

ФГКОУ Ставропольское президентское кадетское училище

Индивидуальный конкурс эссе

**“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking
World.
Time for Equal Opportunities”**

Исследовательская работа (эссе)

«Посол СССР в Великобритании Иван Майский:
дипломатия, торговля, культура»

«Ivan Maysky, USSR’s Ambassador in Great Britain:
diplomacy, trade and culture»



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Theses:

1. Ivan Maysky was an extraordinary and authorized ambassador to the UK.
2. For more than 10 years, he served as the USSR Ambassador to the UK.
3. He was intelligent, educated and erudite.
4. On November 8, 1932, he presented his credentials to King George V and began performing his functions as the plenipotentiary representative of the USSR.
5. During his post as Ambassador of the USSR, he tried in every possible way to improve relations between states.
6. The Anglo-Soviet trade agreement was signed on February 16, 1934. On the Soviet side, the agreement was signed by Envoy Maysky.
7. He maintained good relations with the entire political elite of Great Britain.
8. On duty, Maysky had to explain and justify some events in the internal life of the USSR, which caused concern to public opinion in England.
9. When the Great Patriotic War began, this period of diplomatic activity turned out to be a truly "finest hour" for him, because he found himself in the center of the formation of the anti-Hitler coalition.
10. In 1943-1946, Deputy People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR. Molotov.
11. Maysky made a significant contribution to the development of relations, however, there were omissions and mistakes in his activities.

Ivan Mikhailovich Maysky is a Soviet diplomat, historian and politician who served as the Ambassador of the Soviet Union to the United Kingdom during World War II. In 1932-1943, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Great Britain.

In 1925, he was appointed adviser at the Soviet Embassy in London, where he served during the riots caused by the Zinoviev letter and the General Strike,

acting as de facto ambassador after the sudden death of Ambassador Leonid Krasin, until he was forced to leave when Britain severed diplomatic relations with the USSR in May 1927. In 1927-29, he was an adviser to the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo. In April 1929, he became the Soviet envoy to Finland. In October 1932, he returned to London as the official Soviet ambassador.

A diplomat from God, an erudite politician, an educated man, Maysky knew the country of his stay well — its history, economy, culture, way of life, customs and, of course, was fluent in English. The ambassador had extensive connections.

In October 1932, Maysky arrived in England. It was a familiar country to him. In one of his private letters, he noted that familiarity with England helps him navigate what was happening. On November 8, 1932, he presented his credentials to King George V and began performing his functions as the plenipotentiary representative of the USSR.

The first serious test for the new envoy was the negotiations on a trade agreement with England, which was denounced by the British government on October 16, 1932. The circumstances of these negotiations are shown in detail by May in his memoirs. The course of negotiations was complicated by the Metropolitan-Vickers case, when a group of British engineers of this company was arrested in the USSR, accused of espionage.

The Politburo adopted special directives to Plenipotentiary Maysky and Trade Representative Ozersky on negotiations on a trade agreement. Based on these documents, Maysky develops negotiating tactics. In England, they were very unhappy that the trade balance had shifted in favor of the USSR, so the envoy offered to make some concessions on this issue. Our delegation puts before Moscow the question of a partial freeze of negotiations for the next 1-2 months."

Eventually, after fifteen months of negotiations, the Anglo-Soviet trade agreement was signed on February 16, 1934. On the Soviet side, the agreement was signed by Envoy Maysky. He noted that this agreement would be a favorable outcome for Anglo-Soviet relations, but "friendship" was still far away.

Following the instructions of the People's Commissar, Maysky seeks to establish contacts with influential figures of the conservative Party, and not without success. His erudition, understanding of the British way of life, the ability to "talk", which is important for a diplomat, contribute to this.

Since February 1935, the possibility of a British minister's trip to Moscow to move the frozen relations between the two countries has been discussed in the UK. Reflecting on the situation, Maysky comes to the conclusion that Eden, who held the secondary post of Lord Keeper of the Seal, was preferable to travel to Moscow. And after visiting Berlin, Eden went to Moscow.

This was the first visit of a British minister to the USSR after the 1917 revolution. On March 29, Eden was received by Stalin. The conversation was attended by Litvinov and Maysky, for whom this was the first personal meeting with the leader. Eden's visit, despite the warm atmosphere at the talks, did not lead to a breakthrough in Anglo-Soviet relations and in the policy of collective security. Then Maysky noticed that there was still an anti-Soviet mood in Britain.

Maysky, as a representative of the USSR, signed the Anglo-Soviet agreement on the limitation of naval armaments. Negotiations on this agreement began in May, 1936 and ended on the basis of a compromise. The agreement established agreed quantitative limits for different classes of naval vessels and provided for mutual information on naval construction. But this agreement did not bring any noticeable improvement in relations between the two countries.

On duty, Maysky had to explain and justify some events in the internal life of the USSR, which caused concern to public opinion in England. Thus, he had to reject as slanderous reports of the British press about the famine in the USSR in 1932-1933. In December 1934, a letter was sent to him from 43 public figures in England protesting against repression in connection with the murder of Kirov. December 31, 1934 in agreement with Moscow, Maysky received a delegation of British trade unions led by Sitrin (10 people in total) and tried to explain the situation in the USSR in the appropriate official spirit. However, most of all, he managed to justify the official position.

