THE
FUNDAMENTAL
LAW
(CONSTITUTION)
OF THE U.S.S.R.

TOGETHER WITH
THE CONSTITUTION
(FUNDAMENTAL LAW)
OF THE R. S. F. S. R.

CO-OPERATIVE PUBLISHING SOCIETY
OF FOREIGN WORKERS IN THE U.S.S.R.
THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW
(CONSTITUTION)
OF THE U.S.S.R.

TOGETHER WITH THE CONSTITUTION
(FUNDAMENTAL LAW) OF THE R.S.F.S.R.

CO-OPERATIVE PUBLISHING SOCIETY OF FOREIGN WORKERS IN THE USSR
MOSCOW 1932
CONTENTS

THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW (CONSTITUTION) OF THE U.S.S.R.

Resolution of the Second Congress of Soviets on the Ratification of the Fundamental Law of the U.S.S.R. ........................................... 5

PART I.

Declaration Concerning the Formation of the U.S.S.R. ........................................... 6

PART II.

Treaty Concerning the Formation of the U.S.S.R.

Chapter I. Jurisdiction of the Supreme Authorities of the U.S.S.R. .......... 1
Chapter II. Sovereign Rights of the Union Republics and Union Citizenship. . 3
Chapter III. Congress of Soviets of the U.S.S.R. ........................................... 8
Chapter IV. Central Executive Committee of the U.S.S.R. .................. 13
Chapter V. Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the U.S.S.R. .... 29
Chapter VI. Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. .................. 37
Chapter VII. Supreme Court of the U.S.S.R. ........................................... 43
Chapter VIII. People's Commissariats of the U.S.S.R. ............................ 49
Chapter IX. United State Political Department (O.G.P.U.) ....................... 61
Chapter X. Union Republics. ......................................................... 64
Chapter XI. Coat of Arms, Flag and Capital of the U.S.S.R. ................. 70

*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONSTITUTION (FUNDAMENTAL LAW) OF THE R.S.F.S.R.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decisions of the Twelfth All-Russian Congress of Soviets on the Confirmation of the Text of the Constitution of the R.S.F.S.R.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART I.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter I. General Principles</td>
<td>1 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART II.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter II. Jurisdiction of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets and of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee</td>
<td>16 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART III.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter III. Central Authorities:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. All-Russian Congress of Soviets</td>
<td>20 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. All-Russian Central Executive Committee</td>
<td>24 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Council of People's Commissars</td>
<td>32 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. People's Commissariats of the R.S.F.S.R.</td>
<td>37 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter IV. Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics and Oblasts</td>
<td>44 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter V. Local Authorities:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Congress of Soviets</td>
<td>49 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Executive Committee</td>
<td>54 47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Soviets (Councils) of Deputies</td>
<td>59 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Jurisdiction of Local Authorities</td>
<td>64 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART IV.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter VI. Elections to the Soviets:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Right to Vote and to Be Elected</td>
<td>68 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Elections</td>
<td>70 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Verification and Invalidation of Elections and Recall of Deputies</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART V.</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter VII. Budget</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART VI.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter VIII. Coat of Arms, Flag and Capital of the R.S.F.S.R.</td>
<td>87 54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FUNDAMENTAL LAW (CONSTITUTION) OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**


Having heard the report of Comrade A. S. Yenukidze on the ratification of the Fundamental Law (Constitution) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Second Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics resolves:

To ratify the Fundamental Law (Constitution) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted in pursuance of the resolution of the First Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Second Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for final ratification.

President of the Second Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:  
*M. Kalinin.*

Secretary of the Second Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:  
*A. Yenukidze.*

*Moscow, January 13, 1924.*
FUNDAMENTAL LAW (CONSTITUTION) OF THE UNION
OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

The Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, solemnly proclaiming the firmness of the foundations of the Soviet Power, acting in pursuance of the resolution adopted by the First Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and basing itself on the treaty concerning the formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concluded at the First Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in the City of Moscow, on December 30, 1922; and further taking into consideration the amendments and modifications proposed by the Central Executive Committee of the Union Republics, decrees:

That the declaration concerning the formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Treaty concerning the formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall constitute the Fundamental Law (Constitution) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

* This text embodies all amendments and modifications to date.—Ed.

Part I

DECLARATION CONCERNING THE FORMATION
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS

Since the formation of the Soviet Republics the countries of the world have split into two camps: the camp of capitalism and the camp of socialism.

There, in the camp of capitalism, we find national animosities and inequality, colonial slavery and chauvinism, national oppression and pogroms, imperialist brutality and wars.

Here, in the camp of socialism, there is mutual confidence and peace, national freedom and equality and the fraternal collaboration of nations peacefully dwelling side by side.

The attempts of the capitalist world for decades past to solve the problem of nationalities by combining the free development of peoples with the system of exploitation of man by man have proved fruitless. On the contrary, the tangle of national antagonisms becomes more and more involved, threatening the very existence of capitalism. The bourgeoisie has shown itself powerless to organise the collaboration of nations.

Only in the camp of the Soviets, only under the dictatorship of the proletariat which rallied around itself the majority of the population, has it become possible to abolish national oppression root and branch, to create the conditions engendering mutual confidence and to lay the foundations of a fraternal collaboration of nations.

Only thanks to these circumstances did the Soviet Republics succeed in warding off the attacks of the imperialists of the whole world, both domestic and foreign; it is only thanks to these circumstances that they managed successfully to terminate the civil war, to secure their existence and to commence peaceful economic construction.

However, the years of war left their trace. The ruined fields, idle factories, shattered productive forces and exhausted economic resources which were left as a heritage of war rendered all the efforts made by the separate Republics to build up their economy inadequate. The restoration of the national economy was impossible while the Republics continued to exist separately.
On the other hand, the instability of the international situation and the danger of new attacks render inevitable the creation of a united front of the Soviet Republics to face the capitalist encirclement.

Finally, the very structure of Soviet Power, international in its class essence, impels the toiling masses of the Soviet Republics to enter the path of union to form one socialist family.

All these circumstances imperatively demand the unification of the Soviet Republics into a single federal state capable of securing the peoples against attacks from without and assuring them of domestic economic prosperity and freedom of national development of the peoples.

