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USSR Report

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

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14 MAY 1987

USSR REPORT
POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

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PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

PRAVDA REPORTS LENINGRAD OBKOM PLENUM DEBATE

PM011517 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Mar 87 First Edition p 2

[Correspondent V. Gerasimov report: "Taking an Exacting Look. The CPSU Central Committee January Plenum Decisions on the Agenda"]

[Text] Leningrad--While discussing the Leningrad party organization's tasks in fulfilling the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum decisions, the participants in the obkom plenum strove to compile a general picture of the present state of the oblast. The report by Yu. F. Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the party obkom, and the other speeches pursued the idea that communists must resolutely overcome conservative attitudes, inertia, and leniency toward shortcomings and must be more active in improving the style and methods of work.

Out of the Rut

Facts like the following were cited at the plenum. A certain distortion in investment policy brought about expansion of production with simultaneous obsolescence of fixed capital. The return on capital declined. Imbalances developed in the production and social spheres. Succumbing to departmental pressure, some economic managers failed to keep the situation under control. Irregularities and inconsistencies in the choice of solutions at "Leningradskiy Metallicheskiy Zavod," for example, resulted in major economic losses in the construction of the new "Turboatomgaz" enterprise. It was under construction for more than 10 years, while only one-half of the modern capacities were being utilized. The firm's General Director A. Ogurtsov had no alternative but to admit his helplessness and to ask to be relieved of his duties.

Some economic and party officials, having gained certain dividends from progressive ideas, often rest satisfied with the initial results. This applies particularly to production concentration and specialization. The associations now comprise 355 enterprises producing almost 65 percent of all output. The associations have produced an indisputable effect. While expanding horizontally, however, the process ceased to affect the deeper strata of the economy, and the collectives are not driven by a desire to take responsibility for the end results of the common efforts. At "Krasnyy Vyborzhets," "Sputnik," "Lenbytkhim," "Krasnyy Treugolnik," and a number of other enterprises plans are not fulfilled, production is being renewed slowly, and quality is not improving.

Shortcomings in the implementation of the "Intensification-90" Program were talked about from the plenum rostrum. The program ensured success for Lenin-graders during the last 5-year plan period. But it is by no means everywhere that collectives, specialists, and innovators are involved in the fulfillment of planned measures. Quite often production equipment is not working at full capacity. Such a phenomenon is impermissible, especially under the conditions of industry's transfer to a multishift work system. The personnel employed on the second shift had increased by 25 percent by January. The machine tool pool was reduced by 16,000 units. Projects costing a total of R130 million have been deleted from the new construction program. It is planned to channel four-fifths of these funds into the development of the social, cultural, and consumer services sphere.

The steps taken are correct, but the results are far from what had been expected. Machine tools with digital program control operate only for 1.5 shifts, with flexible production systems and "processing centers" operating for slightly longer. Many enterprises and organizations have adopted a formal attitude to the two-shift work system: People work in the evenings, while their work positions are deserted during the day.

Contract commitments were breached by 161 enterprises last year. In this context, sharp criticism was leveled against General Directors N. Baranov of the Kozitskiy Association, A. Belyanin of the K. Marx Association, N. Kozyrev of the "Sevkabel" Association, P. Mozgovoy of "Prodmash," O. Tychkin of the "Petrodvortsovyy Chasovoy Zavod" Association, and Ye. Repnev of the "Abrazivnyy Zavod" Association.

There are occasions when leaders' efforts are channeled not into improving performance but into the search for roundabout ways and pretexts to justify defects. Economic managers frequently succeed in "converting" party officials who, instead of being exacting, show leniency toward people without initiative. An insufficiently principled stance was taken, in particular, by the first secretaries of Kingisepp, Vyborg, and Slantsy CPSU Gorkoms--N. Lenets, V. Shlyakhtov, and V. Nazarov, respectively.

The burden of old-fashioned views and unsuitable habits fetters the development of the construction industry. It is there that the effects of authoritarian methods of management and the ensuing flaws--revision of plans, disorganization, time wasting, and economic mismanagement--are particularly palpable.

Addressing the state of affairs in the agroindustrial complex, the speakers noted that a certain proportion of its leaders and specialists have not abandoned parasitical attitudes, want to take from the state as much as possible, and show no particular concern for utilizing the potential existing in the countryside and in the processing sectors.

Acting According to the Plan

The conversation at the party obkom plenum showed that numerous defects in the economy and the social sphere are attributable to the inadequate scientific

substantiation of plan decisions. The staff of the Leningrad Gorispolkom Planning Commission and of rayon planning commissions has increased 2-2.6 times, and the salaries of their officials have been raised. But this has not improved the quality of planning work. Narrow departmental and parochial interests generate imbalances. The methodology followed by Leningrad Gorispolkom Planning Commission, where K. Labetskiy is in charge, is not keeping in step with life. The proposals are superficial and mere statements of fact. The oblispolkom planning commission can be faulted for exactly the same shortcomings.

Justified criticism was leveled against V. Khodyrev and N. Popov, chairmen of Leningrad Gorispolkom and Oblispolkom, respectively. It is time, the plenum said, to halt the practice of just patching the holes, and there must be a change of attitude to the improvement of trade and consumer services, the organization of people's leisure, and the production of goods for the population. Only when each and every one experiences the effect of positive changes will there be success in rendering these changes irreversible. Quite a few promises have been made to Leningraders on this account, but well-meant decisions are not always fulfilled. The citizens can judge this by the state of the streets and open spaces and the work of the public transport. The medical services sphere is in a state of neglect.

These and many other current problems fall within the sphere of competence of local soviets. It is imperative for them to improve their style of work. It is intolerable when citizens' applications and suggestions seem to fall into a bureaucratic trap in many soviet institutions, passing through the hands of countless "executive officers" and ending up either in empty promises or as part of a collection of useless data.

Or take the consumer services sphere, for example. For a year now it has been working under the new economic management conditions. Its leaders Yu. Filatov, G. Zhavoronkov, and S. Molodtsov spared no assurances that henceforth the consumer services enterprises would start working better. But the results are less than modest. Only 3 percent of consumer services personnel in the city work on collective contracts or other contract bases, and the proportion is even smaller in the oblast.

It is necessary to take broad public opinion into account and make use of deputies' questions and voters' instructions at the stage of the elaboration, approval, and especially implementation of decisions. It is important, the speakers noted, to boost the initiative and responsibility of deputies, create a more democratic atmosphere, and abandon ostentation.

In the opinion of obkom plenum participants a specific action program should be drawn up to eliminate existing imbalances and organize accurate work on its implementation.

It Is Up to People

Deeper democratization and consolidation of the foundations of self-management in collectives make greater demands on cadres. Openness helps to minimize mistakes, strengthens conscious discipline, helps to affirm new relations within collectives, and exposes those who, whether deliberately or through inertia, counteract the positive processes. The task of party committees is to persistently learn to consistently implement a principles cadres policy with due consideration for broad public opinion. At the same time, it is impossible not to learn lessons from instances in which leaders make a biased choice of "suitable" people.

Something else can also be noted: The practice of embellishing reality has still not been overcome. Last year 28 leaders were expelled from the party for breaches of state discipline, false reporting, and abuses of official position. Some times guilty officials have been switched from one office to another. For example, former trust managers V. Yermakov and G. Zheleznov and chief engineer V. Smotrov were transferred to the apparatus of the Main Administration for Construction in Western Regions thanks to protection from the former main administration chief.

The sociopolitical certification of leaders with participation by the collective and the review of their records by party committees help to avoid similar distortions. The practice of electing team leaders, mid-level chiefs, and enterprise directors has expanded.

The plenum participants voiced concern that work with the cadre reserve is a particularly acute issue today. Almost one-third of new leaders in the oblast and more than one-half of new leaders in the city's Vyborskiy Rayon and in Krasnoselskiy and Volosovskiy Rayons are not from the cadre pool. The promotion of young people to leadership positions in the national economy is a topical task. Certification and the objective and public evaluation of professional and moral qualities are meant to help in bringing capable organizers to light.

Any project depends on people, it was said at the plenum. The party organizations must make use of the principles of openness and broad publicity of plans and proposals. Any manifestations of social demagoguery or the time-serving mentality must be countered by constructive criticism.

Beginning With One's Own Self

The problems of the economy and work with cadres were analyzed at the plenum through the prism of the style of activity employed by the CPSU obkom, its sectorial sections, and the party gorkoms and raykoms.

The solution of a number of important tasks is progressing with great difficulty. No positive changes can be perceived in the local soviets' work to improve the activities of spheres in the city's economy, the main speaker said. The obkom bureau must take some blame for these defects. We have

still not managed to achieve correspondence between words and deeds and to organize efficient performance monitoring.

Last year the obkom sections refused to deal with 20,000 official documents and letters falling within the competence of soviet, trade union, and economic organs. Party apparatus staffers thus gained an opportunity to escape from the captivity of paperwork and engage in lively organizational work. But such "outings" to the collectives are quite often just public relations exercises. The "administration-observation" style overshadows modern approaches in obkom, gorkom, and raykom sections. Last year, for example, the initiative of obkom sections resulted in a proposal to stop monitoring the resolution on improving educational work in hostels. Should they have been in such a hurry, bearing in mind that there was a 14-percent increase in the number of breaches of the law in hostels? The Science and Scientific Establishments Section displays lack of exactingness and totally unjustified liberalism toward unconscientious health care workers. The Agriculture and Food Industry and the Trade and Consumer Services Sections give insufficient attention to the implementation of planned measures. The time limit for the implementation of 22 obkom resolutions has been extended because of poor results.

It was proposed in this context to step up the role of obkom members in monitoring the execution of decisions, including monitoring by party obkom sections.

The plenum participants approved the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum decisions. A specific program for their fulfillment was drawn up.

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CSO: 1800/527

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

GEORGIAN CP CC URGES ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN APRIL PLENUM

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 26 Mar 87 p 1

[Georgian Communist Party Central Committee report: "On the Upcoming Georgian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] At the end of April 1987 the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee plans to review at its next regular plenum the tasks for the republic party organization in accelerating socioeconomic development, deepening the restructuring process, and further improving cadre work in light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum. In this connection the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee appeals to communists and all workers in the republic to participate actively in the preparations for the plenum and to communicate their wishes, proposals and observations and available experience.

The CPSU Central Committee January Plenum indicated new, creative and comprehensively considered approaches to the present problems in the life of the country. In sum these make up a clear-cut program for action that makes it possible to eliminate shortcomings and past mistakes and raise work to a qualitatively new level. In light of present party demands it is essential to make a maximum effort to overcome stagnation phenomena and eradicate all that is outdated and ossified.

Substantial shortcomings exist in restructuring the economy and in introducing new management methods, democratizing production management and developing the social thrust in the activity of leaders. Individual leaders and workers have still not determined once and for all their own attitude to restructuring and to the tasks of accelerating socioeconomic development. Some of them are unable, and some unwilling, to change the situation for the better, and cling to the old ways, permit a gap between word and deed and allow mismanagement, irresponsibility and deviation from the norms of the socialist way of life.

The work done by party, soviet, trade union, Komsomol and economic organs in the selection, placement and indoctrination of cadres is not fully in line with the demands that have been made. Effective control is not always exercised over their activity or strict demands made concerning the state of affairs on the sectors assigned to them. The subjective approach is sometimes permitted in cadre selection and formalism has not been eliminated in work

with the reserve and in the certification of workers. It is necessary to expand in every possible way the practice of making leaders accountable at various levels and to define the conditions under which the competitive system is to be used to provide replacements for leading posts.

It is essential to achieve the expansion and deepening of socialist democracy, determine on the basis of available experience the ways to revitalize the work of party, trade union and Komsomol meetings, plenums and conferences, the sessions of the soviets, and the meetings of ispolkoms and standing commissions, and perfect the mechanism by which elective organs are formed and invigorate their activity in every possible way. Further development of criticism and self-criticism is required, and the struggle against bureaucracy must be waged more persistently. In some collectives no atmosphere of free and open discussion of questions has been created in which people may freely express themselves. Some people perceive criticism incorrectly and suppress it.

We expect from you concrete ideas and constructive proposals on questions of how to effect restructuring, how to activate the human factor, and how to improve cadre work. We ask you to pass on your advice, observations and wishes on this score to the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee before 10 April.

The Georgian Communist Party Central Committee expresses the firm conviction that the communists and workers in the republic will take part in a most active and interested way in the preparations for the upcoming plenum. This will make it possible to make full use of the collective experience, find better solutions to outstanding problems, initiate work with cadres, and find new and effective ways of implementing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum.

The Georgian Communist Party Central Committee.

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CSO: 1830/423

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

GEORGIAN CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION OFFICIALS STERNLY REBUKED

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 6 Mar 87 pp 1,3

[GRUZINFORM report: "Capital Construction: Make an End to Fraud and Deception" first paragraph is source introduction]

[Text] The Georgian Communist Party Central Committee has considered the question of serious violations of party and state discipline in capital construction in the republic and cases of fraud and deception in the commissioning of housing and cultural and consumer projects.

A resolution adopted notes that, because of an irresponsible attitude toward the matter on the part of certain party, soviet and economic leaders in the republic and its regions, an extremely unsatisfactory situation has come about in capital construction. The widespread practice of deception and fraud and of illegal acceptance of uncompleted social projects is a cause for particular alarm. Under the conditions of restructuring such cases discredit the party's efforts to solve the housing problem, develop the social infrastructure and improve the well-being of the people.

The resolution states that it must be recognized that liberalism in assessing the cases of deception and fraud that have been revealed, and the attempts to play down the situation and avoid facing the question in a principled manner are intolerable and fly in the face of the demands made by directive organs to enhance the responsibility of leaders for the condition of state discipline. In this connection the measures envisaged by the 19 January 1987 resolution of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee Buro on facts brought to light during a check by the USSR Stroybank on the results of acceptance of projects for 1986 must be regarded as inadequate. Decisions made by the party committees in the cities of Tbilisi, Rustavi, Batumi, Sukhumi and Gagra regarding officials who had set out on the path of deceiving the state are also liberal and not in accordance with the spirit of the times.

This kind of attitude has been rightly criticized by the newspaper PRAVDA. A more principled assessment is needed of the violations and actions that have been permitted by all the leaders involved so as to prevent any attempts at machination and deception in the future.

The Georgian Communist Party Central Committee considers that cases of fraud in capital construction result primarily from lack of proper exactingness and control by the party organs and the attitude of noninterference that they have assumed, and sometimes from the connivance and desire of some soviet and economic leaders to fulfill plans at any cost even if this involves direct fraud. The party committees have failed to achieve an increase in the role and responsibility of the primary party organizations in eradicating criminal acts against the state by isolated officials.

The Georgian Communist Party Central Committee Construction and Municipal Services Department had no knowledge of the true state of affairs and was not on top of the situation in capital construction, and it did not oppose--on the basis of party positions--the incorrect narrow departmental approach of the construction organizations and clients in the matter of transferring illegal projects.

The Tbilisi Party Gorkom and party raykoms in the city failed to display the necessary principled attitude in preventing fraud and deception and did not deal strictly with all leaders and others involved in the grossest violations of state discipline. As a result of this attitude and the atmosphere of connivance that was created, cases of distortion of accounting figures were again permitted for January results this year. In particular, a check conducted by the republic people's control committee showed that the chairman of the Tbilisi Gorispolkom Z.Sh. Meskhishvili and his deputy, I.I. Arobelidze, in charge of capital construction, committed unlawful acts by confirming the commissioning certificates for several houses that had major unfinished work and defects.

An incorrect style of leadership in capital construction has taken hold in Rustavi city. The party gorkom diverted considerable efforts and resources of the construction organizations to build unplanned projects, to the detriment of priority construction sites, and this created conditions that prompted various machinations and deception. The gorispolkom allows the illegal compilation and confirmation of certificates of acceptance for the commissioning of projects, and is still doing it this year.

The Batumi, Sukhumi and Gagra gorispolkoms are coping poorly with the functions entrusted to them in the sphere of capital construction. For their part they are failing to display the necessary intolerance of shortcomings and are permitting serious violations of procedure for acceptance of projects for commissioning. The corresponding party gorkoms have failed to insure the necessary intensity in the struggle for discipline and to prevent fraud and deception of the state.

The unsatisfactory situation in capital construction is largely the result of a lack of organization and discipline among leaders in the construction organizations, first and foremost in the republic Ministry of Construction. They have failed to draw the proper conclusions from the instructions of principle on restructuring work and bringing state order to the sector.

First deputy minister G.G. Kartvelishvili has been unable to abandon faulty methods of leadership, the adoption of superficial, unconsidered decisions,

and the dispensation of unfounded assurances and promises unsupported by concrete deeds. In January of this year he again presented for transfer uncompleted housing not ready for occupation.

Deputy minister R.I. Tateishvili has not taken energetic steps to bring order to the activity of the economic and financial services, raise exactingness toward their workers and make full use of all available levers in order to improve the financial situation and overcome parasitical attitudes in this.

Deputy minister T.G. Zhordaniya has not restructured his attitudes in the spirit of the party demands to pay more attention to questions of accelerating scientific and technical progress, and to introduce advanced technology into production. Because of the lack of proper principled behavior and interest on his part, many technical solutions and innovations, even those that do not require significant capital outlays, have remained virtually unrealized.

Control and verification-and-prevention work in the Georgian republic office of the USSR Stroybank and its local organs, and in the Georgian SSR Gosstroy--which have essentially stood apart from the struggle against accounts-fraud and deception in construction and have recorded only a few isolated cases of violations--are totally unsatisfactory.

In general, many unresolved problems have accumulated in capital construction in the republic, and within the sector, the level of organization and personnel discipline and responsibility is low; and this can be seen specifically in the cases of deception and fraud of the state that have been permitted.

The Georgian Communist Party Central Committee has assessed these cases as antistate, criminal actions incompatible with the demands of restructuring and discrediting the work done to strengthen discipline and instill order, and inflicting serious harm on the authority of the Georgian party organization. It is noted that such shameful manifestations became possible because the republic party and soviet organizations failed to draw timely and principled conclusions from CPSU Central Committee decrees on this question and permitted serious omissions in indoctrinating cadres in an uncompromising spirit toward shortcomings, instances of deception and accounts-fraud, and embellishment of the true situation in production and in the labor collectives.

As amendments and additions to the resolution (published in the press), the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee has issued the following decisions.

As he permitted accounts-fraud and deception in the acceptance of housing and social and cultural projects it has been deemed inexpedient in the future for G.A. Andronikashvili to remain in his posts of Central Committee Secretary and Chief of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee Construction and Municipal Services Department.

For serious shortcomings in work, CPSU member and Deputy Chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers Yu.I. Kedishvili has been severely censured and his party card so marked, and he has been removed from his post.

The Georgian Communist Party Central Committee has drawn the attention of the leadership in the Tbilisi and Kutaisi party gorkoms to the need to take effective steps to prevent fraud and deception, and the impermissibility of allowing even the smallest deviations from the procedure established for acceptance of housing for commissioning, and the obligatory nature of the timely fulfillment of the entire complex of work insuring normal living conditions and the availability of commercial and consumer services for new settlers.

CPSU member and chairman of the Tbilisi City Soviet of People's Deputies Ispolkom, Z.Sh. Meskhishvili, has been severely censured and his party card endorsed for failing to insure in subordinate organizations the proper level of state discipline or to take steps to cut short violations and distortions--still going on today--by individual figures for capital construction.

CPSU member and deputy chairman of the Tbilisi City Soviet of People's Deputies Ispolkom, I.I. Arobelidze, has been severely censured and his party card marked for the illegal compilation in January 1987 of documents of acceptance for uncompleted construction of housing and lack of principle in assessing violations that had been committed.

A session of the city soviet is to consider the question of the advisability of allowing Z.Sh. Meskhishvili and I.I. Arobelidze to remain in their posts.

The first secretaries of the Batumi, Sukhumi and Gagra party gorkoms, O.N. Margalitadze, G.K. Nachkebiya and V.D. Piliya, have been severely censured for poor party control over activity of soviet organs and construction organizations involving gross violations in the acceptance of projects for commissioning, accounts-fraud and deception.

First secretary of the Rustavi Party Gorkom Zh.K. Shartava has been severely censured for serious shortcomings in leadership in capital construction and the diversion of construction organizations for unplanned work, which promoted various kinds of negative phenomena. It is noted that for these and other violations he has been transferred to less responsible work.

CPSU member and chairman of the Rustavi City Soviet of People's Deputies Ispolkom K.Sh. Bakradze has been severely censured and his party card marked for lack of principle shown in questions relating to the acceptance for commissioning of uncompleted housing and violation of the procedure for drawing up and confirming the corresponding certification. He has been warned that any repetition of this behavior will result in more severe censure and dismissal from his post.

CPSU member and chairman of the Sukhumi Gorispolkom K.T. Bigvava has been censured and his party card marked for poor leadership and failure to insure proper fulfillment by the soviet of people's deputies of the functions entrusted to it in the sphere of capital construction, which led to violations of state discipline and fraud and deception.

CPSU member and chairman of the Gagra Gorispolkom D.M. Dogonadze has been severely censured and his party card marked for fraud and deception permitted in construction and gross violations of the procedure for acceptance of construction projects for commissioning.

