Oil Exports’, reviewing in detail the extent and nature of probable exports, and their likely impact on western Europe and North America, in the context of Russia’s Seven Year Plan, running to 1965, and other statements by Soviet leaders and officials, referring to Russian methods of trading (e.g. buying of surpluses), concluding it was not possible to step up imports in the current climate. Includes:
Appendix I: Summary of Bloc oil exports, 1958-1959;
Appendix II: oil needs of various non-Soviet countries

Letter from Mr V.S. Butler, Shell International Petroleum Company, London, to Mr A.B. Powell, Ministry of Power, 5 August 1960, enclosing a memorandum by the Planning Division, July 1960, ‘Competition from Russian Oil’, together with:
Attachment I: The Future pattern of Russian oil exports;
Attachment II: Notes on Soviet bloc competition; a detailed analysis of past exports, commercial aspects of Soviet trade, the oil industry within the Soviet Bloc, estimates of future exports, with:
Appendix A: Estimated Soviet Bloc Exports, 1959;
Appendix B: Specifications of selected Russian crude oils;
Appendix C: Map of the Russian oil industry
[See Map 14 in the map box.]

Ministry of Power departmental minute by Mr A.B. Powell for Sir R. Ayers, 9 August 1960, refers to a meeting held to discuss the perceived Russian threat

Despatch from Mr W.C.C. Rose, Petroleum Attache, British Embassy, Washington, to Mr A.B. Powell, Ministry of Power, 16 September 1960, regarding press attention, together with reply, 6 October 1960

Extract from record of a meeting held at the Foreign Office 13 September 1960, with several representatives of leading British oil firms, 16 September 1960

Ministry of Power departmental minute by Mr J. Gwynn for Mr McNeill and Mr Powell, 27 September 1960, possible accommodation with the Russians

Ministry of Power departmental minute by Mr H.J. McNeill for Mr J. Gwynn, 28 September 1960, concerning British press coverage of the issue

Summary of information cabled from Italy [sic], 10 October 1960, reviewing negotiations between Russia and Italy