The will of the peoples constituting the Soviet Republics which recently assembled in the Congresses of their respective Soviets and there unanimously decided to form the 'Union of Soviet Socialist Republics', is a reliable guaranty that this Union is a voluntary association of peoples enjoying equal rights, that the right of each Republic to secede from the Union is inviolable, that admission to the Union is open to all Socialist Soviet Republics whether now existing or hereafter to come into being, that the new federal state will prove itself a worthy pinnacle crowning the foundation laid as early as October, 1917, to permit nations to dwell peacefully side by side in fraternal collaboration, that it will serve as a reliable bulwark against world capitalism and will mark a new decisive step towards uniting the workers of the world into a World Socialist Soviet Republic.

Part II
TREATY CONCERNING THE FORMATION OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS


Chapter I
JURISDICTION OF THE SUPREME AUTHORITIES OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Article 1. The jurisdiction of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics represented by its supreme authorities shall extend to:

a) Representing the Union in international relations, conducting all diplomatic relations, concluding political and other treaties with foreign states;

b) Altering the frontiers of the Union and adjusting questions concerning the alteration of boundaries between Union Republics;

c) Concluding treaties concerning the admission of new republics into the Union;

d) Declaring war and concluding peace;

e) Contracting foreign and domestic loans of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and authorising foreign and domestic loans of the Union Republics;

f) Ratifying international treaties;

g) Directing foreign trade, establishing a system of supply and of domestic trade;

h) Laying the foundations of and establishing a general plan for the entire national economy of the Union, determining which branches of industry and which individual industrial enterprises possess All-Union importance, concluding concession agreements,
both in the name of the Union and in the name of the Union Republics;

i) Directing the transport, postal and telegraphic services;

j) Organising and directing the armed forces of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

k) Confirming the single financial plan and the single state budget of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in which the budgets of the Union Republics shall be incorporated; determining All-Union taxes and revenue as well as the deductions from and additions to the same which shall enter into the budgets of the Union Republics, authorising supplemental taxes and dues to constitute the budgets of the Union Republics.

l) Establishing a uniform monetary and credit system;

m) Establishing general principles for the development and use of the soil as well as the exploitation of the mineral deposits, forests and bodies of water throughout the entire territory of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

n) Enacting All-Union laws concerning inter-Republic migration and creating a migration fund;

o) Establishing principles of judicature and legal procedure as well as principles of civil and criminal legislation for the Union;

p) Enacting basic labour laws;

q) Establishing general principles in the domain of public education;

r) Enacting general measures for the protection of public health;

s) Establishing a system of weights and measures;

t) Organising an All-Union system of statistics;

u) Fundamental legislation concerning Union citizenship with reference to the rights of foreigners;

v) The right of amnesty affecting the whole territory of the Union;

w) Annulling decisions of the congresses of Soviets and of the Central Executive Committees of the Union Republics which violate the present Constitution;

x) Settling points of dispute which may arise between Union Republics.

Article 2. The Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall have exclusive jurisdiction to ratify or modify the fundamental principles of the present Constitution.

Chapter II

Sovereign Rights of the Union Republics and Union Citizenship

Article 3. The sovereignty of the Union Republics shall be restricted only to the extent set forth in the present Constitution, which restrictions shall be confined to the subject matters delegated to the jurisdiction of the Union. Except as so restricted, every Union Republic shall enjoy the rights of an independent state. The Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics shall protect the sovereign rights of the Union Republics.

Article 4. Each Union Republic shall retain its right freely to secede from the Union.

Article 5. The Union Republics shall amend their respective constitutions to conform to the present Constitution.

Article 6. The territory of a Union Republic may not be changed without its consent; likewise the consent of all the Republics forming part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be required to amend, limit or repeal Article 4.

Article 7. A uniform national citizenship shall be established for the citizens of the Union Republics.

Chapter III

Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Article 8. The Congress of Soviets and, during the intervals between the Congresses of Soviets, the Cen-
tral Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics consisting of the Union Council and the Council of Nationalities, shall be the supreme authorities of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 9. The Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall consist of the representatives of Town Soviets and of the Soviets of urban settlements, apportioned at the rate of one deputy for every twenty-five thousand electors, and of the representatives of the village Soviets at the rate of one deputy for every one hundred and twenty-five thousand inhabitants.

Article 10. The delegates to the Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be elected as follows:

a) Directly at the Congresses of Soviets of the Union Republics, which are not divided into Krais or Oblasls;

b) At the Krait or Oblast Congresses of Soviets in those Union Republics which are divided into Krais or Oblasls;

c) At the Congresses of Soviets of the Soviet Socialist Republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia and at the Congresses of Soviets of the Autonomous Republics and Oblasls, both those which form and those which do not form part of the Krait or Oblast federaions.

Article 11. The regular Congresses of the Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be convened by the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics once every two years; Special Congresses shall be convened by the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on its own resolution to do so or at the demand of the Union Council, of the Council of Nationalities or of the Union Republics.

* Literally, regions.—Ed.

Article 12. If extraordinary circumstances shall prevent the convocation of the Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the regular time, the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be empowered to postpone the convocation of the Congress.

Chapter IV
CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Article 13. The Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall consist of the Union Council and the Council of Nationalities.

Article 14. The Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall elect a Union Council to consist of representatives of the Union Republics in proportion to the population of each of them and in such number as shall be determined by the Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 15. The Council of Nationalities shall consist of five representatives each from the Union and Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics and of one representative each from the Autonomous Oblasls. The composition of the Council of Nationalities shall be confirmed as a whole by the Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 16. The Union Council and the Council of Nationalities shall examine all decrees, codes and decisions submitted to them by the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee or by the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by the respective People's Commissariats of the Union or by the Central Executive Committees of the Union Republics; also those which may come before it on the initiative of the Union Council or the Council of Nationalities.
Article 17. The Central Executive Committee of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics shall issue codes of law, decrees, decisions and orders, shall coordinate the legislative and administrative work of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and shall determine the scope of activity of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee and of the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 18. All decrees and decisions which shall determine the general forms of political and economic life of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and also those which shall introduce radical changes in the existing practices of the state authorities of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics must under all circumstances be submitted for the consideration and confirmation of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 19. All decrees, decisions and orders issued by the Central Executive Committee must be directly carried out throughout the whole territory of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 20. The Central Executive Committee of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics shall be authorised and empowered to suspend or annul any decree, decision or order issued by the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, or by a Congress of Soviets, or by a Central Executive Committee of any Union Republic, or by any other authority within the territory of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 21. The regular sessions of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics shall be called by the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee at least three times during the interval between two regular Congresses of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Special sessions shall be called by decision of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, at the demand of the Presidium of the Union Council or of the Presidium of the Council of Nationalities, or at the demand of the Central Executive Committee of one of the Union Republics.