The Adzhar Party Obkom has been assigned to review the question of liability on the part of the chairman of the Batumi Gorispolkom R.Kh. Dolidze following his return from a business trip.

First deputy minister in the Georgian SSR Ministry of Construction G.G. Kartvelishvili has been dismissed from his post for failure to comply with Georgian Communist Party Central Committee instructions on strict observance of the procedure established for the preparation and handover of projects for commissioning and for repeat presentation of uncompleted housing construction to state commissions in January and February of this year. A 19 January 1987 decision of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee severely censuring him with a notation on his party card was taken into consideration.

Republic deputy ministers of construction R.I. Tateishvili and T.G. Zhordaniya have been dismissed from their posts for poor leadership in their assigned spheres, leading to an unsatisfactory financial and technical state of affairs in the construction organizations, promoting fraud and deception.

The Georgian Communist Party Central Committee has noted the extremely inadequate work of the republic office of the USSR Stroybank (manager Z.G. Gendzekhadze), the Georgian SSR State Architectural and Construction Control and Gosstroy State Construction Inspection (chairman G.Z. Mirianashvili) in preventing and cutting short in good time cases of handover for commissioning of uncompleted construction projects, and their lack of principled and effective influence on the state of affairs in capital construction.

Party obkoms, gorkoms and raykoms have been assigned the task of carefully investigating cases of gross violations in construction, reviewing--in light of the requirements of the present resolution--steps taken earlier with respect to leaders who have permitted fraud and deception in the handover of projects for commissioning, and dealing severely with all officials involved in cases of deception of the state.

Tasks concerning the strengthening of state discipline and instilling in cadres a sense of intolerance toward shortcomings and cases of deception and fraud and embellishment of the true state of affairs must be discussed in all primary party organizations in labor collectives associated with capital construction. Proceeding from the demands of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum, it is essential to organize accountability reports from leaders in construction organizations for the collectives and the public, and to take the steps necessary to strengthen cadres in those organizations.

The Georgian Communist Party Central Committee has also outlined other specific measures to assert party and state discipline in capital construction in the republic and eradicate fraud and deception in light of CPSU Central Committee demands.

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CSO: 1830/423

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

SANCTIONS LEVIED, GEORGIAN OFFICIALS SACKED FOR CORRUPTION

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 26 Mar 87 pp 1-2

[GRUZINFORM report: "To Strengthen State Discipline and Eradicate Accounting-Fraud and Deception. A Meeting of the Republic Party and Economic Aktiv"; first paragraph is source introduction]

[Text] Under the conditions of restructuring taking place everywhere special urgency and significance are attached to questions of strengthening party and state discipline. A daily discipline is needed which is strict, and aggressive when all prerequisites are created for asserting an atmosphere of intolerance against ostentation and show and embellishment of the actual state of affairs. This thought was central at the 20 March meeting of the Georgian party and economic aktiv whose participants discussed the question of tasks in further strengthening state discipline and eradicating cases of accounting-fraud and deception in the republic's national economy in light of CPSU Central Committee demands.

The aktiv meeting was opened by O.Ye. Cherkeziya, chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

D.I. Patiashvili, first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, presented the report.

The following took part in the discussions: secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Tbilisi Gorkom A.Yu. Pavshentsev; First Secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Sukhumi Gorkom G.K. Nachkebiya; Second Secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Adzhar Obkom N.O. Nadariya; a weaver from the Kutaisi Silk Production Association imeni 60-letie Velikogo Oktyabrya, K.K. Bakuradze; Chairman of the Georgian SSR People's Control Committee N.R. Sadzhaya; Chairman of the Rustavi City Soviet of People's Deputies Ispolkom K.Sh. Bakradze; comprehensive brigade leader at the Tbilgorstroy No 18 Housing Construction Combine and secretary of the Georgian Public Trade Union Council, A.D. Dikhtyar; Chairman of the Georgian SSR State Committee for Construction Affairs G.Z. Mirianashvili; Georgian SSR minister of light industry B.Z. Makashvili; lathe operator from the Tbilisi Machine Building Plant imeni Ordzhonikidze R.S. Davtyan; Procurator of the Georgian SSR V.A. Razmadze; Georgian SSR Minister of Construction D.V. Mandzhgaladze; brigade leader from the Tbilgorstroy No 5 Housing Construction Combine V.I. Chelidze; Chairman of

the Union of Consumer Cooperatives Board K.N. Shavishvili; and Chief of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers Main Administration for Capital Construction B.A. Zatuashvili.

V.A. Sidorov, sector chief in the CPSU Central Committee Construction Department, spoke at the meeting.

In Accordance with the Strictest Accounting.

Accounting-fraud and deception and direct fraud of the state and of society under the pretext of concern for the authority of the republic, the sector and the labor collective constitute a very dangerous sickness and are an unstable and incorrect path that leads to moral degradation. The 27th CPSU Congress emphasized that we cannot advance a single step if we do not learn to work in a new way and gain the ability to overcome stagnation and conservatism in any of their manifestations, or if we lack the courage soberly to evaluate the situation and see it as it really is. And the times confirm that herein lies one of the most important conditions for restructuring thinking, without which it is quite inappropriate to talk about either the professional competence or the moral and political maturity of the leader.

But the times have also shown something else: up to now many of the leading cadres in the republic have failed to clarify the essential nature of the new requirements and are restructuring themselves only slowly, or not at all, in the channels indicated by the 27th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) and January (1987) plenums. And this is happening because of a lack of exactingness and control on the part of the party organizations, which have still failed to exert the proper party influence in all fields of activity and in all sectors.

The certain advances achieved in recent years have evidently given rise to complacency and even overconfidence in some party, soviet and economic leaders. Restructuring has caught them unawares, and this has been seen particularly graphically in the gross violations of party and state discipline in capital construction in the republic. During 1986 some 20 percent of housing and 26 percent of public health projects out of the total annual volume, and a number of children's establishments were investigated.

These shameful occurrences, it was underscored at the meeting, became possible because the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and the republic Council of Ministers failed to draw timely and principled conclusions from the CPSU Central Committee instructions on eradicating deception and accounting-fraud, failed to conduct an in-depth analysis of the true state of affairs in capital construction, and did not succeed in enhancing the role and responsibility of party organizations in eradicating criminal dealings at the expense of the state by indi

exercise

This is not the first year that the situation in the field of capital construction has been a cause for concern in the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and the republic Council of Ministers, and it has been repeatedly noted at their plenums and aktivs and working meetings. Specific alarming symptoms have also been seen. Thus, during 1985 the republic organs

removed from accountability housing with a total floor space of more than 70,000 square meters. The annual plan for the commissioning of housing was disrupted. The work of the collegiums of the Ministry of Construction and the Main Administration for Capital Construction, and of some party gorkoms and raykoms, was deemed unsatisfactory, and party penalties were imposed on a number of leaders.

Orienting the party organizations and sector leaders on task fulfillment, throughout the whole of last year the Central Committee Buro and Secretariat focused attention constantly on the need to improve the quality of projects being commissioned. It was precisely this that served as one of the reasons for strengthening the leadership in the Ministry of Construction. The republic procurator's office moved in several criminal cases, including a case in which a fraud of R2 million was made in the cost of construction-and-assembly work in one of the administrations of the Tbilpromstroy No 3 Trust.

Recognizing the complexity of the affair, the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee recommended that all state acceptance commissions should include representatives from the labor collectives and deputies of the soviets; and when the results of economic activity during the first 11 months of the year were summed up, the Council of Ministers was entrusted with the task of organizing a special check on the readiness of projects for new tenants, paying special attention to the quality of the construction-and-assembly work done.

However, not everyone showed the proper interest and responsibility. Even worse, some officials concealed the true state of affairs from the leadership of the Central Committee and Council of Ministers, misinformed them, and construed incorrectly the fundamental requirements of the restructuring.

The USSR Stroybank Board, whose commission had found many shortcomings in the activity of the republic Ministry of Construction and the organizations subordinate to it, pointed to serious omissions in the activity of construction organizations and clients. As a result of dishonesty on the part of the construction people and with the connivance of clients and party, soviet, planning, statistics, banking and other organs, during the fourth quarter one-third of housing and social, cultural and consumer projects was removed from the accountability returns because of inadequate construction readiness. This included 37 residential projects with a total floor area of 177,000 square meters, including 18 in Tbilisi city. It included a general education school with places for 1,176 students, two kindergartens with 355 places, also in Tbilisi, three polyclinics with a total patient capacity of 1,930 and two hospitals with a total of 378 beds. And some of these projects were accepted for commissioning even though there had been illegal work in assembling roof structures, main utility services and so forth.

Because of obvious deception, fulfillment of last year's plan for the commissioning of housing, for example, was shown to be 103.5 percent instead of the actual 89.6 percent. Large-scale account-frauds were permitted the cities of Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Rustavi, Gagra, Gudauta, Batumi, Sukhumi and Tkvarcheli. And it was not happenstance that the leading newspaper PRAVDA severely criticized the party and soviet organs in the republic.

In January 1987 the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee Buro discussed the results of the USSR Stroybank check and punished a number of leaders. The matter was also discussed by the Abkhaz and Adzhar obkoms and the Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Rustavi, Batumi, Sukhumi, Gagra and Tkvarcheli gorkoms and gorispolkoms and the primary party organizations. A total of 13 leaders were dismissed from their posts and party penalties were imposed on 135 communists and one expelled from the party ranks.

Despite this, however, it was stated at the meeting, not all the decisions were right on target. The full extent of responsibility on the part of a number of leaders, some of whom had failed to draw the proper conclusions and learn the proper lesson, was not totally clarified. The January results showed write-ups in the accountability reports, and deception. This shows how deeply the negative phenomena and trends have become enrooted and how great the force of shameful inertia and complacency has become.

It was therefore quite proper that the CPSU Central Committee drew the attention of the leadership in the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers to the lack of control shown in insuring state discipline in capital construction, in fulfilling social development plans, and in waging an uncompromising struggle against the antistate practice of distorting accountability, and for a lack of principled behavior in evaluating the violations that had been permitted. The party obkoms, gorkoms and raykoms and the primary party organizations must decisively overcome the negative phenomena in the republic's national economy and instill in cadres a sense of irreconcilability toward shortcomings and cases of deception and write-up and embellishment of the true situation in production and the labor collectives.

The Georgian Communist Party Central Committee has again carefully investigated cases of gross violations in construction and imposed severe party penalties on guilty individuals. Returning again to these matters, the Central Committee Buro deemed the earlier steps taken inadequate. The decisions of the party committees in the cities of Tbilisi, Rustavi, Batumi, Sukhumi and Gagra with regard to officials who set out on the criminal path of deceiving the state were also deemed liberal and not in line with the spirit of the times.

It was considered inappropriate for G.A. Andronikashvili to remain further in his posts as Georgian Communist Party Central Committee secretary and chief of the Central Committee Construction and Municipal Services Department. A plenum of the Central Committee that was convened supported this decision. CPSU member and deputy chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers Yu.I. Kedishvili has been severely censured and his party card marked for serious shortcomings in his work, and he has been dismissed from his post.

The chairman of the Tbilisi Gorispolkom Z.Sh. Meskhishvili, and his deputy, I.I. Arobelidze, have been severely censured and their party cards marked. A session of the city soviet of people's deputies dismissed them from their posts. The republic deputy ministers of construction G.G. Kartvelishvili, R.I. Tateishvili and T.G. Zhordaniya have been dismissed from their posts; in

addition to earlier decisions, the chairmen of the Rustavi, Batumi, Sukhumi and Gagra gorispolkoms have been punished, and orders have been given to the first secretaries of the corresponding party committees. The work of the republic offices of the USSR Stroybank, the State Architectural and Construction Control and the republic Gosstroy State Construction Inspection has been deemed unsatisfactory.

No earlier services can place a communist outside the zone of criticism and appropriate assessments. This applies not only to people in construction. It is proper and topical for each person, and therefore what is required from every communist is vigilance, principledness and a sense of responsibility, and objectivity and truth, and the conscientious execution of his professional, service and political duty.

From the tribune of the meeting, sharp and candid criticism was directed toward the actions of many leaders in the party gorkoms and raykoms and the ispolkoms of city and rayon soviets, kolkhoz chairmen, sovkhos directors and the directors of procurement organizations, and officials in the ministries and departments and in enterprises and associations who have engaged in all kinds of manipulations and juggling with the facts, and have failed, or rather, been unwilling, to eradicate from their activity the shameful practice of deceiving the state.

Connivance Gives Rise to Irresponsibility

The meeting again recalled the broad scales that have been assumed in the republic by the grossest violations in the procurement and processing of sweetbrier and other wild fruits. More than R6 million of state assets have been plundered. Punishment was meted out to the leaders in 18 regions and more than 150 kolkhoz chairmen and directors of sovkhoses and procurement organizations and processing enterprises, and officials in ministries and departments and associations. More than 80 workers on the central committee schedule alone were dismissed in connection with the production of adulterated juices and 30 expelled from the ranks of the CPSU. These were people who brazenly filled their own pockets while simulating busy activity to fulfill the plan.

Accounting-fraud in grape procurement in Akhmetskiy rayon acquired a quite unprecedented nature; here, write-ups were directly and openly sanctioned by the former first secretary of the party raykom, Manizhashvili. On closer examination serious violations were revealed in many spheres of life in the rayon, and the write-ups were the direct consequence of the shameful style of work by the first secretary and some members of the party raykom buro. Manizhashvili was expelled from the ranks of the CPSU.

Accounting-fraud and deception are usually typical of those regions, sectors and organizations where irresponsibility and stagnation reign and where the political and economic leadership is weak, those at the meeting said. Serious criticism had been repeatedly addressed to the leaders of the Gruzugol Association, particularly the coal mines in the Tkibuli basin. But instead of correcting the situation they resorted to fraud and deception. The director of the Mine imeni Lenin was dismissed from his post, but literally 2 months

later the same kind of violation occurred at the Zapadnaya Mine right next door. The collegium of the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry severely punished the mine director, Darsavelidze, and the general director of the Gruzugol Association, Sanikidze.

Analysis shows that the economic and social roots of this dangerous phenomenon sometimes run deep and are connected with private-ownership tendencies, utilitarian attitudes and machination. And this means that the party, soviet and economic organs are not displaying adequate maturity and combativeness, and sometimes are led by the nose by dishonest people.

The fictitious handover of scrap metal to the Vtorchermet Association led to major abuses. The departmental instructions there are imperfect, manipulation of the plan is permitted, receipts are not being recorded for the handover of scrap metal, the kind of scrap is not indicated, and the registers journal is not being properly kept.

Accounting-fraud has become particularly widespread at enterprises of the republic Ministry of Light Industry. In connection with a case that occurred in the Kutaisi Silk Production Association the former minister for light industry Gamtsemlidze, association director Balanchivadze, and chief of the ministry control and auditing administration Bagaturiya were expelled from the party. The Second Secretary of the Kutaisi Gorkom and the First Secretary of the Leninskiy raykom (in Kutaisi city), D.D. Melkadze and M.N. Pachuashvili, and a number of ministry officials were subjected to severe party censure. Workers involved in write-ups at the Gori Cotton Combine and the Tbilisi Silk Production Associations were severely censured. Similar cases have also been found at other light industry enterprises.

Last year alone the total volume of accounting-fraud and distortions found in accounting figures at light industry enterprises was about R13 million. What lies behind this? At the Borzhomi Rayon Industrial Combine the chief bookkeeper was perfectly suited for a certain Togonidze, who had a criminal record for gangsterism. Entering into a criminal liaison with the deputy director of the Akhaldaba Furniture Factory, Kakheli, using fabricated documents he transferred money for wood-particle board supposedly sent there. At the Kvareli Rayon Industrial Combine silk shop foremen Chikhradze and Solomnishvili engaged in noncommercial operations, misappropriating materials worth tens of thousands of rubles. At the Sachkhere Rayon Industrial Combine supply worker Kemertelidze in collusion with shop chief Nozadze and economist Mishvelidze and with the cooperation of management wrote up and misappropriated materials worth R136,000 as fictitious output included in the March 1986 accounts.

Lack of control, irresponsibility and neglect in primary accounting lay at the basis of major thefts in the Ministry of Local Industry Kutaisi Production Association and at the Kazbegi Rayon Industrial Combine. It was not therefore surprising that by selecting for plan fulfillment the path of fraud and making a profit thereby, some workers are hampering the restructuring in every possible way. It was stated at the meeting that what is surprising, however,

was how the local party and soviet organs and the chiefs of the Ministry of Light Industry and Ministry of Local Industry, B.Z. Makashvili and O.N. Suladze, could reconcile themselves to it.

This practice has also become enrooted in many transport enterprises, particularly motor transport. Justified criticism was heard against Minister T.N. Davitashvili--the leader in a sector where because of semblance in fulfillment of the transport plan an enormous quantity of fuel and spare parts and tires is being written up and money being paid for work not done, that is, unearned income is being encouraged, and the collectives are becoming corrupt. For example, at the Sukhumi No 1 Freight Transportation Enterprise, by artificially increasing the average amount of freight carried by vehicles, during the first quarter of last year the volume of freight carried was raised 23 percent, while freight turnover as raised 15 percent. In the No 2654 Motor Transport Column, eight drivers alone wrote up more than 1.5 million kilometer-tons, and as a result clients were charged an excess of R94,000 and wages of R39,000 were paid, while gasoline worth R17,000 was written up.

Such deviations can be overcome only on a solid organizational basis, with radical changes of attitude toward all management-and-economic and technical policy, it was emphasized at the meeting. It is difficult to deal with fraud and violations in the sphere of trade and personal services without becoming involved in vigorous actions to strengthen economic work. Thus, above-norm stocks, which in the Union of Consumer Cooperatives have reached R120 million, in the Ministry of Trade R55 million and the Ministry of Consumer Services about R9 million, creates fertile ground for all kinds of violations.

In March 1986, after discussing the question of abuses in the Union of Consumer Cooperatives' procurement system, the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee censured the administration chairman K.N. Shavishvili and marked his party card. However, literally 5 months later, by drawing up fictitious documents procurement workers in Rustavi misappropriated hundreds of thousands of rubles. And one of the people involved in the machinations was a certain Ivanishvili who was under investigation for a shady transaction involving pomegranates. A comprehensive check was recently initiated at the Gori Rayon Consumer Cooperative where cases of serious violations have been found in fruit procurement.

Things are no better in the Ministry of Consumer Services, where year after year the volumes of services carried out for enterprises and organizations on a noncash basis is growing, opening up extensive opportunities for various kinds of machinations. The mass production and sale of output without initial orders create conditions for importing raw materials that are unaccounted for, and for theft. This question was addressed directly to the minister, K.T. Saliya: who gains from these frauds? For the public is only losing by paying for fictitious services.

Many violations are occurring in the Ministry of Trade. A recent accountability report presented by the minister A.O. Movsesyan in the Central Committee Buro showed that within the sector there are many shortcomings in management of the economy and in the state of accounting and financial discipline.

Write-ups in agriculture are particularly damaging to the vital interests of the workers. Last year alone the auditing service of the republic State Committee for Agricultural Production uncovered cases of illegal expenditures, pilfering and theft involving more than R13 million. The meeting stated that many local party, soviet and agricultural organs are not paying attention to these matters. Examples were cited. For instance, because of poor work by the Kvareli Party Raykom and rayon agro-industrial association, at one farm alone--the Gremskiy Grape Sovkhoz--over the past 3 years thefts totaling R108,900 have been permitted. And in the village of Chikaani in the same rayon a document was drawn up showing that more than 14,000 tons of potatoes had been harvested and dispatched while according to the transport invoices only 131 tons had been carried. Over the past 2 years, at poultry farms belonging to the republic Gruzptitseprom Association (V.I. Gvardzhaladze) incomplete figures on above-norm losses of poultry and young chicks did harm worth more than R8 million. An alarming situation has been created in sheep-rearing, where things have been so neglected that there is no way even to make an optimal decision to bring proper order and institute strict accounting.

Incomprehensible processes are taking place in subsidiary production in the agro-industrial complex. For example, in July 1985, without any calculations or agreements the Kazbegi Rayispolkom set up experimental shops in the fodder association to process medicinal berries. Naturally, nothing of the kind was being processed, but last year, from raw materials imported they produced 240 kilograms of jam... to feed the cattle?! As a result, R70,000 have been tossed to the wind. And, of course, the possibility cannot be excluded that someone was living well on this.

The struggle against accounting-fraud, machinations and noncommercial operations is also being waged only poorly in the fruit and vegetable trade and at enterprises in the food processing industry. Cases of noncommercial operations have been uncovered in a number of stores in the Rustavi Fruit and Vegetable Trade Office, which have been receiving cash instead of cherries from procurement workers in Bolnisi Rayon.

Fraud and deception are also taking place in rural construction. In 1986 the Georgian Agricultural Construction Administration auditing service alone uncovered distortions in the fulfillment of plans for commercial construction amounting to more than R6 million. But even this does not fully reflect the picture of violations. And the chairman of the Georgian Agricultural Construction Administration I.A. Kharatishvili must know about it.