Maysky also described 1939 as one of the most difficult in the relations between the USSR and Great Britain. One of the main merits of the Plenipotentiary Maysky in the described pre-war period is that he correctly and accurately assessed the balance of power within the British elite and focused on Winston Churchill as the most promising figure for the Soviet Union. However, as we saw Maysky's actions before 1939, he had been observing the British embassy since 1937. Everything got angry: Chamberlain's idea that he would exchange the safety of the British colonies for Austria and Czechoslovakia, unleashed Hitler's hands. And the Maysky materials only once again confirm the fact that already at the beginning of the winter of 1937, London's policy was unequivocally aimed at collusion with Hitler, despite the internal disagreements of several groups in the British government and the irreconcilable opposition in the person of Churchill. The estimates and characteristics given by Ivan Maysky were confirmed in the very near future.

The Great Patriotic War began. For Maysky, this period of his diplomatic activity turned out to be a truly "finest hour", because he found himself in the center of the formation of the anti-Hitler coalition. He was at the origin of the personal correspondence between Stalin and Churchill, played an important role in establishing military cooperation between England and the USSR. On behalf of the Soviet government, he signed agreements on the establishment of diplomatic

relations with the Governments of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Canada, Norway, and Egypt. He signed documents on the accession of the USSR to the Atlantic Charter and on the recognition of General de Gaulle as the "head of the Free French.

On July 30, 1941, he signed an agreement on the restoration of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the Government of the Polish Republic in exile (the "Maysky-Sikorsky" or "Sikorsky-Maysky" treaty).

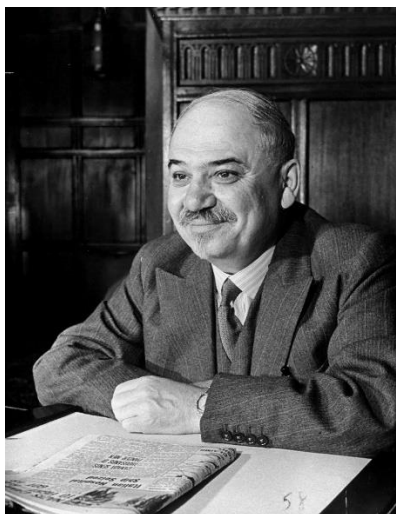
During a visit to Moscow in 1942, Winston Churchill, in a conversation with I.V. Stalin, noted Maysky as a good diplomat, to which Stalin agreed, but added that he was too talkative and did not know how to keep his mouth shut.

Since 1943 he was a Chairman of the Inter-Union Reparations Commission in Moscow. June 14, 1943 Ivan was an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. From July 27, 1943 to January 7, 1947 — Deputy People's Commissar — Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR. In 1943-1946, Deputy People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR. Molotov. In 1945 he took part in the Yalta Conference.

Maysky made a significant contribution to the development of relations between the USSR and Great Britain. However, one should not idealize the personality of Maysky. There were omissions and mistakes in his activities. So, he clearly exaggerated the pro-Soviet sentiments of leading British politicians. Maysky wrote that Great Britain has the best intentions regarding the Soviet Union. At that time, on Stalin's desk was a secret Eden memorandum dated January 28, 1942, received through the Cambridge Five, which clearly stated the British government's preference for "Anglo-American cooperation." Sometime later, Stalin was able to get acquainted with the report of the British Military Planning Headquarters, where the USSR was named the main enemy of England.

Illustrations:

Picture 1: Ivan Maysky



[https://artsandculture.google.com/entity/iwan
majski/m08qq2m?categoryid=historical-figure](https://artsandculture.google.com/entity/iwan-majski/m08qq2m?categoryid=historical-figure)

Picture 2: Winston Churchill



[https://all-aforizmy.ru/citaty/mudrye-tsitaty-velikogo-uinstona-cherchillya-150-
tsitat/](https://all-aforizmy.ru/citaty/mudrye-tsitaty-velikogo-uinstona-cherchillya-150-tsitat/)

Picture 3: Joseph Stalin



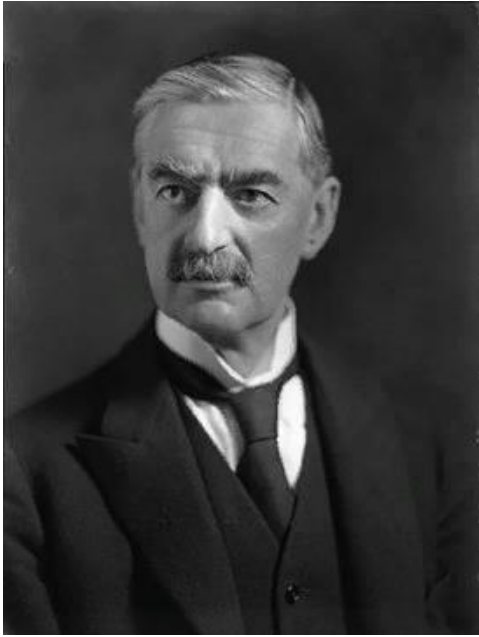
<https://s.mediasalt.ru/images/273/273654/original.jpg>

Picture 4: Robert Anthony Eden.



<https://i.pining.com/originals/9c/5d/a8/9c5da83b2aa57326bd1439a2608039a1.jpg>

Picture 5: Neville Chamberlain



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/f1/Neville Chamberlain .jpg/274px-Neville Chamberlain.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/f1/Neville_Chamberlain.jpg/274px-Neville_Chamberlain.jpg)

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