Article 22. Bills which shall be submitted to the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for its consideration shall obtain the force of law only if passed by both Union Council and the Council of Nationalities, and shall be promulgated in the name of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 23. If the Union Council of Nationalities shall fail to agree on any question, the question shall be referred to a conciliation committee to be appointed by them.

Article 24. If no agreement is reached by the conciliation committee, the question shall be referred to a joint meeting of the Union Council and the Council of Nationalities for their consideration, and if the question shall fail to obtain a majority of the votes cast in either the Union Council or in the Council of Nationalities, it may, at the demand of either of these bodies, be submitted to a regular or special Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for decision.

Article 25. The Union Council and the Council of Nationalities shall each elect a Presidium to consist of nine members whose functions shall be to prepare the sessions of their respective councils and to direct the work of these sessions.

Article 26. During the intervals between the sessions of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the supreme authority shall be vested in the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which shall be formed by the Central Executive Committee and shall consist of 27 members, which number
shall include all the members of the Presidiums of both the Union Council and the Council of Nationalities.

A joint meeting of the Union Council and of the Council of Nationalities shall be held for the purpose of forming the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee and of the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as provided by Articles 26 and 37 of the present Constitution. The Union Council and the Council of Nationalities shall vote separately at the joint meeting of the Union Council and of the Council of Nationalities.

Article 27. The Central Executive Committee shall elect as many Chairmen of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as there are Union Republics from among the members of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 28. The Central Executive Committee of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics shall be responsible to the Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Chapter V
PRESIDIOIM OF THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Article 29. During the intervals between the sessions of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be the highest legislative, executive and administrative authority of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 30. The Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall supervise the observance by all authorities of the Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the execution of all orders of the Congress of Soviets and of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by all authorities.

Article 31. The Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be empowered to suspend or annul any order of the Council of People's Commissars or of an individual People's Commissariat of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or of a Central Executive Committee or Council of People's Commissars of a Union Republic.

Article 32. The Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be empowered to suspend any order of a Congress of Soviets of a Union Republic, but shall thereafter submit such decision for review and approval by the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 33. The Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics may issue decrees, orders, and shall examine and approve the drafts of decrees and decisions submitted to it by the Council of People's Commissars, by the separate departments of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, by the Central Executive Committee of the Union Republics, by their Presidiums and by other authorities.

Article 34. The decrees and regulations of the Central Executive Committee, of its Presidium and of the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be printed in the languages generally spoken in the Union Republics (Russian, Ukrainian, White Russian, Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaijan, Uzbek, Turkoman and Tajik (Farsi)).

Article 35. The Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall decide all questions regarding the mutual relations between the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Commissariats of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
lies, on the one part, and the Central Executive Committees of the Union Republics and their respective Presidiums on the other.

*Article 36.* The Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be responsible to the Central Executive Committee of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics.

**Chapter VI**

**COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

*Article 37.* The executive and administrative organ of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics which shall be formed by the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and shall consist of the following members:

The President of the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and of the Council of Labour and Defence;

The Vice-Presidents;

The President of the State Planning Commission;

The People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs;

The People's Commissar of the Armed Forces and National Security;

The People's Commissar of Foreign Trade;

The People's Commissar of Ways and Communications;

The People's Commissar of Water Transport;

The People's Commissar of Post and Telegraphs;

The People's Commissar of the Workers' and Peasants' Inspection;

The President of the Supreme Council of National Economy;*

*Recently reorganised into the People's Commissariats of:
—Ed.*

The People's Commissar of Agriculture;

The People's Commissar of Labour;

The People's Commissar of Supplies;

The People's Commissar of Finance;

*Article 38.* The Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics may, within the scope of authority granted to it by the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and by virtue of the Statutes concerning the council of Peoples Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, issue decrees and orders which shall be binding throughout the whole territory of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

*Article 39.* The Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall examine the decrees and orders submitted to it both by the respective People's Commissariats of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and by the Central Executive Committee of the Union Republics and their respective Presidiums.

*Article 40.* The Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be responsible to the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and its Presidium for all of its activities.

*Article 41.* Any decision or order of the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics may be suspended or annulled by the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or by its Presidium.

*Article 42.* The Central Executive Committees of the Union Republics and their respective Presidiums may appeal against any decree or order of the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics without, however, suspending the execution of such decree or decision.
Chapter VII
Supreme Court of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Article 43. For the purpose of enforcing revolutionary law and order within the territory of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, a Supreme Court shall be established which shall be attached to the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This Court shall possess the following jurisdiction:

a) To give the Supreme Courts of the respective Union Republics authoritative interpretations of questions relating to All-Union legislation;

b) To review, on the representations of the Public Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, any decree, order or judgment of the Supreme Courts of the Union Republics that may be in contravention of All-Union legislation or that may affect the interests of other Republics, and to appeal any such decree, order or judgment to the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

c) To render an opinion on the constitutionality of any decision of a Union Republic if requested to do so by the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

d) To adjudicate legal disputes between Union Republics;

e) To try the highest officials of the Union who may be accused of malfeasance in office.

Article 44. The Supreme Court of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics may sit as one of the following tribunals:

a) The Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

b) The Civil and Criminal Collegiums of the Supreme Court of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

c) The Military Collegium;

d) The Transport Collegium.

Article 45. The Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall consist of the following members: the President of the Supreme Court, his deputy, the Presidents of the Plenary Sessions of the Supreme Courts of the Union Republics, the Presidents of the Collegiums of the Supreme Court of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and four members who shall be appointed by the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, including one representative of the Union State Political Department (O.G.P.U.) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The President of the Supreme Court and his deputy shall be appointed by the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 46. The Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall appoint a Public Prosecutor and a Deputy Public Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It shall be the duty of the Public Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to render opinions on all questions coming before the Supreme court of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for decision, to act as prosecuting attorney at the sessions of the said Court and in the event of disagreeing with the decision of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to appeal the decision to the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 47. The right to submit any question indicated in article 43 to the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics can be exercised only on the initiative of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
Republics, of its Presidium, of the Public Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, of a public prosecutor of a Union Republic or of the United State Political Department of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 48. The Plenary Sessions of the Supreme Court of the Union shall set up special tribunals for the trial of the following cases:

a) Criminal and Civil cases of exceptional importance the subject matter of which shall affect two or more Union Republics;

b) Cases where members of the Central Executive Committee or of the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics shall be personally indicted. The Supreme Court of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics may proceed in such cases only after a special decision to that effect has been rendered by the Central Executive Committee or its Presidium in each separate case.