Accounting-fraud and other distortions of accounting figures have been found by the organs of state statistics at almost every other industrial and agricultural enterprise in three out of every four facilities checked in transport, communications and consumer services. In this connection this also says something in particular about the moral level that tolerates deception, and, it was emphasized, the fact that many workers and entire collectives are involved in fraud while the apologies for leaders offer incitement to direct fraud against the state.

It was also stated that a radical review is needed of the forms and methods of preventive work. At the meeting serious claims were made against the departmental auditing services. Last year, of the 70 ministries, departments and organizations presenting reports on auditing work to the Ministry of Finance, 45 failed to offer even one case of fraud or other violations in accounting. The auditing apparatus of the republic Ministry of Construction is also operating unsatisfactorily. According to figures from this ministry, in the Tbilgorstroy Association alone R15 million have been spent to complete housing shown in the accountability reports for 1985 as having been commissioned.

Other examples were also cited. Last year the procurator in Keda Rayon instituted criminal proceeding against the the chairman of the interkolkhoz organization, Bolkvadze, and other officials who in order to cover up thefts of kolkhoz assets wrote-up the volume of work completed by more than R800,000. And during this same period, the inspector from the former Ministry of Agriculture, Bezhanishvili, who conducted an inspection of documents, "did not notice" these frauds. Accounting is being systematically distorted in the Gegechkori Association of Tea Factories. During the period 1981-1985 some R20 million of write-ups took place there. However, the departmental auditing audits conducted by the former State Committee of Tea Industry uncovered not one single instance of accounting-fraud.

The meeting demanded that the Ministry of Finance (D.N. Dvalishvili), the Central Statistical Administration (R.V. Basariya), and the republic office of the USSR Gosbank (V.A. Pateishvili), and of the USSR Stroybank (Z.G. Gendzekhadze) become more exacting toward their own subordinates and take a more principled stance. However it was stated at the meeting that unfortunately many deviations are occurring with the participation of workers in those systems, which are designed to stand guard over the state interests.

Some workers in law enforcement and other control organs are also not always taking a correct stance in such matters. The following example was cited. Last year the organization of the No 6 Trust under the Ministry of Construction was checked 360 times, and the No 13 Trust 133 times. All these checks were without result, but probably not for those doing the checking.

Precision in Work from Every Element.

Defining the main directions for intensifying the struggle against fraud and deception in the republic's national economy, the meeting stated that the main thing here is to improve all management and economic activity in the ministries and departments and enterprises and further strengthen labor, production, technological and financial discipline.

On this plane, in capital construction the most serious concern is caused by the fact that in recent years improvements in the sector and in its structure and management have obviously failed to keep pace with the rapid increase in work volumes. As a result capital investments have systematically not been assimilated and last year the plan for the commissioning of fixed capital was fulfilled only 85.6 percent. Particular concern is felt in the shortfall in the assimilation of capital investment limits in sectors in the social

infrastructure to whose development the party attaches priority importance. Programs for the reconstruction and retooling of existing enterprises have not been fulfilled. For a number of years the material-technical base of the republic Ministry of Construction has been expanding much more slowly than the volumes of construction-and-assembly work. Inadequate funds are being allocated for the renewal, repair and upkeep of the housing combines, and this is leading to incomplete assimilation of their capacities and hampering the introduction of modern technology.

In general, both the republic Ministry of Construction and many of the construction organizations are typified by a low level of standards in production, discipline and worker skills, and a very serious financial situation, which is also largely instrumental in promoting the shameful practice of handing over projects with defects.

The following examples were cited at the meeting. As long ago as December 1984 leaders in the Telavi Rayispolkom together with the construction workers reported the handover of a 9-story cooperative residential building. However, the building was commissioned without a single outside service hooked up. Because of the lack of water, heating, gas, electricity and sewage facilities it was not occupied for 2 years. But even after it was occupied not all the defects had been corrected; construction workers from the central boiler-house department completed it only this year.

In November 1983, the No 1 Housing Construction Combine in the Tbilgorstroy Association issued together with the Gldanskiy Rayispolkom a certificate of acceptance for housing complex No 3 in the Mukhiani housing development but continued construction of the complex for another one-and-a-half years. The amount of work done during that time amounted to R920,000, or 44 percent of the total cost. And in May 1985 the No 4 Housing Construction Combine handed over for commissioning a housing complex on Prospect Tsereteli and a housing complex in the Plateau Nutsubidze housing development on which over the next 10 months R415,000 and R320,000 respectively were spent to correct the defects.

At the meeting serious claims were also made against clients who do not pay in good time for work done by the construction workers. Thus, last year alone construction workers did not receive R86 million owed them for projects handed over. The position is no better today. The first quarter is over but 29 all-union and republic clients have still not settled their accounts with the construction people. Over the past 2 months completed work worth R65 million was not paid for. Thus, new debts are being added to the old ones and no end is in sight to this disgraceful state of affairs, those at the meeting stated with alarm.

The meeting sharply criticized the activity of the Transcaucasian Railroad and the ministries of transport and the construction materials industry. The well-known brigade leader, Hero of Socialist Labor V.I. Chelidze expressed the opinion of all construction workers that the main reason for the untimely and poor-quality handover of projects is poor-quality output and in many cases obvious rejects that come from the enterprises of the Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry to the construction sites. The transport

workers are also letting us down. Construction materials are being delivered irregularly and the breakdowns resulting from violations of the freight regulations are major. All this causes first stoppages and then rush work, and it exerts an adverse effect on the moral and material condition of the construction workers.

The meeting demanded that the chief of the Transcaucasian Railroad, Z.D. Papava, and the minister of the construction materials industry, N.G. Vashadze, explain the reasons for this disgraceful state of affairs and report on what they intend to do to correct it. However, the answers heard from the meeting tribune failed to satisfy those present. It was emphasized that the continued poor quality of construction materials and the careless and sometimes irresponsible attitude of the transport workers toward their direct duties can no longer be tolerated.

In the work to improve quality, strengthen discipline and accelerate scientific and technical progress the republic Gosstroy is assuming a passive position. Much is being done unsystematically, without appropriate scientific work. The meeting demanded that the Gosstroy chairman, G.Z. Mirianashvili, radically change the style of his work and the work of Gosstroy in general.

The republic Gosplan is also responsible for the situation that has been created. Unrealistic targets are sometimes set for the construction subdivisions. The practice of including in plans projects that are in violation of the normed time periods for construction has not been eradicated. A large proportion of the capacities commissioned are allocated for the fourth quarter. It was emphasized at the meeting that it is high time to bring the capital construction plan fully into line with the what is feasible for the contract organizations, cast aside conjunctural motivations, and eliminate incompetent interference in these matters.

The shortages of skilled personnel are also making themselves felt. There are many shortcomings in the training and allocation of specialists in the VUZ's and tekhnikums and the vocational and technical schools. No properly organized system has been set up to retrain and improve the skills of workers in the sector. In some construction organizations virtually no stable collectives have been set up and they operate with casual workers who do not have appropriate training or skills. Without resolving the social problems, leaders in the sector are resorting to doubtful methods to keep their workers, and they close their eyes to wage violations, thus encouraging private-ownership ways and unearned incomes. Who can be surprised if in many construction organizations people are working for whom the concept of professional pride and honor is a meaningless sound?

The meeting determined that the collegium of the Ministry of Construction and the minister, D.V. Mandzhgaladze, must make a basic effort to bring proper order in the social sphere, which in the past has been totally neglected.

The Democratic Spirit Does Not Permit Willfulness.

In order successfully to develop the struggle against accounting-fraud and deception it is essential to normalize the moral-political climate in the labor collectives, it was noted at the meeting. And this is associated directly with raising exactingness and responsibility and strengthening the role of the primary party organizations and the communists, particularly in capital construction. They must be headed by true leaders capable of uniting people and carrying them along with them, and who are aware of the worth of the far from easy labor of the construction worker.

Honesty, probity and interest: these are the qualities that must be affirmed in each party organization and in each labor collective. Unfortunately, not all communists, including those occupying responsible positions, have mastered these requirements. Deception occurs to some extent because of the inadequately principled position that they assume. Antistate and illegal actions by individual leaders are not assessed as they should be by the party committees and economic organs.

Fraud is most often the direct consequence of indulgence, complacency and the narrow departmental approach. Moreover, departmental workers often expend considerable efforts to hide it or play it down. For example, the collegium and former leadership of the Ministry of Construction at one time failed to support a proposal from the auditing department to pass on to the organs of investigation materials on fraud in the Rustavi Housing Construction Combine. They took a similar position with regard to major accounting-fraud uncovered in 1985 in the Batumi Housing Construction Combine No 9 Trust.

There are frequent cases in which a liberal attitude is shown toward leaders who set out on the path of deceiving the state and they succeed in remaining in the cosy armchair of their posts. Criminal cases were brought against the director of the Sukhumi Silk Factory, Papaskiri, and the chief accountant, Kartskhiya, for fraud involving about R250,000. However, the case was halted and they are again working in leading positions: Papaskiri is the director of the Sukhumi Experimental Club House while Kartskhiya is the chief of a footwear rubber sole shop in Sukhumi city. The meeting demanded that the Abkhaz Obkom investigate thoroughly what lies behind these transfers.

In the struggle against accounting-fraud it is necessary to enhance the role of the law-enforcement organs and of the procuracy's inspectorate, and to improve legal practices. The party organs must show greater exactingness toward cadres. It is totally incomprehensible, for example, how communist Khvichiya, who has been censured several times by the party, has for many years been chief of the Batumi Housing Construction Combine. It was stated at the meeting that the Adzhar Obkom must explain what nevertheless has dictated this "irreplaceability."

Write-ups and deception have nothing in common with enhanced exactingness with respect to plan fulfillment. The plan is law. And in the future the demand to fulfill it will be most strict and principled. And there should be no cover-ups of the shameful practice of deceiving the state using the pretexts of incompetence and lack of ability. There are reserves for this in all

sectors. Another matter is that, unfortunately, losses from mismanagement, lack of discipline and irresponsibility are still great and every effort must be made to overcome them.

Those speaking at the meeting emphasized that the party committees must head the struggle against the enemies of restructuring, pursue an active cadre policy, and purge the economy of unworthy people. And for this they themselves must observe state order and prevent deviations and exceptions and avoid cheap publicity.

The meeting sharply criticized the shameful practice of building unplanned projects. Last year 78 of the construction organizations in the republic in 38 cities and rayons carried out unplanned work. About 130 of these projects have been discovered. In this connection the following question was rightly asked: how, for example, can the housing construction in Rustavi be fulfilled if enormous resources and funds are diverted to build a railroad for children? The expenditures for this, totaling R1.5 million, were drawn mainly from planned projects. Moreover, on the direct instructions of the party gorkom the board of directors at the metallurgical plant allocated rails, which are in short supply, to the detriment of the enterprise, and acquired a diesel locomotive and a steam locomotive and cars. At the willful decision of the former first secretary of the party gorkom, Zh.K. Shartava, a dummy tunnel was made from ferroconcrete structures for this same children's railroad. And these structures were taken away from housing construction, and as a result the construction of four houses was disrupted. At the site where the general plan provided for the erection of several high-rise buildings, tennis courts were built. Unfortunately, the public in the city knew nothing about this and was unable to make an appropriate assessment of the actions of the former first secretary.

It was noted at the meeting that development of the social sphere is, of course, an important matter. But if there is a plan there are calculations and priority needs, and no one has the right to forget this. It is a question of state discipline. The semblance of well-being and the desire to create for oneself a cheap authority lead to no good. Displays of this kind must be severely condemned by communists.

Wherever party analysis of the true situation is replaced with talk about successes, all party activity is deformed: M.S. Gorbachev cautioned about this in his political report to the 27th CPSU Congress. Developing independence and strengthening the democratic foundations of management assume an enhanced sense of responsibility, strengthened discipline, and reinforced control. It is precisely the absence of this that explains how while overfulfilling the plan for commercial output, collectives fail to meet their contractual obligations. Or take the example of Gori, where a dairy combine was built that for a year already has been unable to go into operation because of the lack of raw material.

The democratic spirit is incompatible with willfulness and arbitrariness. And therefore, extending the rights of the labor collectives, introducing cost accounting and switching to self-supporting production [samookupayemost] are accompanied by increased centralized leadership in the economy, as, for

example, in the introduction of state approval for output. Those speaking emphasized that similar measures are also necessary in capital construction, where it is essential to set up a system of control that makes it possible to cover all stages in the construction process and monitor quality at all stages.

In the struggle against negative phenomena it is essential to activate public opinion and enhance the effectiveness of the mass media. Neither should propaganda of leading experience be forgotten, or better awareness of the beginnings of its progressive and proper dissemination.

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The aktiv adopted a resolution on the matter discussed. The resolution defined the clear task for the party, soviet and economic organs, the public organizations and all workers in the republic, namely, to create in each collective a healthy moral and psychological climate, eradicate fraud and deception, and insure success in pursuing the strategic course of the party in restructuring and acceleration.

The following comrades took part in the work of the meeting: V.I. Alavidze, G.A. Anchabadze, O.G. Vardzelashvili, A.N. Inauri, K.A. Kochetov, G.D. Mgeladze, G.A. Metonidze, B.V. Nikolskiy, N.A. Chitanava, Z.A. Chkheidze, B.V. Adleyba, G.G. Gumbaridze, T.V. Lordkipanidze, D.V. Margvelidze, F.S. Sanakoyev, B.M. Siradze and G.Kh. Emiridze, and V.A. Skripnikov, republic administration chief for the Transcaucasus in the USSR Gosstroy Main Administration for Construction in the Union Republics.

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CSO: 1830/423

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

PUGO ADDRESSES LASSR CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

Riga CINA in Latvian 24 Mar 87 pp 1-3

[Excerpts] Plenum of the CP of Latvia Central Committee. To Go Firmly Along the Road of Restructuring and Democracy. Report was delivered by the First Secretary of the CP of Latvia Central Committee, B. Pugo.

What alarms us the most in the economy? First of all, the fact that our national economy has not yet assumed the necessary tempo and has not attained stability is alarming. In connection with interruptions in the work of enterprises, which are connected with non-rhythmicality and unfulfillment of delivery agreement commitments, the 2 months' plan in industry has not been fulfilled and the task has been carried out only to the extent of 97.6 percent. Various products for almost R32,000,000 have not been delivered to the state.

Every fifth enterprise has not fulfilled its agreement commitments. The greatest lagging-behind has been permitted by enterprises of Union subordination. Among them such "whales" of our industry as the associations "Komutators" (managing director A. Gubenko and VEF (O. Lenev). Almost half of the entire shortfall in goods production output is on their account.

On the whole, indices are low at the Ministry of Timber Processing and Paper Industry (Minister V. Birkenfelds), at the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry (J. Jura), at the Ministry of Light Industry (V. Nizhnik), at the Ministry of Local Industry (R. Misans), at the Latvian fish industry production association (V. Koreyev), at the lighting equipment production association (J. Matusevics), at the "Alfa" production association (A. Baklanov), at the Rezekne milking equipment works (G. Kolesnikov), at the Riga diesel works (A. Krasovskiy), at the Jelgava agricultural machinery works (R. Vitolins), and at several other enterprises.

What are the causes of the permitted failures?

The cause is in ourselves, the slowness, lack of initiative and laziness of many economic heads; their prolonged self-satisfaction and taking delight in the rather good economic indices of last year is to blame. Also the passive stand of party organizations and committees, the fact that the human factor,

processes of democratization and self-administration in production have not been made more active to the necessary extent, are to blame.

This had been clearly shown also by the sociological research on the role of party primary organizations of industry in the development of productive self-administration and democracy, conducted by the Institute of Party History of the CP of Latvia Central Committee at 32 enterprises of Riga, Daugavpils and Ventspils. Is it then normal that, according to research data, in 1986 more than half of the communists did not in fact participate in the adoption of any resolutions as important as the team self-administration question, staffing of teams, planning of their work, payment for work, its stimulation, election of the team council, the work within the council, and the review of the breaches of production discipline permitted by team members?

The unsatisfactory work results of the past 2 months require that town and rayon committees of the party, the Council of Ministers and departments of the Central Committee would carry out without delay concrete, I repeat, concrete undertakings which would guarantee elimination of lagging behind and a stable rhythm of the production plan under any circumstances and without any hindering factors.

The output of the highest quality category products has considerably shrunk this year at the Ministry of Timber Processing and Paper Industry, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry, the Ministry of Construction, the "Straume" association, the lighting equipment production association, the lacquer and paint works, the Ventspils ventilator works, the electric building tools works, the Riga chemical industry machine building works, and at several other enterprises.

As an example, the tramcars of the wagon works can be mentioned. In comparison with foreign analogues, they lag behind in comfortableness, traveling speed and capacity, and they have an increased vibration. All of this causes complaints by passengers. A new type of modernized tramcar has been on the drawing boards already for 20 years.

Immediate assistance of party, state, and public organizations is necessary also to the RAF works, whose collective did not fulfill its promise to modernize the passenger bus.

It is necessary to create a barrier to the output of products not being demanded and to observe the state of the market. This applies first of all to the Ministry of Trade (R. Salputra).

The Baltic region, M. Gorbachev emphasized, is an important food production area. In the last 15 years the provision of assets of collective and state farms has increased 3.1 times, but the gross agricultural production only by one-and-a-half times.

There is a very poor grain production dynamic in our republic. With regard to grain-crop productivity we have been, in fact, standing on the same spot

for many years. Thus, in the last 5 years the productivity has not risen even once about 27 quintals. As a result of this, the state is compelled to bring into the republic increasingly more grain. This tendency is, without doubt, abnormal, and it has to be overcome already in the next few years.

Last year the milk yield per cow was less by 560 kg than in Estonia and by 104 kg less than in Lithuania.

The construction plans of several areas of the social sphere are not being fulfilled, reserves for expanding housing construction are being sought lazily, many enterprises still have not laid down who, when, and how the approved programs will be implemented.

All this is connected with the disorganized manner in which the builders, ministries, departments, and enterprises are permitted to build social, cultural, and everyday-life objects through their own economic resources, with a weakness in the construction material base, with insufficient attention and control by the State Planning Committee (G. Ukhov), soviet organs, party committees, and the branch departments of the Central Committee--the department of construction and municipal economy (H. Bagnovecs), the department of industry (V. Blokhin), the department of light industry and consumer goods (N. Kakstova), the department of agriculture and food industry (L. Abel).

What kind of attention and control can one talk about, if all the enterprises of Union subordination combined expanded housing construction, in comparison to last year, only by 10,000 sq. m., and the Union-Republic ministries even reduced it? Analogous absurdities also take place with the construction of kindergartens.

How long shall we talk, for example, about an acceleration of the construction of the production base of the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry? In this connection specific tasks have been given, special resolutions have been adopted, and the necessary means have been allocated. But there are almost not practical results. Last year 84 percent and 58 percent of the planned basic assets were put into use at these ministries. What kind of an acceleration is that?

The time has come at last for the Council of Ministers (N. Denisenko), the State Planning Committee (G. Ukhov), the Ministry of Construction (N. Kaftailov), the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry (J. Jura) and the party organizations of the mentioned departments to begin to tackle responsibly the tasks set and to introduce the necessary order in the fulfillment area.

Recently we were in Moscow with J. Rubenis, O. Misurkin, and M. Ramans and were received by Politburo members. We met leading workers of the Council of Ministers, the State Planning Committee, the State Committee for Material/Technical Supply and of several ministries, who supported our proposals.

Comrades, recently M. Gorbachev telephoned. He was interested in the course of restructuring and the implementation of plans, once more expressed

satisfaction about meeting and talking with the republic's working people and our activ, supported our endeavor to renew all spheres of life, and expressed a conviction that the republic will recover what has been delayed and will fulfill successfully all the tasks laid down. In accordance with that, we also have to develop our entire practical work.

All forms of democratization are important to us, but it is especially important to consolidate democracy in production and to introduce consistently self-administration into the life of labor collectives.

The competition system of electing leaders, which has become widespread in the republic, opens great opportunities here. The foundations for this were laid by the experience of the collective of the "Komutators" association. Now, middle-section leaders, chief engineers, directors and their deputies, administrators of trusts, rectors of higher education establishments, and other top leaders are being elected. The director of the RAF minibus works, as we know, was elected by way of an all-Union competition. After the January plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, at four rayon agro-industrial associations on the basis of competitions the chairmen of the rayon agro-industrial association councils were elected from the most competent heads of farms. Recently, with the competition of several candidates, by a secret ballot, the first secretary of the Gulbene rayon committee of the party was elected. Already more than 5,000 leaders of various levels, in all, have been elected.

You all, of course, know the benefit provided by electing leaders. I shall emphasize what is the most important: elections actually consolidate one-man management, considerably increase the authority and responsibility of the leader, create an atmosphere of mutual exactingness and--this is especially important--combine the personal interests with the public ones.

Practice shows that election of leaders sharply changes the attitude of both the leaders themselves and their labor collectives toward mutual relations in production. The rights of a master are added to a consciousness of a master. A qualitatively new situation comes about. A conclusion arises from this: people have to be prepared for this new form of democratization, it has to be explained to them that elections are not a game but a means of improving the situation, that democracy manifests itself not in effects but in effectivity.

