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SELECTED TRANSLATIONS ON USSR COMMUNICATIONS (3)

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This is a series publication containing translations of items concerning communications in the USSR. The items contained herein, covering the subjects listed in the table of contents below, were taken from various newspapers, periodicals, etc. published in the USSR 23 October - 15 November 1960.

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
Radio and Television in Georgian SSR	1
New Leningrad Television Center Nearing Completion	1
Television in Latvian SSR	1
Television in Altayskiy Kray	1
Progress Report on Alma-ATA	2
Equipment Ready for New Leningrad Television Center	2
Television Center in Gomel'	2
"Radio in Every Home"	2

SELECTED TRANSLATIONS ON USSR COMMUNICATIONS (3)

RADIO AND TELEVISION IN GEORGIAN SSR -- Stalinabad, Kommunist Tadzhikistana, 23 October 1960

At present, there are over 300,000 wired radio speakers in villages of the Georgian SSR. Almost all large kolkhozes, equipment repair stations, and sovkhoses have wired radio centers. A total of 3,500 television sets are installed in rural clubs, animal husbandry farms, and the homes of kolhoze dwellers. Radio facilities will be installed in all villages by the end of 1965.

NEW LENINGRAD TELEVISION CENTER NEARING COMPLETION -- Moscow, Pravda, 1 November 1960

Construction work is nearing completion on the new Leningrad television center. It is designed for simultaneous transmission of three local programs, one of which will be in color. A colorful ultra-short wave broadcasting station will provide good reception of broadcasts up to 120-150 kilometers away.

TELEVISION IN LATVIAN SSR -- Vil'nyus Sovetskaya Litva, 3 November 1960

The Sigulda-Tseszayne radio relay line and the television transmitter in Tseszayne have gone into operation. This means that television broadcasts can now be received in all regions of the Republic.

The Leningrad-Tallin-Riga radio relay line recently went into operation. Later on, it will be extended through Vil'nyus to Minsk.

TELEVISION IN ALTAYSKIY KRAY -- Moscow, Trud, 2 November 1960

Installations which are rare to rural areas have appeared in Aleysk, Pospelikha, Lugovay, and Mamontovo. They are radio relay stations.

There are three television centers in operation in Altayskiy Kray. They are in Barnaul Blysk and Rubtsovsk. In addition to residents of these cities, their broadcasts are seen by the residents of many nearby populated points. However, because of the distances involved, the majority of regions are not able to receive the broadcasts of these studios.

It was decided to create a network of television relay stations. Buildings for these stations have already been built. In 1961, nineteen intermediate radio relay stations will go into operation. At the same time, a new television center in Barnaul with a 194-meter tower will go

into operation. When it goes into operation, television broadcasts will be seen by residents of all rayons in Altayskiy kray.

The Barnaul television center is being connected by radio relay line with the Novosibirsk television studio.

PROGRESS REPORT ON ALMA-ATA -- Frunze -- Tashkent -- Srunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 2 November 1960

Installation and tuning of the latest Soviet apparatus is being completed on the inter-republic radio relay line which connects the three union republic capital cities of Tashkent, Srunze, and Alma-Ata. The line will be ready by the end of 1960.

The Kirgiz mountain region has a large-scale network of radio relay lines, the total length of which, according to published data, is greater than in England, France, Western Germany, and Italy.

EQUIPMENT READY FOR NEW LENINGRAD TELEVISION CENTER -- Baku Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 2 November 1960

The manufacture of studio and control room equipment for the new Leningrad multi-program television center has been completed. The television center is designed for simultaneous transmission of three local programs, one of which will be in color.

TELEVISION CENTER IN GOMEL' -- Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 15 November 1960

A television center has gone into operation in Gomel'. Its broadcasts are received by residents in a large portion of Gomel'skaya, Mogilezskaya, Chernigovskaya, and Bryanskaya oblasts.