Chapter VIII
PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIATS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Article 49. The Twelve People's Commissariats indicated in Article 37 of the present Constitution shall be established for the purpose of giving direct guidance to the separate branches of the State administration which are under the jurisdiction of the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. These People's Commissariats shall function in accordance with the provisions of the statute concerning the People's Commissariats, approved by the Central Executive Committee of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 50. The People's Commissariats of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be divided into:

a) All-Union People's Commissariats, one of each for the whole of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

b) Federated People's Commissariats of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 51. The following shall be the All-Union People's Commissariats of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics:

The Commissariats of Foreign Affairs, of the Army and Navy, of Foreign Trade; of Ways and Communications, of Water Transport, and of Post and Telegraphs.

Article 52. The following shall be the Federated People's Commissariats of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics:

The Supreme Council of National Economy; the People's Commissariats of Agriculture, of Labour, of Supplies, of Finance and of the Workers' and Peasants' Inspection.

Article 53. The All-Union People's Commissariats of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall have their plenipotentiary representatives attached to the Union Republics who shall be immediately subordinate to these Commissariats.

Article 54. The organs of the Federated People's Commissariats of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics which shall execute their respective tasks within the territories of the Union Republics shall be the homonymous People's Commissariats of these Republics.

Article 55. The members of the Council of People's Commissars—known as People's Commissars of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics—shall be at the head of the respective People's Commissariats of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 56. A collegium shall be attached to each People's Commissar, of which he shall be President.
and the members of which shall be appointed by the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 57. Each People's Commissar shall be empowered to render decisions by himself on all questions within the jurisdiction of the respective Commissariat, informing its Collegium of such decisions. If the Collegium or any one of its members shall disagree with any decision of the People's Commissar, it or he may, without suspending the execution thereof, appeal against such decision to the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 58. Any order of the respective People's Commissariats of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics may be annulled by the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee or by the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 59. Any order of the respective People's Commissariats of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics may be suspended by the respective Central Executive Committee or the respective Presidium of such Central Executive Committee of the Union Republics, if such order is palpably in violation of the Union Constitution or of the laws of the Union or of the laws of the Union Republics. The Central Executive Committees or the Presidiums of the Central Executive Committees of the Union Republics, as the case may be, shall immediately inform the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the corresponding People's Commissar of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of the suspension of such order.

Article 60. The People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be responsible to the Council of People's Commissars, to the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and to its Presidium.

Chapter IX
UNITED STATE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (O.G.P.U.)

Article 61. For the purpose of combining the revolutionary efforts of the Union Republics to combat the political and economic counter-revolution, espionage and banditry, a United State Political Department shall be set up and attached to the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The President of the United State Political Department shall be a member of the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and shall have a consultative vote.

Article 62. The United State Political Department of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics shall direct the work of the local authorities of the State Political Department (O.G.P.U.) through its plenipotentiary representative attached to the Councils of People's Commissars of the Union Republics, which shall function in accordance with the provisions of a special statute duly enacted and approved.

Article 63. The legality of the actions of the Union State Political Department of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be supervised by the Public Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics by virtue of a special statute of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics.

Chapter X
UNION REPUBLICS

Article 64. The Congress of Soviets of each Union Republic, and during the intervals between the Congresses, the Central Executive Committee of the Congress, shall be the supreme authority within the territory of that Union Republic.
Article 65. The mutual relations between the supreme authorities of the Union Republics and the supreme authorities of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be defined in the present Constitution.

Article 66. The Central Executive Committee of the Union Republics shall elect Presidiums from among their respective members which shall constitute the supreme authority during the intervals between the sessions of the Central Executive Committees.

Article 67. The Central Executive Committees of the Union Republics shall form Councils of People's Commissars which shall be their executive organs and shall each consist of the following members:

The President of the Council of People's Commissars, the Vice-President, the President of the State planning Commission; the President of the Supreme Council of National Economy; the People's Commissar of Agriculture; the People's Commissar of Finance, the People's Commissar of Supplies, the People's Commissar of Labour; the People's Commissar of Justice, the People's Commissar of Education; the People's Commissar of Public Health; the People's Commissar of Social Maintenance and also the following members who shall have a consultative or a full vote, as the Central Executive Committees of the Union Republics may decide: the plenipotentiary representatives of the People's Commissariats of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of Foreign Affairs, of the Army and Navy, of Foreign Trade, of Ways and Communications, of Water Transport, of Post and Telegraph.

Article 68. The Supreme Councils of National Economy, the People's Commissariats of Agriculture, of Supplies, of Finance, of Labour and of the Workers and Peasants Inspection of the Union Republics shall be subordinate to the Central Executive Committees and the Councils of People's Commissars of the Union Republics in every respect and shall carry out the directives of the respective People's Commissariats of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in their activities.

Article 69. The right of amnesty, the right to pardon and to rehabilitate citizens condemned by any court or administrative body of the Union Republics shall be reserved to the respective Central Executive Committees of these Republics.

Chapter XI
COAT OF ARMS, FLAG AND THE CAPITAL OF THE UNION OF THE SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Article 70. The state coat of arms of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall consist of a sickle and hammer on a globe shown in the rays of the sun, bordered with ears of corn and bearing the following legend in the languages generally spoken in the Union Republics: "Workers of the World, Unite!" A five-pointed star shall be placed above the coat of arms.

Article 71. The state flag of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall consist of a field of red or crimson with the image of a golden sickle and hammer in the upper corner near the staff and above them the image of a red five-pointed star bordered with gold edging; the proportion of the length to the width shall be two to one.

Article 72. The capital of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be the City of Moscow.

It is hereby resolved:

1. To ratify the Fundamental Law (Constitution) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and to put it into force immediately.

2. To submit the text of the Fundamental Law (Constitution) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics adopted by the present session of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Second Congress of Soviets of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for its final ratification.

3. Pending the formation of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 4 and 5 of the Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, all the powers granted by the Constitution to the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be vested in the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics elected at the first session of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on December 30, 1922 consisting of 19 members.

President of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

M. Kalinin.

Secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

A. Yenukidze.

Moscow—Kremlin, July 6, 1923,
CONSTITUTION (FUNDAMENTAL LAW) OF THE RUSSIAN
SOCIALIST FEDERATIVE SOVIET REPUBLIC

Part I
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Chapter I

Article 1. The present Constitution of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic is based on the fundamental principles contained in the Declaration of the Rights of the Toiling and Exploited People, passed by the Third All-Russian Congress of Soviets and in the Declaration of the Rights of the Peoples of Russia proclaimed on November 2, 1917; and is further based on the fundamental principles of the Constitution of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic passed by the Fifth All-Russian Congress of Soviets; its object is to guarantee the dictatorship of the proletariat for the purpose of suppressing the bourgeoisie, of abolishing the exploitation of man by man and of bringing about Communism, under which there will be neither division into classes nor state power.