The collective's welfare, material stimulation and tackling of all social questions depend in their entirety on the final results. The collective and every worker must understand that, by electing a leader, they assume a part of the leader's responsibility, therefore, they have a duty of controlling the leader's activity, to think jointly what and how to do it, so that the common work would move forward more rapidly.

Occupying leading positions by way of competitions increases the political influence of party committees and organizations in the course of restructuring and movement of cadres and in practice ensures a real openness.

Some party organizations have not yet determined their place in the process of elections. The Central Committee buro thinks that they have to guide this work, to guide, of course, by political means, and to study public opinion, because spontaneity in the question of cadres is just as dangerous as getting it arranged.

It appears that surely one must not wait until some vacancy becomes available for elections. Reports by economic workers of various levels to their collectives must periodically be listened to, and following that voting has to be organized: do the collectives entrust them or do not entrust them with the rights to continue to lead? Let us think about this vote of confidence!

Perfecting of the election system is a principled, steadfast direction in democratization. Party organizations must thoroughly prepare themselves for the forthcoming elections of local soviets and people's judges and people's assessors. In organizing them, the orientations laid down at the January plenum of the CPSU Central Committee have to be implemented in practice.

The main task is to give the electors an opportunity to express their attitude toward a bigger number of candidatures and to free the election campaign and the voting procedure from elements of formalism. One must prepare well for the experiment in the elections to local soviets, the election campaign must be utilized to improve the situation in economic, social, communal, and legal spheres and to draw up collectively proposals for a deepening of the democratization of our life and for an acceleration of restructuring.

Comrades! I do not have to prove to you how important it is to continue the struggle with an aggressive spirit for cleansing the republic's ethical atmosphere, for the eradication of drunkenness, drug addiction, prostitution, plundering, bribe-taking, transgressions of official position, and protectionism. Without a consolidation of the society's moral health we shall not manage to solve the tasks of restructuring.

The topical urgency of these questions can but cause alarm. In 1986 alone in our republic 15 communists/leaders were called to answer criminal charges, including the former chairman of the People's Court of Ludza Rayon, N. Khmelnitska. The attack against alcoholism and drunkenness is being developed with variable success. Last year the sales of spirits and liquor were reduced by 23.1 percent. This year they will be sold by 36.3 percent less. The number of instances when alcoholic beverages have been consumed in production has diminished. At several collectives, nevertheless, the drinkers still have a good life; efforts to influence them are being carried out formally. It will suffice for me to say that this year at medical sobering-up establishments there have already been several leaders: head of the shop of the hydrometeorological apparatuses works, A. Dubovskiy, captain-director of the ocean fishing fleet's Liepaja base, Y. Novikov, deputy head of the Reiga shop of electric bulb works, A. Mazitov, deputy director of the No 2 secondary school of Tukums, P. Dzerkalis, and others.

Alcoholics and rowdies who have been forced out from production continue a dissolute life at home. Now at flats and hostels, because of drunkenness and drug addiction, more than 70 percent of all the instances of murder and rape are being committed, as well as 88 percent of the instances of bodily harm. Both law protection organs and the society, and labour collectives work very poorly. Comrades, one must think very seriously about this and, most importantly, all the necessary undertakings have to be carried out.

Life itself demands sharply to strengthen the struggle against drunkenness, especially at home. It is necessary to develop it without compromises and in an attacking spirit, literally on the entire front, to create everywhere a general atmosphere of condemnation against the transgressors against anti-alcohol legislation, to advance greater demands to the voluntary society of promoting abstinence and to offer it all kinds of assistance. Also in the press. From such a viewpoint it is doubtful whether one can regard as useful the satirical article "A Tick for Everybody" published in SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in which all the work of the promoting abstinence of society has been thoughtlessly condemned.

We have the right to set higher demands also to those who, in accordance with official duties, are directly responsible for public order. In this connection the question of political and professional preparation of new cadres is important. The length of service of almost a third of the workers of procuracy, the courts and the militia is, after all, less than 3 years.

The Central Committee's Party Control Commission (S. Palora) must not lower the standard of principledness in the improvement of moral and ethical atmosphere, in the struggle for purity and authority of the leading cadres. The best school of political education and self-education is openness, criticism and self-criticism.

The essence of restructuring is the truth. But the truth is not only the detection of mistakes and expounding of shortcomings alone. The most important thing is to search for an actual way out from them. Under the circumstances of restructuring and democratization in all spheres of life, criticism must always be adherent to party principles and be based on justice. It must not become a form of settling scores, and develop into gossiping, denunciations and anonymous complaints.

It is no secret that not everybody understands the necessity to support a critical mood and a self-critical work analysis in the collective. There are still instances when the reaction to criticism is wrong. This is shown by both the materials of the press and also the letters received by the Central Committee.

Let us take the topically urgent problems of working people's patriotic and internationalist education. Here the appearance of an external well-being did not correspond to the real situation, let us say, in the sphere of political culture of internationality contiguity. A part of the cadres of the

party, soviets, trade unions and Komsomol, of workers of culture, public education, higher education establishments, mass information and propaganda media did not pay sufficient attention to studying thoroughly the Marxist-Leninist theory of nationality relations, to a continuous improvement of patriotic and internationalist education of inhabitants, especially of young people, to the struggle against manifestations of nationalism and chauvinism. In some publications a distorted, non-class-conscious interpretation of some of the aspects of the development of nationality relations existing in the republic was given, national language questions were artificially emphasized.

Having examined the question "On the undertakings to be carried out in order to strengthen further the patriotic and internationalist education of the republic's inhabitants", the Central Committee bureau gave a principled assessment to the abovementioned phenomena and outlined a concrete program for a radical improvement of work in this important sector of ideological activity. All party committees, soviet and economic organs, mass information media, and the entire party activist must actively participate in its implementations.

The departments of propaganda and agitation, culture, science, and educational establishments of the party Central Committee (L. Freibergs, A. Goris, and A. Gruduls), rayon and town committees of the party must inflexibly strengthen the Marxist-Leninist tempering and ideological/political education of working people, leading cadres, ideological workers, creative intelligentsia, party and Komsomol activist, must give them the skills to form a favorable moral/psychological climate in the internationality environment. Our cadres must day after day be engaged to make sure that a principled struggle is developed from internationalist positions against manifestations of nationalism and chauvinism, in whatever form they might appear. The work in the consolidation of the fraternal friendship of the Soviet peoples must be perfected to a maximum.

Practice shows that the main barrier to be overcome, first of all, by ideological cadres is the educational approach, the distancing from life, observable in the sphere of propaganda and agitation, formalism and a poor development of forms of individual education. For the time being we are agitating abstainers not to drink, unbelievers not to believe, very often we make use of formal slogans.

We must correct the present situation in the sphere of spiritual culture.

Last year 410 proposals, which were expressed at plenums to town and rayon committees of the party and at party meetings, were sent to the republic's ministries and departments. Almost a fifth of them have been examined formally, but more than a third have remained without any reply at all. The greatest bureaucratism has been shown here by the Ministry of Forestry and Timber Industry and the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry. Also the State Planning Committee has not been at the necessary level.

Deputy chairman of the construction association of the Latvian SSR State Agro-Industrial Committee I. Niedols promised that construction components of this

kind (simple ferroconcrete construction components made in Belorussia, mentioned to the speaker by Liepaja Rayon collective farm members during his meeting with them in the first half of 1986) will be operatively manufactured and supplied to "Durbe" and "Lenina Cels" collective farms for the building of animal husbandry farm sections. Many months have passed since that time, but I. Niedols has not even started to fulfill his commitment. Heads of Central Committee departments H. Bagnovecs and L. Abel have forgotten control and fulfillment inspection.

Recently the Central Committee buro listened to reviews on the struggle against bureaucratism by V. Markots, minister of Municipal Economy, and E. Taurins, party buro secretary of the ministry. But it was not possible to see any kind of a struggle--workers of the apparatus waste a considerable part of working time in order to correspond with subordinate organizations, to draw up regulations, instructions, and proposals unnecessary to anybody.

In accordance with the great number of proposals the Central Committee has adopted a resolution: for 2 days a week--on Monday and Friday--any kind of meetings are prohibited, it is prohibited to call out persons to republican party, state, and public organs. This resolution must be fulfilled.

We have the right to ask J. Bonats, and also other first secretaries of rayon committees--J. Abolina, A. Vrublevskiy, I. Khokhlenko, F. Korneliuss, and I. Krastins--why restructuring at many party organizations of their rayons takes place at the pace of a tortoise?

It has to be endeavored to achieve that the composition of the leading cadres would reflect to a maximum fully the republic's nationality structure. Care has to be taken in observing this demand also in the training of specialists at our higher and secondary education establishments. This has to be taken into consideration especially at the Latvian Agricultural Academy, the Conservatoire and the Academy of Art, where for the time being there are few students who do not belong to the main nationality.

I regard it necessary to today's plenum, at a very important plenum, to say that I see many imperfections of my work: I have not shown a sufficient perseverance and exactingness in respect to Central Committee secretaries, heads of departments and the apparatus. Because of that, it has not yet been possible to achieve a complete implementation of the important resolutions adopted in the cardinal questions of the republic's economic development and to create a firm system in the work with cadres. In order to eliminate these and other shortcomings, henceforth both the first secretary and also other members of the buro will have to work even harder.

More initiative, a new approach and purposefulness in the tackling of the tasks of accelerating the republic's socioeconomic development, improvement of ideological work and selection of cadres has to be shown by the Central Committee secretaries V. Sobolev, A. Brils, A. Borbunov, and J. Oherins.

The buro expects a greater activity and perseverance from the department of party organizational work (G. Loskutov). The work of the department of economics (R. Praude) has to be seriously reorganized.

Care for the development of the party's internal democracy puts us under an obligation to make essential corrections in the mutual relationships between the elected organs and the apparatus. A situation must not be permitted where the apparatus places itself above the elected organ and dictates its will to the members of the Central Committee, town, and rayon committees of the party.

Today's plenum, the sociological research of work style and methods of buro members, and heads of departments of the Central Committee will help not only them but also other leaders to assess their work more self-critically, and to outline ways for its improvement.

The Supreme Soviet Presidium, on which a great responsibility lies for reorganizing the work of local soviets of people's deputies has to think about this seriously. In its acceleration J. Vagris and his deputies have to act more energetically. The times demand that also the heads of the republic's government--chairman J. Rubenis, his deputies, R. Praude, K. Spogis, L. Bartkevics, N. Denisenko, O Misurkin, and M. Ramans would work more intensively.

Restructuring is a really revolutionary process. Figuratively speaking, it is the continuation of the revolution.

The process of restructuring has not only adherents, but also has adversaries. They will not relinquish their positions without a battle.

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CSO: 1808/29

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

KOLBIN DISCUSSES HOUSING PROBLEMS WITH CITIZENS

Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Feb 87

[KazTAG report: "To Maintain Social Justice"]

[Text] On February 25 G. V. Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakhstan CP Central Committee held a reception for a group of the republic's residents who made personal requests regarding their housing.

During the reception G. V. Kolbin noted that the party's 27th Congress and the January 1987 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee sharply raised questions dealing with the energetic elimination of negative phenomena from society. Consistent confirmation of the principles of social justice is now at the center of attention for the republic's party and soviet organs.

V. G. Kudryavtsev, a pensioner from Alma-Ata: "Gennadiy Vasilevich, the situation with cheating and violations in the allocation of housing is especially intolerable. For example, I know of people who had private homes and still received separate apartments."

G. V. Kolbin: "Actually, the Kazakhstan CP Central Committee's selective inspection in the republic's capital revealed hundreds of apartments which were authorized through the crudest violations of housing law. Many of the leading workers received housing not only for themselves, but also for their relatives. As a result, although many apartments were put to use, the number of people waiting to receive them has not decreased and has even grown. We are conducting an uncompromising struggle against these abuses. Apartments received through influence-peddling will be confiscated. The workers of the Kazakhstan CP Central Committee, party gorkom, and city soviet who permitted these violations have already been punished and some of them have been relieved of their posts.

"In spite of such an edifying lesson, we still have people who live beautifully at others' expense. Having comfortable apartments, they keep trying by hook or by crook to get additional living space, although they understand quite well that by satisfying their ambition they are pushing those who are rightfully next in line still farther away. We will not allow this: we are already giving and we will continue to give such self-seekers a decisive rebuff, and we do not intend to stop half-way. We are counting

in this matter on the serious and active help of the public, of all of the city's residents. We will direct your claim, Comrade Kudryavtsev, to competent agencies for verification and immediate action."

A. Zh. Nesebeldinova, housewife from Karaganda: "My husband worked for many years as a miner at the 'Karagandaugol' association. We raised four sons who followed in their father's footsteps and became miners. Their children are already growing up and we are all still huddled, as before, in an apartment of twenty-five square meters. Is this really as it should be?"

G. V. Kolbin: "Of course not. As you know, the 'Housing-91' program is being implemented in the republic. Its goal is to provide everyone waiting in line as of January 1 of the current year with comfortable apartments by the end of 1991. Additional funds, materials, designs and technology are being sought to realize this. We regard the sluggishness in realizing this program as a discredit to the party line, as a conscious slowing-down of the process of restructuring. Many enterprises, among them, the 'Karagandaugol' association, have a real possibility of erecting a large amount of houses through their own resources.

"The responsibility for the progress of construction has been personally pinned on the first leaders of the enterprises and organizations who should monthly render an account to the labor collectives. Go ask the directors of the mines where your sons work. We will support your demands, and I am sure in this way, through joint efforts, we will succeed in satisfying the needs both of you and of other Karaganda residents."

N. V. Igonina, an office worker from Alma-Ata: "Our house is not really that old, but it is already falling into decay. The roof leaks. Was it really so impossible to repair it properly at least once over the last thirteen years?"

G. V. Kolbin: "It is necessary not only to build new houses quickly and qualitatively, but also to treat carefully that which has already been made. It is wasteful to tear down housing which, if repaired, could be used for many more years. And for now there are still many housing administrations and tenants who are negligent about keeping up the apartments. Houses belonging to ministries and departments are especially badly repaired. As the party dictates, we will hold their leaders who have remained deaf to the needs and worries of their collectives strictly responsible."

Later in the talk G. V. Kolbin noted that it is necessary to encourage in every way possible the initiative of the workers for accelerating the tempo of housing construction, to offer effective help to individual private builders, and to make it the responsibility of base enterprises to provide teachers and doctors with apartments. Drawing in still wider circles of the public and labor collectives into construction should become an effective factor in the successful solution of the housing problem and in maintaining the norms of social justice and lawfulness in the distribution of apartments.

It was explained at the meeting that all concrete questions connected with housing should be addressed to the trade union organizations of the labor collectives and to local soviet organs.

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

PARTY ORGANIZATIONS CRITICIZED FOR 'APATHY'

[Editorial Report] Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri on 15 February 1987 carries on page 1 a 1000-word lead editorial headlined "Mutual Demand" on duties placed before party organizations during restructuring. It points out that "it is a pity that a very important experience such as hearing the reports of communists is not used to the necessary extent at a number of party organizations. As a result, these organizations have weakened mutual demandingness, communists' feelings of responsibility have diminished, and a backsliding mentality has been created." It is added that "unsatisfactory principles such as outmoded apathy are definitely inappropriate to the party's demand for reconstruction."

BAKU GORKOM FINDS CORRUPTION IN TRADE, SERVICES

[Editorial Report] Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri on 10 February 1987 carries on page 3 a 700-word Azerinform report on a Baku Gorkom plenum held to discuss problems connected with the fight against unearned income; the report is headlined "Decisiveness and Openness in the Struggle Against Unearned Income." At the plenum it was pointed out that "no basic turning point has been reached in the struggle against negative situations in the trade and population services sectors. Primary party organizations at a number of service sector institutions have merely closed their eyes to shortcomings, and also are exerting only a weak influence over the selection, placement and training of cadres; as a result of this, people who have previously been sentenced [for criminal activities] often find their way into positions demanding material responsibility. There are still instances of the misappropriation of funds and bribery in housing organs, communal services, and the health system."

OBSESSION WITH PAPERWORK, MEETINGS CRITICIZED

[Editorial Report] Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri on 21 January 1987 carries on page 2 a 1700-word article by D. Jamalova, first secretary of the Lankaran Gorkom, decrying "some party organizations' obsession with meetings and paperwork"; the article is headlined "Being Systematic and Consistent." She points out that "sometimes you come across the following situation: when the issuance of a decree is in the process of being discussed, the party organization's work is stirred up, materials are collected, urgent research takes place, and a commission is formed to generalize results and submit proposals. Finally, the decree is passed and...everything comes to a halt. We ask: why was so much time lost and so many people taken away from their real work if a decree is passed so that it could be placed in a file?!"

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

KAZAKH EDITORIAL ENCOURAGES INTERNATIONALISM

[Editorial Report] Alma-Ata SOTSIALISTIK QAZAQSTAN in Kazakh on 10 February 1987 carries on page 1 an 800-word boldface editorial entitled "Let Internationalist Education Be a Matter of Constant Concern." The editorial restates the achievements of Soviet internationalism as they relate to the Kazakhs in particular. It goes on to acknowledge that "problems still exist," but encourages continued education in internationalist values at all levels of republic society to promote the common purpose and ideological unity of the Soviet peoples.

/9738

CSO: 1830/443

MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA

MINISTRY PRESS CENTERS RELEASE 'DISTORTED' INFORMATION

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Feb 87 p 3

[Article by Yu. Makhrin: "Conveyers for Show: How Great is the Benefit of Press Centers Attached to Ministries and Departments?"; first five paragraphs are PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] Moscow--The telephone rang.

"How do you do? This is the ministry's press center..."

An ordinary television "picture"--the building of the press center of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Zubovskiy Boulevard--flashed in my memory. Soviet and foreign correspondents are often invited here for meetings with heads of states and governments, prominent party and economic managers, diplomats, and scientists.

However, something different and unusual was heard in the telephone receiver:

"From the press center... of the Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building."

So, perhaps the managers of this department have decided to meet with the journalistic corps? Indeed, many acute problems concerning machinery, which has often evoked righteous indignation among the country's breadwinners--machine operators--have accumulated at this department. It has occurred to me that, finally, openness is also beginning to force its way into the sector's headquarters, which are removed from the concerns of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Consequently, here too people are ready to reject the notorious thesis: This is not for the press. It follows that here too people have realized that everything that disturbs and interests people is for the press and for publicity.

It turns out that no, they did not telephone for this, but for a totally different reason:

"Our ministry's press center is at your disposal. An editorial is needed. Please, be so kind..."

The ministry's press center. What a strange kind of "means of mass information" not mentioned in any defining dictionary of the mother tongue is this? A colleague, who worked abroad for a long time, reasoned:

"There the press center is an ordinary matter: Every ministry and every large firm have it."

"In what are these centers engaged?"

"In advertising products."

And what are the press centers of our ministries and departments called upon to do? "The maximum utilization of central and local mass information organs for an extensive illumination of the sector's advanced experience and achievements is the basic task." This is stated in documents published by directors of the Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment and Control Systems, the Ministry of the Motor Vehicle Industry, and Rosagropromstroy.

"Wait a minute," a worker at the headquarters of a specific sector will say. "Why, even without this we have someone that can popularize advanced experience--there are special administrations, departments, technical centers, scientific research institutions, laboratories, scientific and technical information bureaus, and so forth. Experienced specialists, who can separate grain from weeds, work in them. They study and test an innovation and give it a start in life. Under the conditions of expansion of openness they should learn to act as an efficient press information system. Moreover, managers of sectorial headquarters are called upon to be open and accessible to journalists."

We would also like to mention that there is a vast network of sectorial newspapers and journals called upon to contribute to the introduction of everything that meets the requirements of scientific and technical progress. The central party press also has departments, whose task, as stated at the January Plenum of the Central Committee, is to see the positive and the constructive, to make them available to the entire nation, and to utilize the germs of new approaches under restructuring conditions. The best forces of the country's publicists are concentrated here. They specialize in economic problems, know the economy profoundly, and are called upon to analyze the state of affairs objectively with a genuine adherence to party principles and to consider facts and phenomena in their dialectic interconnection, not only under the floodlight of publicity.

The following question inevitably arises: Why then do press centers still exist? Let us read the announcements, beneath which there is the following signature: "correspondent of the press center of the Ministry of the Motor Vehicle Industry."

Here they are collected together. They "sing" of motor vehicles "in a northern modification," of giant tank trucks, of the RAF microbus, and of closed motor vehicle vans. Transported with delight, they glorify the ZAZ-

1102: "The new minicar meets exacting consumer requirements--it is steady, maneuverable, and reliable. The car's weight has been lowered and its cabin has expanded--it has become a comfortable, two-volume, and three-door car. The new model also represents a new production level. Robotization and automation will change the plant's appearance fundamentally."

"Oka is an exceptionally efficient, superior-roadability motor vehicle of the well-known old Zaporozhets category. Oka has a modern, three-door universal body and a two-cylinder engine."

"Moskvich (AZLK-2141) will raise its rating. Its road qualities, comfort, and equipment with instruments bring it close to Volga."