"RADIO IN EVERY HOME" -- Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussia, 28 October 1960

Bringing news of events in our time more quickly than the newspapers, radio serves to broaden the horizons of the Soviet citizen, as well as to assist him with valuable advice in practical matters. Belorussia has already completed its program of making wireless broadcasts available in all of its cities and urban rayon centers. Much has been done to bring about the wide distribution of radio facilities in the rural areas as well; the number of radio receiving and broadcasting stations has increased 4.5 times over that of 1954, while the extent of broadcast relay lines has grown 3.5 times over the same period. During this time also, the power of broadcast relay centers functioning in the Belorussian SSR has increased considerably. The screens of tens

of thousands of television receivers now light up in workers' apartments in both city and village.

The installation of radio sets in all workers' homes and apartments in Belorussia remains an urgent problem, however. Many farmsteads in the Republic still do not have receivers; in this respect the situation in the Brestskaya and Grodnenskaya Oblast's is particularly unsatisfactory.

One obstacle in the way of providing radio services in villages and rural townships are the serious shortcomings in the work of many radio relay stations. Despite this fact, no one seems to be really interested in the timely maintenance and remodeling of radio equipment installed in the villages or in keeping transmission lines in good order. The BSSR (Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) Ministry of Agriculture is failing to provide the necessary practical assistance in the proper utilization of broadcast relay centers and is doing next to nothing to encourage the technical staff people employed therein to keep their positions. This is the prevailing situation despite the fact that the low fidelity of transmissions occasioned by technical difficulties and the lengthy functional failures of State and collective farm stations evoke the justifiable ire of the workers.

Also deserving of serious censure is the BSSR Communications Ministry. Up until just recently, relay stations at the local level have lacked any sort of guidance by the Ministry's agencies in their work, nor have the latter taken any interest whatever in attempting to extend the existing broadcast network. Furthermore, numerous radio relay centers under the direct control of the Communications Ministry have not as yet been rid of significant shortcomings, while the power capabilities of many such centers are not being utilized to the full extent. In addition, plans for increasing the number of relay points are not being fulfilled.

The executive committees of workers' deputy councils at the oblast' level are presently engaged in examining the state of affairs in the villages and rural townships as regards the provision of radio services. It has already been established that the construction of powerful relay centers and feeder lines is proceeding at an extremely slow pace, and is of poor quality in some areas. All this is the case despite the fact that as matters now stand, the replacement of low-power village relay points with modern installations will be delayed indefinitely, with the result that technical transmission quality will be hindered from improving. It is clear, therefore, that the status quo in this field cannot be condoned any longer. The extension of radio services, including transmission line erection and the construction of relay points, must be placed under the constant supervision of specialists from the Republic's communications agencies.

Oblast' - and rayon-level executive committees have assumed control over the execution and fulfillment of compact agreements entered into by the State and collective farms as regards the completion of the radio network, and are seeing to it that the State Bank extends credits to them

for this purpose. The BSSR Agricultural Ministry also, however ought not to remain aloof from a matter as important as the extension of radio services. In the first place, it is necessary to make certain that the operations of State and collective-farm radio relay stations be put in order, to strengthen them by employing qualified technical personnel, and to find a solution to the problem of locating the financial resources to pay for their services.

The State-farm radio relay points, along with their staffs and wage funds are presently in the process of being transferred to the administration of the BSSR Communications Ministry. Plans for State farm capital construction, however, must include the funds necessary to complete the radio network. The BSSR National Economic Council (sov-narkhoz) has already allocated a sum of 1.5 million rubles for the realization of this important aim at the meat and dairy-producing State farms. In addition to this the BSSR Ministry of Culture is taking measures necessary to provide radio receivers and relay points for all village clubs and reading rooms in the Republic. The Ministry of Communications should now display a greater measure of efficiency in providing rural relay stations with the necessary spare parts and materials by drawing on the financial resources of State and collective farms; it should furthermore issue instructions as to programming schedules and broadcast times, as well as doing all in its power to eliminate existing shortcomings in the work of the relay stations as swiftly as possible.

The realization of all these measures would assure the completion of the radio network in the rural areas within the next two or three years, and would improve considerably the technical condition of relay points, thereby extending much higher reception quality to the local listener.

In our country, radio communications has become a mighty force for the politico-ideological education and organization of the masses, as well as a means of providing them with all types of knowledge and information. The completion of a radio network to cover all of Belorussia within the shortest possible time will constitute a great victory on the cultural front.