Article 2. The Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic is a socialist state of workers and peasants, built on the basis of a federation of the national Soviet Republics. All power within the territory of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic is vested in the Soviets (Councils) of Workers', Peasants', Cossack and Red Army Deputies.

Article 3. The supreme power in the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic is delegated to the All-Russian Congress of Soviets, and during the intervals between the All-Russian Congresses of Soviets, to the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets.

In conformity with the will of the peoples of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, which, at the Tenth All-Russian Congress of Soviets, decided to form a Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, forms part of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics and transfers to the Union the powers which, in accordance with Article 1 of the Constitution of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, are conferred upon the authorities of the U.S.S.R.

Article 4. For the purpose of assuring real liberty of conscience to the workers, the church is separated from the state and the school from the church; and the right of all citizens to practice freely any religious belief or to engage in anti-religious propaganda remains inviolate.

Article 5. For the purpose of assuring the workers real freedom of expression of opinion, the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic abolishes the dependence of the press on capital and transfers all the technical and material means pertaining to the publication of newspapers, pamphlets, books and any other printed matter to the possession of the working class and the peasantry and secures their free circulation throughout the country.

Article 6. For the purpose of assuring to the workers real freedom of assembly, the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic declares inviolate the right of the citizens of the Soviet Republic freely to assemble,
hold meetings, processions and the like, and places all premises suitable for the organisation of popular assemblies at the disposal of the working class and of the peasantry.

Article 7. For the purpose of assuring to the workers real freedom of association, the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, having broken the economic and political power of the propertied classes and thereby removed all obstacles that theretofore, in bourgeois society, had prevented the workers and peasants from enjoying freedom of organisation and of action, helps the workers and peasants to combine and to organise themselves.

Article 8. For the purpose of assuring to the workers real access to knowledge, the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic sets itself the task of providing every worker with a complete, comprehensive and free education.

Article 9. The Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic regards labour as an obligation for all citizens of the Republic.

Article 10. For the purpose of safeguarding to the utmost the conquests of the Great Workers' and Peasants' Revolution, the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic declares that it is the duty of every citizen of the Republic to defend the Socialist fatherland and it therefore adopts universal military service. The honourable right of defending the Revolution arms in hand is granted only to toilers; non-labouring elements may be charged with the performance of other military duties.

Article 11. The Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic extends all the rights granted under the Constitution and the legislative acts of the Republic to the citizens of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic also to all citizens of the other Soviet Union Republics residing within the territory of the R.S.F.S.R.

In view of its solidarity with the workers of all nations, the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic grants all political rights to foreigners residing in the territory of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic for the purpose of engaging in productive labour, who belong to the working class and to peasants who do not employ the labour of others, in accordance with the decisions of the supreme authorities of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 12. The Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic grants the right of asylum to all foreigners persecuted for their revolutionary or liberating activities.

Article 13. The Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic recognising the right of all nations to self-determination, even including separation, and acting on the firmly expressed will of the workers of the separate nationalities inhabiting the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic to constitute themselves a political entity within the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, unites with these nationalities by creating national Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics and Oblasts within the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

All citizens shall be equal before the law, irrespective of race or nationality. In conformity with this principle, the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic declares all oppression of national minorities of whatever description and all disabilities whatsoever imposed on them, as well as the establishment or toleration of any direct or indirect special privileges for individual nationalities to be absolutely incompatible with the fundamental laws of the Republic; the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic recognises the right of all its citizens freely to use their native language at Congresses, in courts of law, in the schools, in the administrative offices and in public life, and secures them in the full enjoyment of this right.
Article 14. In the interests of the workers, the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic deprives individuals or groups of individuals of rights which they exercise to the prejudice of the socialist revolution.

Article 15. All lands, forests, mineral deposits, bodies of water and all factories and industrial enterprises, railways, water and air transport and all means of communication are the property of the socialist state, in accordance with the respective enactments of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics and the supreme organs of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

Part II

Chapter II

JURISDICTION OF THE ALL-RUSSIAN CONGRESS OF SOVIETS AND THE ALL-RUSSIAN CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SOVIETS

Article 16. The All-Russian Congress of Soviets shall have sole power:

a) to establish, amend or modify the fundamental principles of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic and to ratify amendments or modifications of parts of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic passed by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets during the intervals between the All-Russian Congresses of Soviets;

b) to ratify the constitutions of the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics and likewise to amend or modify these constitutions.

Article 17. The All-Russian Congress of Soviets and the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets shall have jurisdiction over all questions of national importance, such as:

a) General guidance of the whole policy and of the national economy of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic;

b) The ratification of decisions of Congresses of Soviets of separate nationalities to constitute themselves Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics and Oblasts; the delimitation of the boundaries of Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics forming part of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic; the ratification of their constitutions and of amendments to and modifications of these constitutions; also the settlement of disputes arising between Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics or between them and other parts of the Federation.

c) Alterations in the boundaries of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic; the general administrative division of the territory of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic; and the confirmation of consolidations of territories to form Krais or Oblasts.  

d) The drafting, in conformity with the laws of the U.S.S.R. of a plan for the entire national economy and its separate branches within the territory of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic;

e) The confirmation of the budget of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic as part of the single state budget of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

f) The imposition, in conformity with the Constitution and laws of the U.S.S.R., of state and local taxes, dues and revenues not derived from taxes as well as the flotation of foreign and domestic loans of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic;

g) The supreme control over the state revenues and expenditures of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic;

* Literally, Regions.—Tr.

*
h) The confirmation of the codes of law of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic in conformity with the Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

i) The right of amnesty, general and partial, within the territory of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic;

j) The annulment or modification of any decision of a Congress of Soviets of an Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic or Autonomous Oblast, or of any other local Congress of Soviets, if such decision shall be in violation of the present Constitution or of any decree of the supreme authorities of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

Article 18. The All-Russian Congress of Soviets and the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets shall have jurisdiction also over other subject matters in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in addition to the subject matters enumerated above.