"Takhion--an undiscovered speed particle." This is about a racing bicycle.

Unrestrained glorification. Advertisement, advertisement, advertisement.

Works with the label "made at the ministry" flow like a stream into newspapers, journals, television, and radio. Boastful, rose-colored, and cheerful reports. Losing the sense of objectivity and measure, the "sector's chroniclers" zealously beat parade kettledrums here and there. Narrow-departmental "blinkers" blind their eyes and prevent them from seeing real life with its difficulties, contradictions, and shortcomings.

Things have gotten to the point that central newspapers are forced to refute published report articles by press center workers.

The talk at the conference held at the press center of the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy is remarkable. Addressing contributors to, as well as editors of, large-circulation newspapers, the chairman literally said the following:

"Unfortunately, our own ministry appears mostly in dark tones in the central press. Yes, we do not deny that the criticism is valid. But let us, workers at the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy, show the sector's work from the bright side, in bright colors. Let us manifest persistence and find approaches to the editorial departments of the central press!"

It is said that the board of the Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building has told off press center workers as follows:

"Last year PRAVDA correspondents criticized our sector twice. Why didn't you force your way into the pages of the CPSU Central Committee organ with positive experience?! Report to us, who did persistently knock at PRAVDA's door?"

Apparently, that is why workers at this ministry's press center have suddenly begun to attack our editorial department with telephone calls!

Workers at press centers of ministries catch it:

"You should forestall critical statements by the central press with an abundance of positive articles on our sector's achievements. Forestall! And if you don't manage to do so, you should provide several positive announcements for a critical one."

Press center workers complain that they are forced to popularize dubious innovations and poor-quality machinery. They are pressured and oppressed and demands are placed on them. "Ideological support"--this is how departments cynically refer to the publication in the capital press of articles cleverly advertising an unmarketable and even useless commodity.

For the sake of fairness we note that not everyone yields to such pressure. Hence the criterion for the selection of press center workers: The ability to get complimentary articles published, not creative talent, is regarded as of paramount importance. Not without reason the statute on the duties of correspondents at many press centers notes black on white: "Ensuring the movement of materials throughout the editorial cycle up to the publication or broadcast of an article."

Thus, as we see, the first commandment of press centers is to stubbornly and persistently sing the praises of those who pay.

The second duty is the "control and methodological guidance of multi-circulation newspapers." As a rule, however, information centers work on this poorly, which is quite logical: Enterprise newspapers--organs of party committees of enterprises--are called upon to ensure party guidance of newspapers.

"But they do not ensure this," says the Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building. "Newspapers receive our help with great gratitude. Here, read the letters from editors!"

Here we must stop. Yes, not all party committees actively guide the "infantry" of journalism--enterprise newspapers. Therefore, "gaps" are formed here and there. They are filled by press centers of ministries, which are sometimes very far removed from "infantrymen" (for example, take the Far East), whereas party committees, raykoms, gorkoms, obkoms, and kraykoms should carry out party guidance.

"Ownerless" enterprise newspapers... Such a situation forces party committees to clearly determine their position: Are newspapers of labor collectives, which, indeed, are in the forefront of restructuring, needed now or not? If they are needed, then they must be strengthened, organized, and involved in an active fight for changes and acceleration.

Finally, press centers make surveys of announcements in the central press on the work of the sector's headquarters for its managers and prepare (for them) reports and speeches, although we would like to note that there are special workers for this on the staff.

Press centers have greatly multiplied in capital departments--there is literally no end of them. It is impossible to count them, because the

"industry of glorification" is entrusted to so-called snowdrops considered scientific associates, engineers, and so forth--graduates of the Literary Institute and of faculties of journalism. Moreover, smart representatives of these centers are now accredited in republics, krays, and oblasts. Thus, in Tyumen conveyers for show operate at almost all main administrations (there are 10 here) and at many all-Union production associations. Contributors to rayon and multi-circulation newspapers, where there is such a shortage of journalists, have been enticed with high salaries to come here.

Moreover, even in Moscow there is an outflow of them from editorial departments to the notorious press centers, whose staff often has as many as 20 people. Pushers in the service of managers. After all, the press--it is said not without reason--is a party affair.

This is the face of the centers called upon to glorify the actions of ministries. Conveyers for show operate and pressure.

Now is the time of strict evaluations and of an impartial and truthful analysis of the state of affairs. Therefore, it seems that it is reasonable to finally stop the conveyers for show, on whose servicing people's sizable funds are spent. This is squandering justified by nothing!

11439

CSO: 1800/392

MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA

MINISTRIES UNRESPONSIVE TO NEWSPAPER CRITICISM

[Editorial Report] Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri on 21 February 1987 carries on page 4 a 500-word report by the Letter Department of KOMMUNIST headlined "An Ironic Declaration" on the failure of ministries and leading organizations to respond to criticism voiced in the columns of newspapers such as KOMMUNIST and others. Noting the AzSSR Ministry of Construction had promised a response to a criticism directed at the ministry's work and that the newspaper had, in fact, received this promise in the name of the minister, the newspaper claims that "those who signed the letter in his name have, if we may say so, deceived him" and points out that the ministry does not even subscribe to KOMMUNIST and "has no intention of doing so." Similar rejections of newspaper criticism are addressed to the Ministries of Light Industry, Communal Housing, Consumer Services, and others. KOMMUNIST maintains to the ministries concerned that "the newspaper's word is the word of the people, the party word. Your answer is your kind of accountability to those who have faith in you in this and other questions."

PARTY ORGANIZATIONS BLAMED FOR JOURNALISTIC SHORTCOMINGS

[Editorial Report] Baku ADABIYYAT VA INJASANAT in Azeri on 20 February 1987 carries on page 4 a 4900-word Azerinform report on proceedings of the Seventh Congress of the Azerbaijan Journalists Union headlined "We Must Become Propagandists of the Innovative Ideas of the Party." It was claimed that "shortcomings in the work of party committees in their leadership over journalist collectives are the basic reason behind their low level of influence." It was added that "if the party committee would restructure its work, then the press would also rebuild its own because strong and weak sides of the party committee's work are reflected in the newspaper which is its organ. It is a pity that some leading workers have still not eliminated such earlier diseases like the fear of openness and criticism."

AZERI JOURNALIST STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF 'OPENNESS'

[Editorial Report] Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri on 13 February 1987 carries on page 4 a 1700-word article by Nuraddin Babayev, journalism professor at the S.M. Korov Azerbaijan State University, in which he discusses the importance of "openness" in journalism; the article is headlined "Why Didn't We Write About It?" Noting that in the time before "openness" "we spoke about faults in our society in whispers," he adds that these "whispers" were detrimental in themselves because they "were often grist for the mill of enemy propaganda

and created the conditions for the spread of ungrounded insinuations, rumors, and scandals about our mistakes." He claims that "only by strengthening openness can its hidden and overt opponents be overcome. This is a difficult and complex problem. Strengthening openness and turning it into an effective channel of socialist democracy are the primary duties of journalists."

IDEOLOGY SEMINAR EMPHASIZES COUNTERPROPAGANDA

[Editorial Report] Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri on 13 February 1987 carries on page 3 an 800-word Azerinform report on a republic seminar for ideological workers at the Baku Higher Party School on the subject of reconstruction; the report is headlined "Ideological Work at the Level of Modern Demands." It was pointed out that "one must eliminate the years-old slogans, cliches, embroideries, and 'beautifications' of facts and events in ideological work and learn to talk with people straightforwardly and openly about problems and difficulties surfacing during restructuring. At this time one cannot sidestep up-to-date, important problems that disturb the people, or avoid answers to pointed questions." Meeting participants concluded, however, that "this is only the beginning. The mass media are not paying enough attention to operational effectiveness, analysis and discussion, and the quality of materials is poor."

JOURNALISTIC SHORTCOMINGS EXPOSED AT AZERBAIJAN CONGRESS

[Editorial Report] Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri on 14 February 1987 carries on page 1 a 1200-word Azerinform report on the opening of the Seventh Congress of the Azerbaijan Journalists Union headlined "We Must Be More Active in Restructuring the Work of Journalist Collectives." Speakers pointed out that "there are still many shortcomings in the activity of editorial collectives. Some of them are not operational enough and do not conduct creative journalistic investigations; they are not making an effort. In articles in republic newspapers and radio and television programs there is often a tendency to pass over pressing questions, to sidestep existing shortcomings, to take the easy path. For example, year after year journalists have turned to the same heroes at the same addresses, have described them and have not seen the flaws behind the 'external beauty.'" Cited as representative of this is the praise heaped upon Glavneftmash despite the poor quality of the equipment it produces.

/12913

CSO: 1830/434

MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA

AZERI 'PROGRESSIVES' FALL VICTIM TO 'BLACK FRIDAY' IN IRAN

[Editorial Report] Baku ADABIYYAT VA INJASANAT in Azeri on 20 February 1987 carries on page 8 a 1500-word article by Rovshan Valiyev with an introduction by A. Mammadrza on actions of the Islamic Republic of Iran directed at Iranian Azeri 'progressives' headlined "Don't Interrogate the Blacksmith." Noting that "the first achievements of the revolution were blocked by the strengthening of the right wing of the government, the elevation of reactionary and chauvinist forces, and the wild attacks by ignoramuses and fanatics," the article describes the events of "Black Friday" when books by Azeri authors and instruments of Azeri folk musicians were burnt by Iranian authorities. At the same time a number of Azeri intellectuals were arrested. The article claims that "in the course of 10 days writers' councils at 13 locations were broken up and those arrested were declared to be political prisoners. A heretofore unseen reaction had taken the initiative in Southern Azerbaijan. And who belongs to this reaction?... Nationalists who made their way into the apparatus of the Islamic Republic of Iran and secret Shah-lovers." It is claimed further that "one can say that the publishing of a national press in Azeri has been halted" and that "in newspapers the publications of articles in the mother tongue, in Azeri, has been forbidden."

/9738

CSO: 1831/407

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

HISTORICAL NOVEL ABOUT SOVIET INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS REVIEWED

[Editorial Report] Yerevan SOVETAKAN AYASTAN in Armenian on 16 September 1986 carries on page 4 a 700-word article, published under the rubric "Newly Published," by A. Gevorgyan titled "The 'Foreigner' Returned...." The article is a review of a book by Sergey Chobanyan titled "Harkadir 'Pakhust'" [Forced Escape], published in Yerevan in 1986 by the Hayastan Publishing House. A complete work in its own right, it is also a continuation of "Yerrord Handipum" [Third Encounter] (published in 1968) and "Menamart Endhatakum" [Duel in the Underground] (published in 1972). This book is of special interest, the reviewer notes, because it informs the reader about the exploits of Armenian Checkists. The author spent more than 20 years collecting material for his book, examining many archives and interviewing a great many people, both at home and abroad, having connection with the heroes and events depicted in this book, and has created a work which is faithful to historical fact. In this volume, in contrast to the preceding two volumes, which were set during the Great Patriotic War and dealt with the activities of Soviet intelligence officers deep behind enemy lines, the narrative deals with events which took place immediately after victory was won, when the Germans were attempting to hide all their documents to prevent them from falling into Soviet hands, as well as in the period when the CIA stepped up its activities in the USSR, planting recruited agents, especially in areas bordering Soviet Armenia. The facts and individuals described in this book are true, but names have been changed. The reviewer has a few minor criticisms, but praises the book highly.

/9738

CSO: 1838/402

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

HISTORY EDUCATION INADEQUATE IN GEORGIAN SCHOOLS, VUZ'S

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Georgian on 22 January 1987 carries on page 3 under the title "The Past Must Serve the Present" a 2,400-word article by Professor A. Surguladze, head of Tbilisi State University's Department of USSR History, concerning the inadequacy of history instruction in Georgia's schools and VUZ's. In particular, total classroom hours devoted to USSR, Georgian, and world history are insufficient (some figures are given); textbooks are skimpy and outmoded, and auxiliary materials such as chrestomathies, maps, and popular publications are in short supply; the history departments have very few graduate students; and professors and instructors who should be writing seminal new works are, owing to low salaries, devoting their extracurricular time to tutoring to boost their income. One major result of all this is that Georgian secondary school graduates, for example, have a very poor knowledge of the history of their own people, the USSR, and the world.

The author also laments that a split has developed between the study of history (which includes archeology and ethnography as well), on the one hand, and the "social sciences" (including scientific communism, political economy, etc.) on the other, and historians tend to be left out of all-union conferences dealing with matters of ideology.

In one passage, Professor Surguladze contrasts today's "vacuum" in regard to historiography and its specialists with the brilliant historians who were writing and teaching in the 1930s (Berdzenishvili, Dzhavakhishvili).

The author focuses particularly on the poor quality of much of the historical literature in use today, especially works dealing with the 1950s-1970s, which tend to be superficial and opportunistic [konyunkturnyy], glossing over "sore points" and "prettifying" events and stages in the building of socialism. With reference to the party's appeals to get rid of "scholasticism" and "dogma" in evaluating history, Professor Surguladze quotes Patiashvili at the Tbilisi State University party aktiv to the effect that "dishonesty" in various aspects of life does not derive from historical traits but "has been acquired under present conditions."

Georgian historiography also lags badly in regard to cultural history, although to be sure a Department of Georgian Cultural History has been

created in Tbilisi State University. What is needed now in addition is a scientific-research laboratory to work on this field.

Finally, the author stresses the critical need for improved and broader-range historical studies as a tool to counter bourgeois propaganda, in particular to counter "sovietologists" who distort Georgia's experience with Russia, the installation of Soviet rule, nationality policies, friendship of peoples, and the like. At present, materials are superficial and lack system. One urgently needed remedy is for Georgian historians to study sources and materials being used by the bourgeois sovietologists, in particular to use foreign holdings such as the menshevik archives in Paris and at Harvard.

6854

CSO: 1830/451

RELIGION

UNREGISTERED BAPTIST ACTIVITIES DISCUSSED

Kiev RABOCHAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 87 p 3

[Article by V. Arestov, candidate of philosophical sciences, assistant professor at the Department of Scientific Atheism, Ethics, and Esthetics, Kiev State Pedagogical University imeni A. M. Gorkiy: "Instigators' Prayers"]

[Text] In recent years the self-styled and unofficially operating religious extremist "Council of Churches of Evangelical Christian Baptists" (STsEKhB) has been simply nagging the believers who are under its influence, requiring them to carry out "prayer weeks" and "prayer months" for the "salvation of the faith."

What has caused this crude pressure upon the awareness of the average believer, a pressure that is carried out to the point of hysteria?

This can be understood by using as an example one of the largest Protestant churches in the USSR -- the Baptist church. After the end of the Great Patriotic War there was a decrease in the rate of religious participation in that church, and a decrease in its monetary income. The crisis phenomena in religion, which, we might note, are completely natural for socialist society, have caused serious alarm among the Baptist activists, who have begun to seek a way out of the situation. Most of the believers are honest Soviet citizens, workers, and patriots, and the official directive organ elected by them --- the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christian Baptists (VSEKKhB) --- began by resolving their problems on purely religious paths, without slipping onto antisocial positions and without committing any violations of Soviet legislation concerning religious cults.

However, the situation that formed historically in the Baptist church is such that its congregations, during the prerevolutionary years and the first decade after the Great October, were socially unhomogeneous -- most of the average believers were peasants and the urban poor people employed in hand crafts, while the leading positions were occupied by rich farmers and their henchmen, and the trade bourgeoisie. Petty-bourgeois ideology and psychology were reflected in the practical life of the Baptist congregations.

Antisocial moods were introduced into the midst of the believers during the postwar years by a group of persons who had served their sentences or had succeeded in avoiding punishment: former rich farmers and their henchmen,

deserters, members of the Polizei, and their ilk, who had "seen the light" and who had found in the Baptist church a convenient cover for their vengeance on society. Taking advantage of the crisis situation in religion and the ferment in the ranks of the believers, these "formers" gave themselves the task of discrediting the Baptist church leaders who were loyal to the Soviet state and of switching the church onto the path of confrontation with the agencies of authority. To the honor of the Baptist believers, most of them did not yield to the provocations, but instead remained in loyal positions.

But the instigators who were using religious demagoguery and who were speculating on the believers' religious feelings succeeded in enticing a relatively insignificant but extremely active segment of the believers and switching them to antisocial positions. After adopting from bourgeois-clerical subversive centers in the West various "theories" concerning "state atheism" and the "persecutions of the faith" that allegedly occur in the USSR, and concerning the "second-class" citizenship of the believers, whose rights are allegedly being violated crudely in Soviet society, and using the political illiteracy of a small number of these believers, anti-Soviet G. Vins, former rich farmer S. Golev, Vlasovite D. Minyakov, deserter I. Antonov, rich farmer sons N. Khrapov and M. Khorev, and their ilk proclaimed themselves to be the "saviours of the faith" and declared a "crusade" for the "complete evangelization" of the USSR.

But from the very beginning, the "rebirth movement" began to warp in a direction that is very far from satisfying the religious needs of the believers. At the "prayer meetings" the leaders devoted only a miserly part of their sermons to the glorification of Christ, but expended the lion's share of their rhetoric and oratorical ardor to falsification and slander. Directing their principal attention to the children and adolescents in the Baptist families, they attempted to prepare a "Christ-like flourishing tribe" for the purpose of confronting the agencies of authority and for trampling crudely on Soviet laws; agitated against service in the ranks of the Soviet Army; and used various situations -- marriages, funerals of coreligionists who had died, and parties to send people off into the army -- for the purpose of organizing slanderous meetings.

Deafened by the religious-political blather and roused by the false assertions of their allegedly having been "chosen by God," the average believers at first followed their leaders obediently, gave them the rubles they had earned, went out into the forest and the ravines in order to listen to the latest series of provocational speeches, and tuned their radio receivers to the frequencies of Western radio stations when told to do so by their leaders, and thus they absorbed into their awareness, in addition to evangelical fairy tales, anti-Soviet propaganda.

The subversive anti-Soviet centers that had been created by the imperialists' intelligence services were delighted. One of the fervent anti-Soviet clerics, Anglican Church pastor Michael (Burdo) during those years wrote, having in mind the illegal activity of the so-called STsEKHB: "If this takes on everywhere the decisive nature that it has in the church of evangelical Christian Baptists, then Christianity can again prove to be one of the most dynamic forces in the future evolution of Soviet society."

That is the role that was assigned to the instigator-leaders, but the fate that was prepared for the ordinary believers was to act as the "gray mass," by the efforts of which the anti-Soviets intended to implement an "evolution," by which they meant the elimination of akes it possible to estimate the swap time so-called STsEKhB who were blinded by religious fanaticism, the serving of a false idea, the final goal of which they could not even guess, turned out to be completely wasted years, the rejection of a normal human life, and the loss of respect on the part of their fellow citizens, both believers and nonbelievers.

An "evolution" occurred, but not the one that the instigator-leaders and their foreign protectors had counted on. The average believers and some of the Baptist activists who were troubled by questions of faith but who had never even thought of serving the enemies of their country began gradually to see things more clearly.

In the late 1970's and early 1980's there was a "split within the split." In the "council of churches" itself the next stage in the power struggle began -- the leaders began reviling one another, heaping one another with accusations of all kinds of sins, of which there actually were a large number: the "older brothers," without any supervision, used the funds that had been collected from the believers "for church matters," scandalously divided the rags that had been sent by the foreign guardians, paid obviously un-Christian attention to the young "sisters in Christ," and their families thought not so much about God as they did about their personal profit. Those activists who objected to the line that did not have anything to do with faith were driven out of the "council of churches," as were those who failed to agree with the practice of antisocial provocations and who were indignant at the ties that the "council" had with such Western centers of subversion as Underground Evangelization, Slavic Mission, International Amnesty, and others like them.

Two of the "council" founders -- S. Dubovoy and M. Shaptala -- disappeared unnoticed from its list, and its well-known functionary, "bringer of good tidings No. 1" Anatoliy Petrenko, from Shostka, Sumy Oblast, broke with the extremist center. He spoke openly about the nowise holy customs that prevailed in the leadership of the so-called STsEKhB, for which he was immediately declared to be a traitor to the "holy cause."

But the main thing lay in the fact that entire groups of believers began to get out from under the subordination to the so-called STsEKhB in Donetsk, Kharkov, Rostov, Kursk, and Rovno oblasts, Moldavian SSR, Krasnodar Kray, and other places, taking the legal path of religious activity. They were convinced that no one in the USSR was violating the believers' rights and that the freedom of conscience that was guaranteed by the country's Constitution was being carried out scrupulously, just as they understood the quagmire that their "older brothers," who had covered themselves with religion, were attempting to lead them.

The Western protectors, with doubled energy, started to require their wards to increase their participation rate sharply, to intimidate the believers more

with "the Lord's punishment," to continue the collecting and sending to the West of anti-Soviet concoctions concerning the "persecutions," etc. A. Petrenko told about the admission made by the self-styled chairman of the so-called STsEKhB, G. Kryuchkov: "It is necessary to speak frankly, and not to close one's eyes to the fact that, as soon as the flow of information there (that is, to the West) stops, there will be no prayers there..."