Article 19. The decisions of the supreme authorities of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be binding within the territory of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic if they are within the scope indicated by the Fundamental Law (Constitution) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and concern subject matters within the jurisdiction of the Union. With this exception, the All-Russian Congress of Soviets, the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets, its Presidium and the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall be the only authorities empowered to pass legislative acts of national importance within the territory of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.
shall be convened at the demand of the Soviets and Congresses of Soviets of localities comprising not less than one-third of the whole population of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

B. All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets

Article 24. The All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets, within the scope of its authority as indicated in Articles 3, 17 and 18 of the present Constitution, shall be the supreme legislative, executive and controlling authority of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

Article 25. The All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets shall be empowered to issue codes of law, decrees and orders on its own initiative and also to examine and confirm bills introduced by the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets and by the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

Article 26. All decrees and orders prescribing general rules for the political and economic life of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic and those which introduce radical changes in the existing practices of the state authorities of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, also the budget of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic must under all circumstances be considered and approved by the all-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets.

Article 27. The All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets shall elect from among its members a President and a Secretary as well as the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets, the number of members of which shall be determined by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets.

During the intervals between the Sessions of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets, the highest legislative, executive and controlling authority of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall be the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets which shall be responsible to the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets.

Article 28. The All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets shall direct the general course of activity of the Workers' and Peasants' Government and of all Soviet authorities of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, shall coordinate their legislative and administrative functions, define the scope of activity of the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets and of the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic and supervise the observance of the Constitution of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic as well as the execution of all the decisions of the All-Russian Congresses of Soviets and of the supreme authorities of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 29. The sessions of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets shall be called by the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets.

Special sessions shall be called on the initiative of the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets on the proposal of the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, at the demand of one-third of the members of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets, at the demand of the Central Executive Committee of not less than six Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics, or at the demand of the Krai or Oblast Executive Committees of not less than six Krai or Oblast Unions.
Article 30. For purposes of general administration of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets shall form a Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic and People's Commissariats to direct the separate departments of administration.

Article 31. The All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets shall be responsible to the All-Russian Congress of Soviets, and shall submit to it an account of its activities and a report on its general policy as well as on separate subjects.

C. Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic

Article 32. The Council of the People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall consist of the following members: the President of the Council of People's Commissars, the Vice-President and the People's Commissars enumerated in Article 37 of the Constitution of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic as well as the plenipotentiary representatives of the All-Union People's Commissariats who shall be appointed in the manner prescribed by All-Union legislation and who shall have a consultative or a full vote, as may be decided by decree of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets or of its Presidium.

The Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall also comprise the plenipotentiary representative of the United State Political Department (O.G.P.U.) of the U.S.S.R. as well as other persons, as may be decided by decree of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets.

Article 33. The general administration of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall be vested in the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

Article 34. The Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic may, within the scope of authority granted to it by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets or within the terms of the statute concerning the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic published in amplification of the present article, issue decrees and orders binding upon the whole territory of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

Article 35. The Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall be responsible to the All-Russian Congress of Soviets, the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets and to its Presidium.

Article 36. The All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets, or its Presidium, shall have power to annul, modify or suspend any decree of the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

D. People's Commissariats of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic

Article 37. The following People's Commissariats shall be established for the purpose of giving direct guidance to the separate departments of the state administration which fall within the jurisdiction of the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic:

The Supreme Council of National Economy, the People's Commissariats of Agriculture, of Labour, of Supplies, of Finance, of Workers' and Peasants' Inspection, of Justice, of Education, of Public Health, of Social Maintenance and the State Planning Commission.
Article 38. The Supreme Council of National Economy and the People's Commissariats of Agriculture, of Labour, of Supplies, of Finance and of Workers' and Peasants' Inspection of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall be subordinate to the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets, its Presidium and to the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, and shall, in their respective activities carry out the directions of the corresponding People's Commissariats of the U.S.S.R.

Article 39. The members of the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, the People's Commissars, shall be at the head of their respective People's Commissariats.

Article 40. A collegium shall be attached to each People's Commissar of which he shall be President and the members of which shall be confirmed by the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

Article 41. Each People's Commissar shall be empowered to render decisions by himself on all questions within the jurisdiction of the respective People's Commissariat. If the Collegium shall disagree with any decision rendered by its People's Commissar, the Collegium may, without suspending such decision, appeal it to the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic or to the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets. The individual members of the Collegium shall enjoy the same right of appeal.

Article 42. The People's Commissars shall be responsible for their work to the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet and to the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets and its Presidium.

Article 43. Any order of a People's Commissariat of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic may be annulled, modified or suspended by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets, by its Presidium or by the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic; and any order of a Federal People's Commissariat of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, unless based on precise instructions of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets, its Presidium or of the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, may be annulled or suspended also by the corresponding People's Commissariat of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics.

Chapter IV
AUTONOMOUS SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND OBLASTS

Article 44. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, the Local Soviets, Congresses, Executive Committees, Oblast and Central Executive Committees shall constitute the state authorities in the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics and in the Autonomous Oblasts.

The Fundamental Laws (Constitutions) of the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics as well as the amendments to and modifications of these Fundamental Laws (Constitutions) shall be passed by their respective Congresses of Soviets; after their passage they shall be presented for confirmation to the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets and shall be submitted for final ratification to the All-Russian Congress of Soviets.

Note. The statutes concerning the autonomous Oblasts shall be passed by their respective Congresses of Soviets and shall be confirmed by the
All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets.

Article 45. The respective Congresses of Soviets of the said Republics and during the intervals between such Congresses, the Central Executive Committees which shall be elected by them and whose rights shall be determined by the Fundamental Law (Constitution) of each Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, shall constitute the highest political authorities within the limits of the territory of each Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.

Any decision of a Congress of Soviets of an Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic may be annulled or modified by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets; or may be suspended by the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets.

Any decision of a Central Executive Committee or of any central authority of an Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic may be annulled, modified or suspended by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets or by its Presidium.

Article 46. The Central Executive Committees of the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics and the Oblast Executive Committees of the Autonomous Oblasts shall elect Presidiums from among their members, which shall constitute the highest authorities within the territory of the respective Republic or Oblasts during the intervals between the sessions of the Central or the Oblast Executive Committees.

Article 47. The Central Executive Committees of the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics shall institute as their respective executive organs Councils of People's Commissars consisting of the President of the Council of People's Commissars, the People's Commissars of Justice, of Education, of Public Health, of Social Maintenance, and the President of the State Planning Commission, as well as the People's Commissars of the Federated People's Commissariats of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, of the Supreme Council of National Economy, of Agriculture, of Labour, of Supplies, of Finance and of the Workers' and Peasants' Inspection.

The Central Executive Committees of the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics shall be authorised and empowered to reduce the number of their respective People's Commissariats and alter the composition of the corresponding Councils of People's Commissars to meet the local conditions of life.

Article 48. The Central Executive Committees of the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics may, within the scope of authority conferred upon the respective Republics, enact laws, which shall have binding effect upon the territories of the respective Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics.

Chapter V
LOCAL AUTHORITIES

A. Congress of Soviets

Article 49. The Congress of Soviets shall be the highest authority within the given territory, Krai, Oblast or District—within the scope of its jurisdiction.

Article 50. The representatives of all the Soviets situated within the territory of any given administrative unit shall be entitled to participate in the respective Krai, Oblast and District Congresses of Soviets.

Article 51. The Congresses of Soviets shall be constituted as follows:

a) The Krai and Oblast Congresses shall consist of representatives of the respective Town Soviets, of the factories and mills situated outside of urban settlements and of the District Congresses of Soviets, according to the following rate of representation: from the Town Soviets, factories and mills situated outside of urban settlements—one delegate for every 2,500 elec-
tors and from the District Congresses of Soviets, one delegate for every 12,500 members of the population.

b) District Congresses shall consist of the representatives of the Town Soviets, of the factories and mills situated outside of urban settlements and of the Village Soviets, according to the following rate of representation: from the Town Soviets, factories and mills situated outside of urban settlements, one delegate for every 60 electors, and from the village Soviets one delegate for every 300 members of the population.

Note 1. The Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics and the Autonomous Oblasts forming part of any Krai or Oblast Federation shall participate in the respective Krai and Oblast Congresses of Soviets of these Federations by electing delegates to the said Congresses according to special quotas which shall be established by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets.

Note 2. In exceptional cases the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets or its Presidium shall be empowered for individual localities to change the quotas of representation established by the present article to meet local conditions.

Article 52. The Congresses of Soviets may be either regular or special. The regular Congresses of Soviets shall be convened once a year; special Congresses of Soviets shall be convened:

a) At the proposal of superior Congresses of Soviets, or of their respective Executive Committees;

b) At the instance of their respective Executive Committees or at the request of subordinate Executive Committees or Soviets, comprising not less than one-third of the population of the given District, Oblast or Krai.

Article 53. The Congresses of Soviets shall elect Executive Committees as their respective executive organs, the number of members of which shall be determined for the Congresses of Soviets of each administrative territorial unit by the decisions of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee or of its Presidium.

B. Executive Committees

Article 54. The Executive Committees shall be elected by the Congresses of Soviets and shall constitute, during the intervals between the Congresses of Soviets, the highest Soviet authorities within their respective territories; they shall be responsible to the Congresses of Soviets which elected them and shall be subordinate to the respective superior Executive Committees, their Presidiums, the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets, its Presidium and to the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

Article 55. The Executive Committees shall elect Presidiums which shall direct all the current administrative work of their respective territories and shall carry into execution the orders and decrees of the central authorities. The number of members of these Presidiums shall be determined for each administrative territorial unit by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets or its Presidium.

Article 56. During the intervals between the sessions of the Executive Committees, the Presidiums of the Executive Committees shall exercise the rights of the latter and shall be responsible to their respective Executive Committees.

Article 57. In order to fulfil all the work falling within the jurisdiction of the local authorities and in order to carry into execution the decisions of the superior Executive Committees, of their Presidiums and of the central authorities the following bodies shall be formed: the departments or administrations by the Krai and Oblast Executive Committees, and departments or sections by the District Executive Com-
mittees in conformity with the rules prescribed by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets or by its Presidium.

The abolition or amalgamation of existing departments, administrative offices or sections of the Executive Committees as well as the formation of new departments, administrative offices and sections shall be effected in accordance with the rules prescribed by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets or by its Presidium.

Article 58. The departments, administrative offices and sections of the Executive Committees shall be subordinate to their respective Executive Committees and their Presidiums and it shall be their duty to execute all their instructions and tasks as well as all the instructions given and tasks assigned them by the corresponding department or administrative office of a superior Executive Committee, or by the respective People's Commissariats of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

C. Soviets (Councils) of Deputies

Article 59. Town and Village Soviets of Deputies shall be formed and shall function within the territory of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

The rates of representation for Town and Village Soviets as well as the number of deputies of these Soviets shall be determined by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets and shall depend upon the number of electors or the size of the population in the constituency of the corresponding Soviet and can only be changed by the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets in exceptional cases and for individual localities.

Article 60. The Soviets of Deputies in towns shall elect an Executive Committee from among their number to attend to the current work according to the rules prescribed by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets or its Presidium.

Article 61. The Village Soviet may form a Presidium of the Soviet according to rules prescribed by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets or its Presidium.

Article 62. The Soviets of Deputies shall be summoned by the executive organs of the respective Soviets either on their own initiative or at the demand of not less than one-third of the members of the corresponding Soviet.

Article 63. Members of the Soviets of Deputies must regularly account to their constituents.

D. Jurisdiction of the Local Authorities

Article 64. The tasks of the Krai, Oblast and District Executive Committees and of their Presidiums as well as of the Soviets of Deputies shall be as follows:

a) To take measures to raise the cultural and economic level of their respective territories;

b) To carry into execution the decisions of the respective higher organs of the Soviet Government;

c) To settle questions of local importance within their respective territories;

d) To coordinate the Soviet activities within the confines of their respective territories;

e) To uphold the revolutionary law within their respective territories and to maintain order and public safety within the state;

f) To consider questions of All-Russian importance both on their own initiative and on the proposal of superior Executive Committees.

Article 65. The Congresses of Soviets and their respective Executive Committees shall exercise control over the activities of the lower local Soviets and their executive organs.

Any decision of a local Congress of Soviets may be annulled or modified by a superior Congress of Soviets.
by its Executive Committee or in proper cases, by the
Presidiums of a superior Executive Committee, as well
as by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of
Soviets or its Presidium.

Any decision of an Executive Committee or of its
Presidium may be annulled or modified by the Con-
gress of Soviets which elected it as well as by a su-
perior Congress of Soviets, its Executive Committee or
Presidium, by the All-Russian Central Executive Com-
mitee of Soviets or its Presidium or by the Council
of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Fed-
erative Soviet Republic.