Religious extremist M. Khorev, who is well-known for his immoderate pseudoliterary fertility, revealed, without desiring to do so, both the true position of the "church" and its leaders' goals. In 1985 he published, in the slanderous VESTNIK ISTINY, an article under the curious title "Insane for the Sake of Christ." In text that made no attempt at concealment, the person who had been a member of the "council of churches" for many years called upon the believers to take the positions of "insanity," that is, extremism and fanaticism that were completely unprecedented. He told how he had attempted, in one of the congregations, to conduct an illegal mass assemblage, asking one of the faithful to chop down an orchard on his personal plot, thus freeing a place for setting up a large tent under which the "praying" would occur. However, the believers, using various pretexts, refused to do that. Finally one fanatic agreed, and Khorev exclaimed, "Are many people capable to doing this? There are few people like this."

The extremist thus admits that the believers, albeit passively, have been resisting the leaders, having no desire to feed the pride of the "older brothers" who are greedy to prance around and pontificate to their audience and to destroy the fruits of many years of labor.

Another member of the "council of churches," Ye. Rodoslavov, from Odessa, who is well known among the believers as a person who likes the "beautiful" life, published in the same VESTNIK ISTINY his own sermon, "Faith Is the Source of Strength," in which, as it were, he concretizes Khorev, showing what categories of believers do not want to follow those who are "insane in Christ": they are the "elders" who had previously "demonstrated audacity"; "ministers' wives" who "cannot understand that difficult grace of self-sacrifice"; and "young people" who do not want to "suffer." It is necessary for the leaders to intimidate them with "spiritual destruction," but even this is no longer yielding the desired results.

In the mid-1980's the pastors and preachers of the Baptist groups that had got from under the subordination to the "council of churches" and had taken the legal path of religious activity distributed among the believers a document under the title of "Fraternal Consent," in which they directly admitted that "in the environment of separated brotherhood there occurs a stratification with respect to the attitude to the present-day course of the Council of Churches. Certain congregations and ministers in the church cannot agree unconditionally with the actions of the ministers in the Council of Churches, or accept their opinions as being mandatory for execution."

That is why, when attempting to stop the process that is so undesirable for them -- the process by which the believers who have been deceived by them are changing over to civil positions -- the leaders of the "council of churches," urged on by their Western "benefactors," are turning themselves inside out,

thinking up various "prayer months" and inflating the religious fanaticism and extremism. Therefore it is necessary to fight for every believer who has not yet become completely aware of the true goals of the extremists, including the fight for the young people who have lent themselves to the lure of false religious "heroism." The times for negative phenomena, among which religious extremism has occupied a place that is by no means the last place, have passed.

So at the present time Lenin's words are more timely than they have ever been before -- his words concerning the need for the unity of the proletarians -- both the believers and the nonbelievers -- in the struggle to create paradise on earth, the struggle to prevent antisocial elements who have concealed themselves with religion, and their Western "mentors," from undermining that unity.

5075

CSO: 1800/382

RELIGION

AZERBAIJAN GEORGIANS' RELIGIOUS, ETHNIC REVIVAL SKETCHED

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Georgian on 6 December 1986 carries on page 4 Mikheil Kuloshvili's 700-word article, titled "For They Remained Georgians," concerning the religious and ethnic revival of the Ingilos (Georgians inhabiting districts in western Azerbaijan) in the 19th century. Despite centuries of savage oppression and forced Moslemization at the hands of the Persians, Lezghians, and Tatars who held sway there, the Georgians of Saingilo kept alive the flame of their Christian faith--in secret while outwardly manifesting Moslem beliefs--and managed to maintain their language and customs. Then in 1850, a patriot named Ivan-Baba Bulugashvili (1801-1872) and several of his associates took the bold step of having themselves baptized, and they spearheaded what became an Ingilo renaissance. They undertook to build a Georgian church on the site of a razed mosque which itself had been erected on the site of an old Georgian church. They went door to door and persuaded parents to send children to school in the home of a priest named Mikheil (Mirza) Kuloshvili; a full-fledged Georgian school was opened in 1858. All of these were acts of true heroism at that time. Thanks to these efforts, and with some help from important figures of the day in Georgia, the Ingilos preserved their faith, their language, their Georgianness. The author of the article proposes that a celebration in honor of Bulugashvili, Ivan-Babaoba, be instituted in Kakhi.

6854

CSO: 1830/452

RELIGION

BETTER ATHEIST WORK NEEDED IN UZBEKISTAN

Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 10 Dec 86 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Let's Raise the Atheist Education of the Public to the Level of the Present-Day Requirements: Topic of the Single Political Day Which Will Be Held in Uzbekistan on 12 December"]

[Excerpts] As was noted at the 21st Congress of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, religion acts as a tremendous inhibitor of public, economic, and social development and the confirmation of the socialist way of life and communist morality. Closely intertwined in the religious survivals and backward customs and mores are oppositions to the changes in our life, as well as petty-bourgeois elements and a psychology of private ownership, and a large number of undesirable phenomena.

The anti-popular, anti-scientific essence of religion manifests itself even more graphically in its attitude toward phenomena of social life; there is, for example, the suggestion to the believers that they should be meek and humble. Asserting that class inequality is a "law" that has been dictated by God and has been predetermined by Him, religion always justified social oppression and drew a veil over class contradictions.

Religion provides an untrue, distorted idea concerning reality, displaces the real scale of values, devalues the true ones and extols the illusory, imaginary ones, suggests a false program of life and an idea concerning a meaning and goal of life which are situated somewhere outside of life itself, somewhere beyond its limits.

The harm that religion inflicts has the most acute, most tragic effect on the believer himself. But scientific atheism emancipates a person's awareness from delusions and prejudices, and frees his life from archaic and conservative traditions and customs.

We also do not have the right to forget that religion is a variety of an ideology that is alien to us. This principle takes on particular significance in connection with the ideological struggle that has become more acute, a struggle in which an increasingly active role is played by clerical anticommunism and the attempts of imperialistic circles to use religion for

political purposes against socialism, for the purpose of persecuting everything that is advanced and progressive.

Thus, in the prerevolutionary Central Asian khanates, Islam, having combined within itself the secular and religious spheres, equating morality and law, permeated the entire structure of society and was a force that actively supported the stability and durability of dominance by the reactionary regimes, and the clergy acted as a leading propaganda force. The life of every individual from its beginning to end was under the clergy's control. Islam served as the basis of the stable views of society and certain individuals concerning the life around them and the value orientations that guided the Muslims in their everyday life and activities. It exerted a decisive effect upon the reproduction of the ideas and views of society and its moral principles, and completely permeated education, legal proceedings, etc.

The growth of the economy, culture, and the sociopolitical and labor participation of the Central Asian nations, and the changes in their social-class structure as a result of the victory of the Great October and the historic achievements of socialism, became the objective sources that promote the liberation of various aspects of the life of society and the individual from under the religious influence.

The socialist state does not need religion as a means of unification and consolidation. Marxist-Leninist ideology became that factor for consolidating and uniting Soviet citizens. The moral values and ideals of our society are completely free of religion. Religion does not play any role in our economy, politics, law, or educational system, and exerts an influence only upon the moral values and ideas of individual citizens. Having lost its support in the leading areas of life in Soviet society, Islam, like the other religions, has now become a matter of personal conscience, and occupies a place only in the sphere of social psychology and personal life.

But underestimating the harm and danger of religious ideology, and feeling that religion will die out of its own accord and thus there is no need to expend efforts to further this, will be a serious delusion and error. Wherever atheistic work is not carried out, religion can firmly retain its viability and, moreover, can increase the number of its followers. As was noted at the 3rd Plenum of the Uzbek CP Central Committee, during recent years that work has become weaker in our republic, and in individual cities and rayons has been completely nullified. The belittling of the danger of religious prejudices, the camouflaging of atheistic education with declarative slogans and, at times, the playing of games with the clergy have led to a definite religious splash, especially in Islam. Gullible, easily-deceived people continue to make pilgrimages to the so-called "holy places." Various kinds of charlatans, posing as ministers of the faith, use prejudices and superstitions for their own selfish purposes, and engage in the carrying out of ceremonies, sorcery, the healing of the sick, and the unauthorized building of new houses of prayer.

A considerable number of newlyweds continue to marry in accordance with religious canons, and the attraction to religious ceremonies with all their

extravagance has seized many people. A large number of people take the attitude toward Islam that it is a mandatory attribute of national life and they evaluate uncritically the role of Islam in the development of the culture and art of the nation.

The clergy makes strenuous attempts to adapt the religious ideology to present-day conditions, to modernize it, to reconcile religion with science, and to substantiate the humanistic essence of religious, including Islamic, morality, and is speculating on people's esthetic needs and emotions. Individual representatives of the clergy in all trends attempt to substantiate the religious dogmas and norms of behavior by national customs and traditions and to present religion as being the guardian of the cultural heritage of the nations and nationalities in our country and in our republic. And this does not occur without leaving any traces. There have been attempts to channel the natural interest in the nation's past into a religious, nationalistic way of thinking, and there are some who are beginning to speak of the desirability of showing tolerance toward religious ideas and religious morality. Such concessions in one's political philosophy play into the hand of the proponents of mysticism and religious superstition and our ideological opponents.

Certain young people, although they themselves are not believers, consider it their duty, in the face of the traditions of Islam, to "respect the customs of our nation," to respect "what has remained to us from our fathers and grandfathers," and take a prejudicial attitude toward people who think otherwise.

A tremendous influence upon the formation of a person's atheistic convictions is exerted by his production-labor activity in the collective. It is only that activity that develops such qualities as collectivism, a conscientious attitude toward labor and social property, and an understanding of the fact that it is not religion, but a person's labor, his intelligence and energy that are the creator of material and spiritual values, and the basis of his personal prosperity. This is of especially great importance for our republic, where a considerable part of the population does not participate in social production.

The existence in the labor collective of an atmosphere of a creative attitude toward labor is a very important factor that promotes the formation of a scientific, atheistic view of the world.

Another very important factor for overcoming a religious attitude is the sociopolitical activity of the workers. The data provided by specific sociological studies indicates that the level of atheistic conviction is directly dependent upon the person's rate of sociopolitical participation. Participation in sociopolitical work reinforces people's ties with society, with their collective, and promotes the integration of their behavior and way of thinking with the way of life of the entire Soviet nation. Another factor of great importance in this regard is the creation of a favorable moral-psychological climate in the labor collectives, the strictest observance of the principles of social justice, and the showing of concern, respect, and constant attention to every individual, the lack of which is skillfully used by the members of the clergy.

Practical life indicates that under our conditions it is very difficult to bring a socially active individual into the orbit of religious influence.

But the formation of firm atheistic convictions is possible only by simultaneously exerting upon a person an ideological influence and a practical social influence that coincide in content, that is, only on the basis of the simultaneous development of his consciousness and his practical experience.

In this regard a factor that is of extreme importance is the cultural-cognitive activity of all members of the collective. In the process of assimilating various kinds of knowledge, a person develops his scientific, political, and moral convictions. Knowledge, in addition to the effect of other factors, is capable of leading also to a change in the convictions that believers have formed.

The formation of the individual's atheistic view of the world is also promoted by the carrying out in the collective of broad information directed at the workers. The party and social organizations at enterprises and institutions must show constant concern for improving the content of that work, and its ideological-political directedness and its understandability.

A condition that promotes the formation of people's atheistic conviction is the strict observance of the norms of socialist democracy. Practical life indicates that every violation of its principles, as a rule, leads to a sharp reduction in the effectiveness of ideological, particularly atheistic education. Socialist democracy provides the workers with the opportunity to participate in the administration of production, to improve their working conditions, to raise their proficiency level and improve their education, and to improve their everyday living conditions, that is, it instills in a person an assurance about his emotions and strengths, and his sense of his own dignity, and develops the conviction that the person himself is the master of his fate.

Finally, a special place in the formation of the public's atheistic conviction is the educational system, which includes mass-scale and individual forms of propagandizing atheistic knowledge and the formation of the materialistic view of the world.

In the areas where Islam is widespread, special importance is being given to what V. I. Lenin considered to be the most important thing in atheistic propaganda, namely: giving the masses a self-interest in taking a conscious attitude to religious questions and to the conscious criticism of religion, and forming a politically correct attitude toward Islam.

It is necessary constantly to carry out a scientific criticism of the essence of religious theory and the cult, and to explain not only the ideological harm of a particular religious ceremony, but also to indicate that the attitude toward it that it is a "national tradition" does not allow the nation to go forward, inflicts direct harm to it, and pulls it back. This is because we are dealing not with a loss of a truly valuable form that reflects the

national uniqueness, but the rejection of something that at one time was brought in from the outside and that, during the period of feudal dominance and the age of ignorance and darkness, became widespread.

A leading place in educating the upcoming generation must be occupied by the formation of a thorough understanding of such very important concepts as patriotism, love of the Soviet nation, and concern for its flourishing. Internationalism, friendship between peoples, and the reciprocal enrichment of national cultures objectively contribute to the formation and confirmation of atheistic conviction and eliminate the very possibility of the appearance of religious-nationalistic moods and prejudices.

Under present-day conditions, when there has been an increase in the interest shown to the monuments of national culture and history, special importance is attached to the critical analysis of the true role of religion, particularly Islam, in the history of nations, the role that it plays in preserving ideas that have outlived their time, and the separation of religious ideology from the cultural values that emerge in a religious envelopment.

New Soviet rites have been called upon to play an important role in overcoming the attraction to religious rites. It is necessary to strive for a situation in which these Soviet rites encompass all aspects of people's lives, become firmly established in a truly mass-scale, universal, organic way in everyday life, and absorb the best nonreligious national features that have been accumulated over the centuries.

Solemn ceremonies to initiate people into the working class and the kolkhoz peasantry and to mark a person's entrance into the ranks of the Soviet Army, the honoring of advanced workers in production and of labor dynasties, the presentation of internal passports and Komsomol cards, the conducting of Memory Day, and other excellent ceremonies must become firmly established in the life of every collective. It is necessary to intensify the work of the agencies at the ZAGS [vital statistics department], the marriage palaces, and the other organizations and institutions that have been called upon to develop socialist traditions.

An absolutely mandatory condition for the effectiveness of atheistic education is its systems approach and its unbroken continuity. Atheistic education must be carried out aggressively, beginning with the kindergarten, in the family, the school, the vocational-technical schools, the secondary special and higher educational institutions, the army, and the labor collectives. For this purpose it is necessary to use all forms and means of disseminating scientific atheism: the press, oral political and graphic agitation, the Marxist-Leninist educational system, clubs, palaces of culture, museums and libraries, question and answer nights, discussions, lecture and movie-lecture series, readers' conferences, and excursions. In a word, it is necessary to have a precise differentiation of the forms and means of exerting an atheistic effect upon various groups of the public, with a consideration of the place of their residence, national peculiarities, the type of work they perform, their training, and their recreational activities. A special place in this matter must be assigned to individual work with believers; this work has been organized at a very low level everywhere.

The religious narcotic and the sly intrigues of our ideological opponent must be opposed by a high level of professionalism among our cadres -- atheists, all the ideological workers -- the morality and culture of socialist society, the frankness of information and openness, the bold and creative nature of our propaganda, and its combativeness and aggressiveness. Only this kind of stubborn and systematic, comprehensive work can provide positive results.

Unfortunately, as was pointed out at the 3rd Plenum of the Uzbek CP Central Committee, there have been instances, and not individual ones, in which the participants in religious rites have included members of the Communist Party and the Komsomol and managerial workers, but the party organizations have not shown even the elementary exactingness toward the Communists who have been attempting to combine party spirit with religious prejudices. Sometimes the attempt to justify this is made by incorrectly citing Article 52 of the USSR Constitution, which grants Soviet citizens the right of freedom of conscience, that is, the right to make a personal decision on the question concerning his attitude toward religion.

Proceeding from these Leninist principles, the 21st Congress of the UzSSR Communist Party and the 3rd Plenum of the Uzbek CP Central Committee have required an increase in the responsibility borne by Communists for the state of atheistic propaganda, for the introduction and confirmation of new Soviet rites, and for the absolutely strict observance of the requirements of the CPSU Rules to the effect that a Communist must "wage a decisive struggle against any manifestations of bourgeois ideology or a psychology of private ownership, and against religious prejudices and other views and mores that are alien to the socialist way of life."

The 26th CPSU Congress and the 21st Uzbek CP Congress have developed a number of specific measures for overcoming the shortcomings and omissions in economic and cultural building, in carrying out the social policy and ideological work, and in atheistic education.

5075

CSO: 1800/382

CULTURE

CONTROVERSIAL LATVIAN FILM ON YOUTH PROBLEMS REVIEWED

Riga LITERATURA UN MAKSĻA in Latvian 30 Jan 87 p 8

[Article by Victor Avotinsh under rubric "Cinema": "Bird of Youth over Crowd and Basement." Critique on the film "Is it Easy to be Young?" Authors of the script: Abrams Klyotskin, Yuris Podnieks, and Yevgeniys Margolins. Director: Yuris Podnieks. Camera: Kalvis Zaltsmanis. Music: Martinsh Brauns; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface in text]

[Text] Despite social differentiation and the contradictions within each person, there is only one continent of mankind in which if a person, young or old, muddies the well of experience and heritage, he ruins his life, his future, and his own heritage. In order to assess this continent's life force, one must not only find the practical significance of a certain event, but also discover its ethical meaning. If we look at three films made by Yuris Podnieks and his collaborators --"Riflemen Constellation", "Sisyphus Rolls a Stone", and "Is it Easy to be Young?"--it seems that no other works of art or journalism in the eighties have so convincingly uncovered the modern condition of man. People in these films, it seems, return from old age back to their youth, evaluating themselves, their times, and their environment from three stages in their lives. In addition, these films are made "from the ground up" without any especially unique professional methods and without unique research into the depth of society. The "material" of these films may be seen in every-day life, as regularly discussed in newspapers, but it seems that it required the "miracle drug" of (atklātība) openness for us to be able to see real life on the screen, more or less, rather than an official account of it. Besides, there are pure relations between the heroes and the makers of the films and mutual harmony among creative groups; and, therefore, one senses united purpose rather than the separate and self-serving purposes of their creators.

This question of unity in all three films may be cited under one title "Is it Easy to Be?" not only with regard to fate and history, but also because of the continuous dialogue between experience and love, dualism between a person's question and society's answer, between a historic experience and its interpretation in time, between a word and an action, desires and possibilities, duty and explanation . . . Neither (atklātība) openness itself nor honesty (I do not see a reason to accuse authors of other, less effective, films of dishonesty) in my opinion guarantees the film a free atmosphere.

Openness creates trust, while significance is created by the orientation of the authors toward reality itself, rather than toward notions and theories concerning reality. Moral, ethical, and preconceived cliches hamper many works of the Riga documentary film-makers. In this case, first of all, the work is protected from the cliches imposed by the authors; secondly, the authors can therefore place themselves among the heroes of their film without being didactic; and thirdly, the viewer meets the "primary source" rather than hears it through retelling. You see, therefore, that one is stirred up not only by the fact, but also by the soul; we perceive that the soul, and thus the viewer, if he wants, can perceive more than he sees. Three films, three generations. From the riflemen's youth to the youth of his child, which Aivars Gulbis is forced to take from the hands of a bronze mother that he himself created.

/The riflemen. The majority of them in the timeframe of the film live with the pride of their experience, without pretense and without any signs of special social benefits, and their honor lies with the plough, with bees . . . A tourist or a passer-by would see that here lives one of those whose actions resulted in one of our people's most courageous moments of self-expression. The ideal for which they fought, and the comparison of that ideal with its realization at this time becomes important both in the riflemen themselves and in reality. The theme of the film is a lesson about a hero who did not perform his heroic deeds for money, and who does not wear his heroic deeds on his sleeve. The film reminds society that the ideal and its outer vestiges are not good which are bought once and then last forever, and that they must be continually "reproduced" in men, in generations, and in society. At the same time, the authors of the film present these old men as a strong social foundation, and not only for the history of the formation of our society. In my opinion, a quite definite dialogue exists between the heroes of "Riflemen Constellation" and of "Is it Easy to be Young?" If the hero of "Is it Easy to be Young?" in all of his good nature (this will be discussed later) conditionally expresses such "free love" toward the world and mankind which does not involve any specific duties and restrictions, if this hero somehow constantly distances himself and considers society mostly as a mechanism which is socially disconnected from himself and his interests, then the measure of the cultural depth of the old men is precisely the feeling of duty and the ability to assimilate their own situation within the total situation of the cultures and to find their place there. When the family and the school every day use the ideal in order to realize moral-ethical views which support only a temporary, selfish, and materialistic mental outlook, it is not surprising that young people do not have patriotic feelings. Therefore, the student Yuris in the film "Is it Easy to be Young?" honestly remarks: "But it does not say anything in principle to our generation." Such things happen not only when history is taught approximately, but in addition, when the students are ordered to stand with their backs toward the future (you see all roads except your own and, therefore, you do not see the usefulness of the available experience). Yuris himself expresses the extreme situation that emerges when a person lacks the practical ethical sense of linkage with society: "There is nothing worth living or dying for." Because, you see, the young boys' patriotism begins not with bees or with work, but with a parade, with marching. In addition, they are to pretend that they know why they are

marching, to walk around in neatly fit uniforms and shiny belts won by the home front rats strolling through the front lines during war time. In the film "Is it Easy to be Young?", this episode serves as a convincing example of how the loss of touch between the ideal (how it is taught) and reality becomes approximate; and of how it does not affect everyday moral norms. Here also is revealed the significance of the problem raised in "Riflemen Constellation": our attitude toward the ideal NOW, riflemen's experience and life as the alternate PRESENT. The riflemen's experience and life as the alternate PRESENT. The riflemen are at the PRESENT MOMENT, and we are at the PRESENT MOMENT./

I do not see any necessity to "repair" the film "Is it Easy to be Young?" The approach chosen by the authors seems to me to be convincing, the journalistic result is impressive, and the subject for thoughts is rich and multilayered. Naturally, during the polemics about the film, differences in opinion also appeared. However, this may be already a discussion of another film. For example, it seems to me that in the film's context, the episode with the girl and the child actually does not belong. Not because of the girl, but because here, and to a certain extent in the episode concerning the dead boy, the film "falls out" of style: the authors are hovering over the heroes and start (not using the actual image) to give instructions in their own voice. However, such "preparation" may indirectly divert from the essential, and make the significance of the realistic combined image approximate. Moreover, collective work is obvious in the film, which more or less was able to show what has already become, as it is, a sociological step.

Yes, yes, indeed there are not "all layers" in the film. There are no superstupid dregs of society, no young conformists, as well as no other young and compulsory, but maybe not so openly extreme characters. There are no "all" and "everything" at all, only real people. People who can be, and are, real, each of them able to introduce a certain sign of his generation. The thinking in the film is precise and effectively addressed. This film often shows specifically one of the greatest abilities of Yuris Podnieks and his collaborators: to discover the inner character, richness, and purity of heart among the stereotypes and seemingly the most unusual people and places. And if we start imagining that the film could have other "alls", we must bring ourselves in a hurry to other things and our own work in this connection. However difficult it is to say something from the heart, we cannot want for Yuris Podnieks to do it along with his group. The film's authors ought to be told that one more degree of openness exists. There is not only a social revelation as a cut across the base, but also a cut from the top to the roots. Our own people will always understand without words and without a sound, but those social institutions, which are guilty of our difficulties, will understand only when a finger with all its force (image, word, and sound) will be shoved directly into their eye.

The main heroes of the film are endowed with a tangible human energy potential. They are attractive, mentally unspoiled people, whose openness definitely has content, and whose reproach of society is not an empty ambition, but rather is the result of their self-evaluation. In the film we see independent people, who in our routine life seem to us to be less

attractive than obedient people. An impression emerges that these people have the ability to take and to reject, without which qualities a person is an automaton that they more or less understand themselves, and that the closer they are to their own essence, the more ability they have to harmonize with their social group. Therefore, I think that the notion "new, young" is optimistic within the boundaries of the film. The film not only corrects the stereotyped opinion that young people lack ideas, but also discovers the live spiritual forces, and if these forces vanish, only an abstract will remain and the culture will fade.

However, each spirituality is confirmed only in practice, in the attitude and in self-expression rather than in potential capabilities. The heroes of the film can consciously separate the real from the false, they want to see reasons instead of explanations alone. I could say that the struggle for existence, that is, its unattractive types, have not damaged them yet. However, the social support alone obviously was not enough for them, so that in their thoughts, feelings, and beliefs they obtained such a wide personal experience, which would allow one to consider that their psychology had overcome its "self-centered formation." In the film, these young people possess one of the acceptable practical ways (you can have a heart-to-heart talk, it is worth it to open up), an exception, which in this case confirms the relationship. In the "to be" category, the relations between the young and the environment are not any more as attractive and bright as when the young are out for themselves. It is especially true, considering the positive potential background which the film discovers in young people. Why is this so? The young, as is expected at their age, want to deal with an ideal world. We think that it is good enough if we provide them with an activity (noncreative work) which does not demand their tremendous energy. They (thank God) are not yet interested in our alibi, which we call circumstances. Each of them is the quality of his own moment. And then, when they need self-respect most of all, and when there is nothing more important than to find a position where the strongest sides of the mind and the character are expressed, we offer A PRIORI small ethical and aesthetic plots. We forget that we ourselves in our time were offended when somebody else had his finger in the pie instead of us. We forget that at this age, even the most unattractive and the most rude expressions contain a longing for a touch and a human statement. And one word is enough to provide a direction for this liability. Very often it is determined by the artificiality of social contacts and by the degrees of hypocrisy. Why then do they "dry out" from their ideals and the heights of idealism or keep these ideals only for requests from society? They don't do it for themselves and for their activity in the name of these ideals. They do it in an entirely subjective plane because there are differences between the personal interests of this moment and the interests of the developing personality. If these differences cannot be overcome in favor of development, something called vice, hypocrisy, etc. emerges. For example, pleasure usually follows or is felt during an activity. In order to experience pleasure without work, one must use drugs. Secondly, they "dry out" because the bright and ideal aspirations meet greatly materialistic obstacles which can cut off oxygen to any noble shoot. These too great obstacles in the path of the development of normal social feelings, it seems, are one of the most important reasons for pessimism among young

people. There is not enough sufficient cultural means in the hands of young people for self-assertion. In traditional practice, where all the materialistic power resides, very often a refrain is ordered that has nothing to do with creative work, honesty, and ideals. Here also emerges that "tragedy of wanting and being unable" which is felt in the pronouncements of the film's heroes; and the more conservative the environmental attitude toward young people, the more aggressive the expressions of the young people's complexes, and the more expressed opposition they experience. In this sense, the film "Is it Easy to be Young?" is a film about alternatives and about the quality of alternatives offered to the young people.

Paraphrasing the words which the amateur filmmaker Igors says in the film, it seems that the alternatives offered to our young people are such that they very well may experience when they are thirty, forty, and even a hundred years old. To sing the same pseudo-optimistic artificial verses; to prance the parade grounds with victories which were never won; to shout at a girl who wants a white dress that she is a prostitute, and after that to order that she is not to jump from a window and that she is to live, because it is the correct thing to do; and, finally, to try the results rather than the reasons. Igors expresses one of the most precise thoughts in the film, which is one of the most essential to our culture's make-up and to the fortitudes of the young, namely that what you want to say when you are 19 years old will be lost when you are 20; your 20 will not wait for you to become 25 and not at all until you become "respectable." The lack of young people's voices in artistic and nonartistic parts of our culture is at least as important as the lack of a certain theme or historical period in our artistic memory. Of course, we are talking about a creative voice. Then, why is it that Igors must realize his ideas and principles in a "basement" (we are not talking about a specific film)? Why is it that Igors must realize his ideas and principles in a "basement" (we are not talking about a specific film)? Why did the mailman choose as his philosophy the dogmatic Veda teachings. Leaves are not born separately from the stem and roots. The direct and indirect questions in the film concerning "to be", first of all, are directed at society and its mood.

Conformism is presented as a means of coexistence. The exploitation by the environment (grown-ups) is without respect and mercy. It is because they often consider the pragmatism of grown-ups as extreme: "Those who are around forty all lie, steal, and poke" (teenager on the Central TV program). I think that the important thing in the film is that together with the intellectuals there are also laborers with their attitudes and notions, who represent the money earners, or maybe the bread-winners, even though the results of their work may not last for ages. In addition, there is also love as an abstract thesis. In school they are taught that it means a "medical clarity" between two human beings. It is possible to learn from the grown-ups that it is higher and nobler than just that? Without dreams, illusions, eternity, and starry personality and environment, the friction becomes painful.

Therefore, the type of attitudes offered by the authors of the film is especially important. It convincingly discovers how important are openness, mutual honesty, and equality in the formation of culture, personality, self-understanding, and self-expression. If only there were no ranks, chairs,

positions, and the average statistical man, this film could be, with regard to a style of attitudes, a "manual" for many people "tending the fields" of society.

There is the staged charge of dissatisfied fancily-dressed youth (or punks) through the Old City. A bunch of satisfied young boys and girls, who on Sunday are dressed in blue jeans, wearily participate in assistance work. And an undifferentiated mass of people, who vitally, and, let us assume, very stupidly, and at the same time nonaggressively are having fun at the Ogre's town open platform for dancing. It is specifically this same crowd which produces the notorious criminal results on the train, and the criminal punishment for some, which is a punishment without a positive, socially-psychological and educational result. This result does not have a single feature, which is either unfinished or misunderstood. All these crowds serve in the film as a realistic social background, and as a "home town" for many heroes of the film. From the outside, these features characterize the belonging, style, fashion, and behavior of young people. This is to say that the film is in its place. However, even people of my age get together in a crowd (although it is not so conspicuous). These crowds are also often unattractive and boring. And for some unknown reasons, the mechanisms which transform vitality into savageness are the same for crowds of all ages. It may be that they are different with regard to the means that are used.

There are those who came back from Afghanistan. It seems that the authors of the film have found boys who withstood both the war and its heavy aftermath. Only, please, let us not imagine that in their fortunes we have found a generally recommended remedy for how to discover courage and how to figure out a man's value. Let us imagine all these boys in line; and only then will we see how many spots are empty, how many empty sleeves are there, and how many could not withstand the relaxation, that is, those who were bent down by the aftermath of the war . . . Because one may want quite involuntarily to stand up at attention in front of such boys, some may think that it is good that we have them and that we should have more of them . . . Understandably, we are talking about people, not fortunes. In an extreme situation, a man, if he can, does heroic deeds by himself, that is, achieves such a result that for an ordinary man under normal circumstances may be guaranteed only by the society as a whole, which must be done by the society because that is its purpose (to shape a beautiful man). Of course, the fortunes of these boys are quite different from the fortunes of theirs in their age group. However, they are not Martians, and their friendship, their feelings, and their attitudes toward "after" and "before", and "here" and "there", live one life with us. In addition, they are young, even though their attitudes toward the present have a completely different character compared with those of the people who spoke at the beginning of the film. Young boys and young men. For the former, a relatively determining factor may be to prove themselves, and for the latter, this factor is how to be (what to do with yourself). Their personalities and characters are tested and they know their own value. It is possible that what was there will be the maximum load in their lives (on their character, nerves, and feelings). Another such heavy load may never occur again. You have been like a champion of yourself. And you are still young. This, in my opinion, partially determines their complicated moral-ethical situation

(understandably, both the event and its essence). The resulting feeling is that life is not cheap, and the experience forbids living cheaply. Because of this, he cannot withstand pressure and feels that "it is bad." The fact of finding careless attitudes here toward the most important or only significant things there creates the alienation in the film. This will go away. This will go away and will remain. Maybe, it will not go away.

You should not shout at someone who stands in the blue sea of hope: "Hey, why do you soak your feet!" If this sea will dry out and the lack of knowledge will remain, it will be very gloomy. Young people are against us only when we fight life. I am sure of this, thanks to this film.

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CSO: 1808/26

CULTURE

IBRAHIMOV NATIONAL LIBERATION NOVEL REISSUED IN MOSCOW

[Editorial Report] Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri on 9 January 1987 carries on page 4 a 600-word article by Amirkhan Khalilov, docent and cand.philol.sci., on the publication in Moscow by Khudozhestvennaya Literatura of the selected works of Mirza Ibrahimov, including his work on the national liberation of Iranian Azerbaijan, "The Coming Day"; the report is headlined "A Wise Look at Life." The author points out that "this novel revealed the new artistic potential of its writer. This work, which demonstrates both the writer's pen and his political perspicacity, brought him a new renown. Azerbaijan's talented writer advanced even further than the steps represented by Gor'kiy's 'Mother' and the 'Story of Klim Samkin' and M.S. Ordubadi's political novels 'Smoke-Covered Tabriz,' 'Fighting City,' and 'Secret Baku.' As researchers have noted, 'The Coming Day' is one of the most characteristic novels of this genre. The novel, which renders an epical artistic description of the struggle of the workers of Southern Azerbaijan for independence, is considered to be a new achievement in Soviet literature."

TWO NEW IRANIAN AZERI STORIES PRINTED

[Editorial Report] Baku ADABIYYAT VA INJASANAT in Azeri on 16 January 1987 carries on page 8 two new short stories, totalling 1300 words, by the Iranian Azeri writer Ahmad Azarlu: the stories are "Comfort Was Born Together With Labor" and "If He's Not Dead, He's Still Not Alive." In an editorial introduction by Mirza Ibrahimov, it is pointed out that "publishing the works of Southern writers in the Soviet Azeri press both inspires them and our readers, and arouses enthusiasm. In Ahmad Azarlu's new letter, he especially stresses this point, and he sent us two novellas. These stories are written in the spirit of tales and legends which have been widely disseminated among the Azeri people since olden times and used in the folk literature. Their basic goal is to aid in the clean, pure moral training of children and youth."

AZSSR: NEW CONTROLS PLACED OVER TRANSLATIONS

[Editorial Report] Baku ADABIYYAT VA INJASANAT in Azeri on 16 January 1987 carries on page 1 a 700-word unsigned article under the rubric "In the Azerbaijan Writers Union" discussing the need to improve the organization of artistic translation and defining its path of future development. "In neighboring Georgia the Chief Editorial Board for Artistic Translation and Literary Relations under the purview of their Writers Union has been in operation for close to 15 years. If we also consider that a Translators'

Union exists in a number of socialist countries and that significant work has been done in this sector, our dillydallying becomes more obvious." It is pointed out that while there is a translation council in the republic, it does not concern itself with translation works being prepared for publication. Thus, it has been decided to change its name and functions to correspond with the need to produce high-quality translations of literary masterworks; it has been reformed as the Council for Literary Relations and Artistic Translation. Abbas Abdulla was elected chairman.

STATE OF AZERI LEXICOGRAPHY CRITICIZED

[Editorial Report] Baku ADABIYYAT VA INJASANAT in Azeri on 20 February 1987 carries on page 6 a 1600-word article by Professor Hasrat Hasanov criticizing progress being made in Azeri lexicography; the title is "our Dictionaries and Our Duties." Claiming that there are a number of reasons for the slow development of Azeri lexicography, he notes that "there is no single, centralized leadership and control over dictionary work. Often, those with no experience or competence are engaged in this work and, as a result, flawed works appear. A clear example of this is the 'Azeri-Russian Dictionary' published for students. As a rule, dictionaries prepared for the press are never reviewed, and those discussions which do take place convey a formal character. Reviewers, who provide a service to the author, give positive opinions without reading the work and pass over its shortcomings. While this protectiveness and mercy pleases the author, it is neither in the interest of the author or the people."

PLAY 'SHEYKH KHIYABANI' RECEIVES RAVE REVIEWS

[Editorial Report] Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri on 10 January 1987 carries on page 4 a 1400-word review by Bakir Nabiyeu, corresponding member of the AzSSR Academy of Sciences, of Ilyas Afandiyev's historical drama "Sheykh Khiyabani"; the review's title is "Love of Freedom." In the play "the conflict is exposed and elaborated on the basis of the hard struggle between social freedom and despotism, the desire for national independence and the dominant concept of nationalism, pure human feelings and unbridled horror. Sheykh Mahammad Khiyabani was one of those prominent revolutionary leaders who write a brilliant page in the struggle for social justice in Azerbaijan." He organized a national government in Tabriz in 1920 (and was executed by the Iranian army in the same year). "The performance of the drama 'Sheykh Khiyabani' has gained the deep respect of art lovers for attracting their attention to the great sorrow of the Azeri people--its division into two parts, the Southern question."

MODERN AZERI ART TO BE SHOWN IN PARIS

[Editorial Report] Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri on 21 January 1987 carries on page 3 a 500-word Azerinform report on preparations being made for an exhibit of modern Soviet art in Paris to mark the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution; the report's headline is "Art Serves Peace." Exhibits are being organized by the Galerie de France and the Du Regard publishing house. Jose Alvarez, president of Du Regard, said in an interview that "the work of the Azeri artists we have seen in Baku is at the modern world level and will

represent the multinational Soviet art worthily." He and Katrin Reynorn-Tyek, director of the Galerie de France, were in Baku at the invitation of the All-Union Authors Rights Agency. Reynorn-Tyek, "noting that certain circles in France have spoken out against strengthening Franco-Soviet cultural relations, expressed the hope that the forthcoming exhibit will be successful."

/12913

CSO: 1830/436

CULTURE

'PEOPLES FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITIES' IN GEORGIAN BORDER AREAS

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Georgian on 6 December 1986 carries on page 4 V. Okrodzhanishvili's 200-word article titled "Let Brotherhood Be Firm Forever!" concerning the establishment of Peoples Friendship Universities in three districts near Georgian borders: Lagodekhi Rayon [on the eastern edge of Georgia], Kakhi Rayon [across the Georgian border in Azerbaijan], and Idzhevan Rayon [in Armenia]. Recently a festive meeting was held in Kakhi to celebrate the opening of these institutions, designed to foster brotherhood and proletarian internationalism, with the rectors of the respective universities addressing the assemblage.

AZERBAIJAN'S GEORGIANS COMPLAIN OF CULTURAL NEGLECT

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi LITERATURULI SAKARTVELO in Georgian No 52, 26 December 1986 carries on page 3 Mzia Khetaguri's 500-word article, titled "Meeting With Kinsmen," concerning the problems of ethnic Georgian (Ingilo) teachers and school children in an Azerbaijan village. A group from Georgia's Merani Publishing House visited International School No 1 in Aliabad [Zakataly Rayon], which both Georgian and Azeri children attend, accompanied throughout by the school's Azeri director and the head of the Culture Department.

During the assembly, children begged to exchange visits with Georgians and get the chance to tour Georgia's historic places. Georgian teachers voiced a number of complaints: There is no local Georgian radio; all the school books are old; they need portraits of Georgian writers in order to set up a Georgian Literature Room; they need Georgian mathematics texts; Georgian periodicals are hard to get.

The Merani delegation found that the school's Georgian library was indeed in sad shape. There were no books published later than 1953, and what few they saw were in disarray.

Two months after that visit, the Merani group is still getting letters. A teacher thanked them for new books and urged them to consult with Azerbaijan rayon authorities on improving Georgian schooling there--"otherwise, we will lose each other." The author of the article states that "Azerbaijan's Georgians need more concern and attention," and she urges that local Georgian schools and rayons arrange exchange visits with their Ingilo kinsmen, provide art, music, theater, and books. She suggests that the Writers Union assign writers to visit the Ingilos.

ETHNIC GEORGIANS IN AZERBAIJAN RECEIVE CULTURAL HELP

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Georgian on 3 January 1987 carries on page 4 Eter Gugushvili's 1,000-word article, titled "We Are Waiting for You, Dear Friends," concerning the cultural help which Georgian theater groups are providing to ethnic Georgians [Ingilos] inhabiting Kakhi Rayon in Azerbaijan, specifically secondary school students in the village of Alibeglo. Some years ago, students and faculty of the Rustaveli Theater Institute visited the village, put on plays, literary readings and concerts, and helped the Georgian students set up a Peoples Theater. The tradition has continued on a regular basis ever since. Not long ago, the Alibeglo troupe came to Tbilisi and performed a number of plays, sketches, "miniatures," and musical numbers reflecting chiefly Georgian traditional themes, with a strong emphasis on fighting social injustice and fostering human rights and dignity. Much of the music came out of the Georgian folk liturgy. The troupe also puts on traveling shows in neighboring districts of Azerbaijan, incorporating Azerbaijani materials as well as Georgian. The Alibeglo youngsters have received considerable material help--a bus, costumes, and so forth--thanks to the Georgian Culture Ministry and the Theater Society.

BUREAUCRATS, APATHY BLOCK GEORGIAN CULTURAL RESTRUCTURING

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi LITERATURULI SAKARTVELO in Georgian No 5, 30 January 1987 carries on page 7 writer Davit Mchedluri's 2,600-word article, titled "Vital Necessity," concerning ongoing efforts of the restructuring (and its closely related term acceleration) of all aspects of political, social, economic, and cultural life. The new way of thinking will not be turned back, despite the hopes of the philistines [obyvateli] that things will soon return to "normal."

The author emphasizes two main and interconnected forces constituting obstacles in the path of restructuring: The inertial power of the bureaucrats, who have for too long enjoyed special rights and privileges and have not hesitated to trample on "the manifestation of free will" and "different thinking" of others; and the apathy and fear of the public in general and those who "should speak out" in particular.

In the sphere of literature and the arts, conformity has been the rule as literary and artistic efforts to portray social phenomena objectively have been declared harmful, for bureaucrats wielding authority over such things always prefer "Potemkin villages."

One result has been increasing mediocrity in all endeavors--workmanship, literary and artistic works, the economy, education, and of course leadership itself. Mediocrity is "what sells," and just about anybody, it seems, can get his writing published and even win a prize.

Over the years, conversely, many worthy works have been ignored or suppressed. Russian writers now are calling for the publication of such

masters as Bulgakov, Platonov, Zoshchenko, Gumilev, Pasternak and Akhmatova. How about Georgia? Why was director Tengiz Abuladze's film "Repentance" [Georgian "Monanieba," Russian "Pokayaniye"] blocked for so long? People do not forget what was done to them, "nor can old stains be covered by the dust of archives." Or consider historian Mikheil Tamarashvili's monumental "History of the Georgian Church" [published in Rome, in French, in 1910], which has yet to appear in Georgian. "It's about time we, so to speak, forgave certain of our writers' and scholars' witting or unwitting errors and returned their works to our people" (historian Zurab Avalishvili and politician Archil Dzhordzhadze [both emigres] are mentioned in this context).