Article 66. The Krai and Oblast Executive Com-
mitees or their respective Presidiums may suspend the
execution of an order of a People's Commissariat of the
Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic or of a
plenipotentiary representative of an All-Union People's
Commissariat attached to the R.S.F.S.R. only in excep-
tional cases and only in accordance with the rules and
in the manner to be prescribed by the All-Russian Cen-
tral Executive Committee of Soviets.

Article 67. The District Executive Committees may
suspend the execution of any order of a department,
administrative office or of any corresponding organ of
a Krai or Oblast Executive Committee, according to the
rules and in the manner prescribed by the All-Russian
Central Executive Committee of Soviets.

Part IV.

Chapter VI.

Elections to the Soviets

A. Right to Vote and to Be Elected

Article 68. The right to vote and to be elected at
the elections for the Soviets shall be enjoyed irrespec-
tive of sex, religion, race, nationality, residence and so
forth by the following citizens of the Russian Socialist
Federative Soviet Republic who shall have attained the
age of 18 years on the date of the election.

a) All persons who earn their livelihood by engag-
ing in productive, socially useful labour, and all per-
sons who are engaged in household work, which en-
ables the aforementioned persons to perform their pro-
ductive work;

b) The members of the Workers' and Peasants' Red
Army and Red Navy;

c) Citizens who belong to any category enumerated
in classes "a" and "b" of the present article but who are
unable to work owing to disablement.

Note: Persons who have not become citizens of
the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall
enjoy the right to vote and to be elected within the
provisions of article 11 of the present Constitution.

Article 69. The following persons may not vote or
be elected though they fall within one of the above
categories:

a) Any person who employs hired labour for the
purpose of deriving a profit therefrom;

b) Any person who lives on unearned income such
as: interest on capital, income from enterprises, re-
venue from property and the like;

c) Private traders and middlemen engaged in trade
or commerce;

d) Ministers of any religious denomination or sect
who practice this calling as a profession, and monks;

e) Employees and agents of the former police force,
of the Special Corps of Gendarmes and of the Tsarist
Secret Service, members of the former reigning dynasty
of Russia and persons who directed the activities of the
police, of the gendarmerie or of the penal authorities;

f) Any person who has been duly declared of un-
sound mind or mentally defective;

g) Any person who has been sentenced for a crime,
if the sentence of the court specified that he was to
be deprived of his political rights for a period of time.
by its Executive Committee or in proper cases, by the Presidiums of a superior Executive Committee, as well as by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets or its Presidium.

Any decision of an Executive Committee or of its Presidium may be annulled or modified by the Congress of Soviets which elected it as well as by a superior Congress of Soviets, its Executive Committee or Presidium, by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets or its Presidium or by the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

Article 66. The Krai and Oblast Executive Committees or their respective Presidiums may suspend the execution of an order of a People's Commissariat of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic or of a plenipotentiary representative of an All-Union People's Commissariat attached to the R.S.F.S.R. only in exceptional cases and only in accordance with the rules and in the manner to be prescribed by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets.

Article 67. The District Executive Committees may suspend the execution of any order of a department, administrative office or of any corresponding organ of a Krai or Oblast Executive Committee, according to the rules and in the manner prescribed by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets.

Part IV
Chapter VI
ELECTIONS TO THE SOVIETS

A. Right to Vote and to Be Elected

Article 68. The right to vote and to be elected at the elections for the Soviets shall be enjoyed irrespective of sex, religion, race, nationality, residence and so forth by the following citizens of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic who shall have attained the age of 18 years on the date of the election:

a) All persons who earn their livelihood by engaging in productive, socially useful labour, and all persons who are engaged in household work, which enables the aforementioned persons to perform their productive work;

b) The members of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army and Red Navy;

c) Citizens who belong to any category enumerated in classes "a" and "b" of the present article but who are unable to work owing to disablement.

Note: Persons who have not become citizens of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall enjoy the right to vote and to be elected within the provisions of article 11 of the present Constitution.

Article 69. The following persons may not vote or be elected though they fall within one of the above categories:

a) Any person who employs hired labour for the purpose of deriving a profit therefrom;

b) Any person who lives on unearned income such as: interest on capital, income from enterprises, revenue from property and the like;

c) Private traders and middlemen engaged in trade or commerce;

d) Ministers of any religious denomination or sect who practice this calling as a profession, and monks;

e) Employees and agents of the former police force, of the Special Corps of Gendarmes and of the Tsarist Secret Service, members of the former reigning dynasty of Russia and persons who directed the activities of the police, of the gendarmes or of the penal authorities;

f) Any person who has been duly declared of unsound mind or mentally defective;

g) Any person who has been sentenced for a crime, if the sentence of the court specified that he was to be deprived of his political rights for a period of time.
the State Treasury shall be incurred unless an appropriation for the same has been made in the State Budget, or unless a special decree to that effect has been issued by a legislative body of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

Article 82. All expenditures provided for in the budget of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall be kept within the exact limits of the corresponding estimates and shall be incurred only for the specific purpose intended.

Article 83. All local revenues and all local expenditures shall be combined in local budgets in the manner prescribed by All-Union and Republic legislation.

Article 84. Local budgets shall be drawn up by the respective Executive Committees or Soviets of Deputies and shall be ratified by the respective Congresses of Soviets or in proper cases by the respective Executive Committees as well as Town Soviets of Deputies under the general control of the respective central authorities of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

Article 85. The audit of the budget of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall be confirmed by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviets.

Article 86. The legislation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall provide that, in the event of expenditure arising out of such legislation having to be met out of local funds, the local authorities be empowered to raise these funds by taxation as well as otherwise.

Part VI
Chapter VIII
COAT OF ARMS, FLAG AND CAPITAL OF THE RUSSIAN SOCIALIST FEDERATIVE SOVIET REPUBLIC

Article 87. The State coat of arms of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall consist of the image of a golden sickle and hammer against a red background showing the rays of the sun, such sickle and hammer to be placed crosswise, handles down, surrounded by a wreath of ears of corn bearing the legends:

a) R.S.F.S.R.
and
b) Workers of the World, Unite!

Article 88. The State flag of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall consist of a field of red (crimson) displaying the letters R.S.F.S.R. in gold, in the upper left-hand corner, near the staff.

Article 89. The capital of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic shall be the City of Moscow.

Signed:
President of the Twelfth All-Russian Congress of Soviets:

M. Kalinin

Secretary of the Twelfth All-Russian Congress of Soviets:

A. Kizelyov

May 11, 1925.