Bureaucrats, chinovniki, are a dangerous force, whose thinking and actions undermine people's respect for the law, for legality and justice, for authority itself. The privileges and powers of the chinovniki lead to an ever-growing gap between them and the people, toward a "caste" system. Even false rumors of special privileges may be bitterly believed by the public. Hence, "vox populi" must not slacken, nor Themis slumber, lest law and legality give way to force [nasiliye].

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CSO: 1830/453

SOCIAL ISSUES

MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI REPRINTS LETTER FROM EMIGRE DISSIDENTS

LD251851 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1540 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar (TASS)--MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI has reprinted from the Paris newspaper LE FIGARO a letter from 10 "former Soviets," including Vasiliy Aksenov, Yuriy Lyubimov, and Ernst Neizvestnyy, and published a reply to it. It was written by Yegor Yakovlev, chief editor of the paper, who once personally knew many of the signatories of the "sensational" letter entitled: "Let Gorbachev Give Us Proof." The great, complex and not easy process of restructuring and democratization of Soviet society now taking place in the USSR is declared in the letter to be virtually a fiction.

"The publication of this letter in the Soviet press would be the most convincing proof of the sincerity of the statements about openness," says the letter from the ten "former citizens" [byvshiye].

"It's been published. What next?" asks the editor of MOSKOVSKIY NOVOSTI, which, incidentally, is published not only in Russian but also in several other languages.

"A man is tested when he is free in his choice," Yegor Yakovlev believes. "Those 10 were free to decide. They chose the other side of the barricades." So everything has been decided. The ones accusing their restructuring, democratizing homeland are not only, say, Vladimir Maksimov, a man of monarchical, even pro-Romanov views, but also Vasiliy Aksenov, who quite recently was dreaming of a time that has today arrived in the USSR; Yuriy Lyubimov, who established the revolutionary theater at Taganka....

In a word, those who quite recently were zealously advocating democratization of Soviet society, are now saying spiteful things about this same democratization, and are singing its requiem before it's started.

"Having parted from one's people, it is difficult to keep on the same wavelength as them; one loses one's sense of time," writes the editor of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI "and that's what the authors of the letter have lost too. It's as if they intended to write about the present, but there is not a line that is not from the past."

The "10" plead for copiers, incidentally, but today--if only one had time to read everything that used to be copied out by hand in secret--today they are published in the press, they come out in bookloads. The "former ones" discuss "independent publishing houses," but meanwhile the USSR Writers' Union is examining proposals for the organization of cooperative publishing houses. One of the first is to be called "Vest."

The 280 million-strong Soviet people is living its life, busy with the great and complicated task of ordering its destiny. And the 10 emigres discuss in all seriousness some kind of special "guarantees" which someone should give them, about a "reconciliation of the people with the government." There is one thing the authors of the letter do not think about, and that is how they themselves can find the road to their people. "I have never known," writes Yegor Yakovlev, "in all the history of the Russian emigration, anyone for whom life in exile seemed more desirous than at home, and who would not want to take the first opportunity to return."

So what do the authors of the letter want, what are they worried about? Evidently about the fact that the accustomed ground is giving way beneath their feet. They used to be able to point to Sakharov exiled in Gorkiy, but now he himself says that he is not loath to go off to Gorkiy for a while--the visitors are keeping him from working. They used to come out in defense of avant garde artists, and now those artists are having one exhibition after another opened--and that subject was dropped....

"Watch out or you'll be left without a job," exclaims the author of the reply "to 10 former ones," referring to the anti-Soviet writings which have become customary for emigres. "But what kind of a job is it, if it is based on an affirmation long known for its immorality: The worse the better. If what is being engaged in now in the Soviet Union does not succeed, it will result in a defeat on the scale of a national tragedy. But the authors of the letter will start rubbing their hands. In the people's disaster they are ready to find both self-affirmation and self-justification."

"They who pray for evil" is the name of the paper has given to the authors of the letter published in LE FIGARO.

/6662

CSO: 1800/526

SOCIAL ISSUES

PRAVDA HITS DEFECTORS' 'LIBELOUS' WRITINGS

PM261919 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[V. Korionov "Rejoinder": "Panic Among the 'Former Soviets'"]

[Text] It is no secret that the further democratization of every aspect of life in Soviet Society, the establishment of openness, and the course aimed at introducing a new kind of political thinking in interstate relations are causing growing alarm among imperialist reactionaries. Their construction of a "Soviet threat," "Soviet totalitarianism," and so forth is caving in. But even greater despondency, literally panic, has seized the renegades who have settled in the West.

It is not difficult to discern the reason for this. When they packed their bags and ran, they were expecting the West to hand them a large piece of bread and butter on a plate for free. It is possible that not all of them realized the price they would have to pay for this. But they are having to pay a price. Particularly now, when the designs and plans conceived by the enemies of socialism are miscarrying. They have no option but to pay the price.

A libelous article appeared in the French newspaper LE FIGARO by a group of renegades who call themselves the "Resistance International." The article is signed by V. Aksenov, V. Bukovskiy, A. and O. Zinovyev, E. Kuznetsov, Yu. Lyubimov, V. Maksimov, E. Neizvestnyy, Yu. Orlov, and L. Plyushch.

There is hardly any point in analyzing this list. These people were not driven from their country. They upped and ran of their own accord. And when this crowd increasingly inevitably hears the question "But why did you do this?" they try to drown it out with a drum roll of anti-Sovietism and slander against the people who fed and raised them. They have not only become a mouthpiece for ultra-right-wing reactionaries--they have also elected for the profession of denouncing their own people.

It would be futile to look for even one good word about their former home in the writings of these renegades. The fugitives are driven to a frenzy at the very idea of millions of people all over the world regarding the Soviet Union as the "prototype of a radiant future"--they put these words in quotemarks. One would think that the people who signed this libel would

nevertheless be able to recall the 20 million Soviet people who laid their lives at the altar of mankind's freedom. But no. What is more, they are against the idea of a generation growing up in our country who would be prepared to defend their country. In fact, the writers of this libel even went as far as making the following comparison, and I quote: "Military-patriotic training can be compared to the training given to the Hitlerite youth."

The defeatists even raise a hand trembling with fear and malice against our most holy of holies--Lenin and his teaching. It is revealing, however, to see what it is about Leninism that is not to their liking. It is "peaceful coexistence with the bourgeois world." But is there a reasonable alternative to peaceful coexistence in the nuclear missile age? Even the word "detente" --which they also place in quotemarks--is hateful to these provocateurs. Needless to say, these gentlemen have not uttered a word of condemnation against the arms race unleashed by imperialism or the consequent threat of nuclear war on earth and in space. The military profiteers across the ocean who are filling their purses by producing the means to destroy people are their real lord and master. Their true friends are the Afghan dushmans, the Nicaraguan "Contras," and the Pol Pot murderers.

As far as their socialist homeland is concerned, their hatred for it prevails above all else. The liars claim, for example, that in the USSR "No one has the right to simply go about his own business. The population is as if mobilized." The entire Soviet way of life, our democracy, and our electoral principles are not to the liking of the renegades. But the "elections" in El Salvador, held while people wielding U.S. machineguns looked on--this, in their opinion, is "democracy." They have a resolute dislike of the "Soviet policy of publicity and openness." But what moral right do these fugitives have to latch onto the question of changes in our country if they themselves have abandoned it?

Having scribbled their signatures to this "manifesto" which, to all appearances, is the work of Western special services, these gentlemen evidently must realize deep down what pathetic, lonely figures they are and how much Soviet people despise those who choose to spend their lives in Parisian dens of iniquity. That is why they will do anything to try to enhance their reputation. But, when it really comes down to it, who needs them?

Even the right-wing French press (LE FIGARO) considered it right and proper, once it had published the aforementioned letter, to dissociate itself from the authors of the letter by unambiguously reminding people of the pro-Nazi views of some of them.

The fact that a handful of renegades have given themselves the title "Resistance International" can be called nothing other than blasphemy. The concepts of resistance and the international (suffice it to recall the resistance movement against the Hitlerite invaders) have always been and always will be dear to Soviet people and to genuine internationalists throughout the world. These sacred symbols should not be associated with defectors.

It remains to be added that the label "Made in the United States" is patently obvious as far as this "international" is concerned. Its origins are to be found in one of the anticommunist organization (the so-called "Committee for the Fight Against Totalitarianism") in operation in the United States at the beginning of the eighties, which was later moved to Paris where it acquired its present title. This medley is financed by American Congress and its subversive activity is directed by the CIA.

The entire course of events is evidence that the forces with a vested interest in continuing the arms race and in confrontation and "star wars" regard our restructuring process and our constructive foreign policy initiatives, which are meeting with people's ardent support, as a threat to their dark intentions. By carrying out its radical restructuring process, the Soviet Union is a danger to them. And that is why "former Soviets" make heart-rending appeals to the "unsuspecting," "good-natured" West not to believe Moscow. Otherwise they risk alienating the hand that feeds them. These gentlemen have obviously earned a little money from some circles for this "manifesto" of theirs. But this handful of libelers will not be able to wash away the dirt they are in up to their necks.

The Soviet people are preparing to celebrate their great holiday--the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution. This date will be honored by the conscience of the world today. On the eve of this event a handful of mud-slinging renegades are trying to besmirch our radiant homeland. They will fail!

/6662

CSO: 1800/526

SOCIAL ISSUES

LITERATURNAYA GAZETA OPENS 'HOT LINE' FOR YOUTH GROUPS

[Editorial Report] Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian on 4 March 1987 carries on page 1 an article providing a telephone number for young people to call concerning the "Lyubery," young body-builders from a Moscow suburb who have allegedly attacked Moscow's non-conformist youths. The article suggests that using this telephone hot line may help the various groups work together to settle their differences in a peaceful manner. The telephone number, 208-85-37, is available from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

A follow-up item in Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian on 11 March 1987 on page 1 describes some of the hot line calls received. A caller from Lyubertsy claimed that his school required all students to attend a special disco on Saturday. Other callers reported similar events designed to keep young people busy and off the streets on weekends. Although the newspaper discouraged adults from using the hot line, many calls were from parents. One mother complained that the required school meetings and empty streets were causing unnecessary panic. Raykom and Komsomol committee members suggested mobilizing the voluntary militia [druzhniki] to deal with the situation. Fortunately, writes the author, the young people appeared to be more sensible than the adults expected. Some reacted to the situation with humor: "Hello," a young voice burst out, "our school is ready for the invasion! The seventh graders have a banner on the wall saying 'Pupils! Warriors! Defenders! Arise for the battle. Get bows and arrows in the cloakroom. Take mail coats from the Komsomol committee. The Huns will be beaten...'" "It's too bad," continues the author, "that the adults don't display such a sense of humor." Another series of calls came from long-haired teenagers who said they were no longer being detained by the militia on the basis of their looks alone, which the author sees as a positive step.

/9599

CSO: 1830/441

SOCIAL ISSUES

GRADUATES ABANDON SCHOOL-TAUGHT TRADES

[Editorial Report] Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri on 17 January 1987 carries on page 1 a 1000-word lead editorial headlined "The Second Half of the School Year." It points out that "special attention has been paid to improving students' labor education and trade orientation under the school reform. It is very important that existing opportunities be fully and correctly exploited. But this is not happening everywhere. According to specialists, a very small percentage of secondary school graduates are working in skills they acquired during their school years. That means that the vocational education conducted in school is still ineffective and that the potentials of boys and girls are not being related to the needs of the economy." The editorial adds that "one cannot say that the help provided to schools by base institutions is satisfactory" because "a significant number of them are holding a passive position with regard to supplying the schools with various types of equipment, or attracting students into production, or other matters."

SHORTAGE OF AZERI-LANGUAGE SOCIAL SCIENCE AIDS

[Editorial Report] Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri on 17 January 1987 carries on page 2 a 1400-word article by T. Ismayylova, chief of the social sciences teaching department of the AzSSR Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education, and N. Mikayylov, director of the Scientific Communism Department at the Azerbaijan Construction Engineers Institute, on needs for the teaching of the social sciences; the article is headlined "Social Science Departments: In Close Relationship With Practice." The article, in enumerating the various teaching aids and technical resources available to teachers in those fields, notes that "there are very few slides available in Azeri and no instructional films." They propose that "the republic Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education establish a laboratory which would prepare slides for the social sciences. One could also authorize Azerbaijanfilm to dub the instructional films into Azeri."

SOVIET WOMEN WEEP FOR 'SISTERS IN IRAN'

[Editorial Report] Baku ADABIYYAT VA INJASANAT in Azeri on 20 February 1987 carries on page 7 a 1300-word article by Khalida Khasilova timed to the All-Union Conference of Soviet Women headlined "O Woman, Your Name Is Honorable..." She points out that "close to a million women are working in public enterprises

in our republic, and 24,000 are deputies in the USSR Supreme Soviet, the AzSSR Supreme Soviet, the city, rayon, and village soviets." She adds that "we are citizens of the most democratic, most peace-loving state on the face of the earth. We wish that women of the entire world could live with the same good fortune and abundance as we and make every effort in this direction. The sorrows of our sisters in neighboring Iran, who have been confronting the catastrophes of tyranny and Muslim fanaticism, are breaking our hearts."

/9738

CSO: 1830/437

SOCIAL ISSUES

HIGHLAND SVANS RESETTLING IN GEORGIAN LOWLANDS

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi LITERATURULI SAKARTVELO in Georgian on 3 October 1986 carries on page 6 under the title "The Tasks of Georgian Publicistics" Miron Khergiani's 2,300-word article sketching the various economic, political, and sociological sectors that Georgian publicists [journalists specializing in current affairs] must focus on in order to foster restructuring, acceleration, intensification, and the like. In effect, publicists must make themselves experts in general and specific fields. Most of the article concentrates on "new economic thinking."

The final one-quarter of the piece is devoted to certain aspects of Georgian demographic policy, a matter of great concern which, unfortunately, still seems to be somewhat disorganized and "adrift." As an example, Khergiani deplores the practice of resettling highlanders in such overcrowded communities as Krtsanisi and Lilo [outskirts of Tbilisi] when there is an abundance of good but underdeveloped land in south Georgia.

On the positive side, the author notes with satisfaction the Georgian leadership's decision to set up new communities in historic Nagebi and Dzhandari [villages in Gardabani Rayon] and Tandzia [Bolnisi Rayon], "the nucleus of which will consist of surplus population from Svanetia, primarily Mestia Rayon." In the same general context, he makes reference to communities of highland Adjarians who have successfully resettled in and revived the old Meskheta-Dzhavakheti region.

Areas of south Georgia have been culturally neglected--in particular, those self-same Meskheta-Dzhavakheti districts. The Writers Union's Publicistics Section has decided to take those communities, also the Svan settlements, under its wing [shefstvo] and see to it that this neglect is no more.

SVAN COMMUNITY SYMBOLIZES HOPE FOR GEORGIAN DEMOGRAPHY

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi MNATOBİ in Georgian No 12, December 1986 carries on pages 86-91 under the title "Nagebi [a place name]" noted writer Akaki Gelovani's 4,800-word article about the thriving new community of Nagebi, 6 kilometers from Rustavi in Gardabani Rayon, which is being populated mainly by Svans resettled from land-short highland Mestia Rayon under an organized program. A thriving population center in centuries past, Nagebi was ravaged and razed over and over by invading Tatars and other enemies of

Georgia, and in recent times disappeared from maps and even scholarly reference works.

Thanks to popular, state, and party initiatives in the last couple of years, Nagebi is experiencing a rebirth. The town and sovkhos now numbers 135 households (up from about 50 just 2 years ago) totaling around 600 population; of that number, 117 households are Georgian, the rest Russians and Azeris. Avtandil Margiani, the Svan director of the sovkhos who has spearheaded the project, hopes to bring the community up to about 500 households in the near future, again mainly Svans from Upper Svanetia. It would not be wrong to think of the community as a "Little Svanetia."

Author Gelovani [himself a Svan] emphasizes several times that Nagebi symbolizes hope for Georgia's alarming demographic picture and hence "is of national significance," for Georgian birth rates [i.e., of ethnic Georgians] have been declining steadily for over 20 years--except among the Svans. Hence, "we must take initiative...as the nation's bastion." Population growth "is Concern No 1." Georgians have always been few in number, except for the "Golden Age" [12th-13th centuries] when Georgians held sway from the Black Sea all the way to Derbent and numbered 5 to 6 million. Now that Georgians are finally living in peace, unthreatened by the enemies and vicissitudes of the past, there is no excuse for the current drastic decline in population. Young people are pampered, preferring pornographic videos to hard work and ideals--and families. "Childlessness helps our enemies."

Thanks to community leader Margiani's initiatives and party and governmental support, Nagebi is comfortable, well laid out, and prospering. Utilities and kindergarten are free of charge. The sovkhos is becoming more efficient. The heart of the community is an 8-story Svanetian tower--the tallest ever--that houses cultural facilities and meeting rooms, a library, and the like, and moreover stands as a symbol that this land, so often laid waste by enemies, is again in the hands of its rightful owners.

Margiani goes frequently to Svanetia to counsel persons desiring to resettle in Nagebi. There have been so many applicants that they cannot all be accommodated yet. Accordingly, some 60 Svan households have gone to Tandzia [Bolnisi Rayon] and 22 have gone to Mzianeti [Gardabani Rayon]; members of the latter group work on the Dzhandari Sovkhos "alongside their fraternal neighbors [presumably Azeris]." Margiani is careful in selecting Svan families for resettlement, in order to ensure that "part of them remain in their ancestral Svanetia and not let it die out."

Svan communities are alluded to also in Udabno [Sagaredzho Rayon] and Lilo [outskirts of Tbilisi]. These communities are an encouragement to all who are concerned for Georgia's fate, and should be emulated. Let many such communities adorn the "blessed Georgian earth."

FACTORS IN GEORGIAN NARCOTICS RISE EXAMINED

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi AKHALGAZRDA KOMUNISTI in Georgian on 4 December 1986 carries on page 2 a 1,800-word article titled "Without You We Can Do

Nothing" by Militia Major Dzhemal Dzhanashia, head of the Department To Combat Narcotics Addiction, MVD Criminal Investigation Administration, concerning the various factors accounting for the rise in narcotics trafficking, especially among Georgian young people, and the attendant rise in property crimes. The article is a kind of follow-up to one on 3 June 1986 which focused on the evil done by drug pushers and urged that they be called "creeps" [Georgian qrolebi, Russian gadiny].

The author of the article refers to, but in most cases does not cite, "official statistics" attesting to particular aspects of the problem. For example, in some districts the drug culture involves mostly users, while in others pushers predominate, and so on. The same statistics state that trafficking is greatest in North Ossetia, Central Asia, Krasnodar Kray, and Novosibirsk Oblast; Georgia also ranks very high.

Drug-related crimes among young people have climbed alarmingly since the 1970s, persons suffering from withdrawal [narkoticheskiy golod] being especially prone to commit crimes in order to procure narcotics. A gram of opium costs 50 rubles on the black market. Several paragraphs in the second half of the article go into some detail on various busts that have taken place in Georgia and outside, involving both Georgians and outsiders, noting the amounts of drugs (mostly hashish) siezed and their street value. In some cases, the Georgian MVD teams have gone outside the republic to make the busts.

The author examines five factors that account for the rise in narcotics use among Georgian youth. (1) Increasing contacts with persons from capitalist countries and more exposure to bourgeois propaganda. (2) Persons age 20 or younger, sadly, fail to see the social harm in narcotics. Some 63 percent of 250 young persons who were surveyed even thought that narcotics stimulated artistic creativity and performance, citing foreign musicians who did their best work while high. (3) Improper use of painkillers in medical cases. (4) Bad upbringing and schooling. Some 97 percent of addicts came from pathological homes and did poorly in school. (5) Curiosity and ignorance, in conjunction with peer pressure and the desire to emulate "fashionable" users. Some 51 percent became hooked in this manner.

The problem cannot be solved through the efforts of the militia and law enforcement organs alone. It takes the efforts of every concerned citizen.

GEORGIANS IN RUSSIAN VUZ'S 'BESMIRCH' THEIR PEOPLE'S GOOD NAME

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi AKHALGAZRDA KOMUNISTI in Georgian No 149, 13 December 1987 carries on page 2 under the title "Why Are We Letting Our Children Go to School?" a 2,600-word article by Vakhtang Nanava, deputy head of the Georgian Komsomol Central Committee Department of Propaganda and Mass Culture, and AKHALGAZRDA KOMUNISTI correspondent Kakha Sikharulidze, concerning the disgrace brought upon the republic and its people by the unseemly actions of Georgian students in several of Rostov-on-Don's VUZes. Reference is made to an earlier (last summer) Komsomol Central Committee investigation into similar goings-on as well as recent findings by a joint

Komsomol Central Committee and Georgian MVD brigade who looked into matters in Rostov.

Several particular cases are recounted in which named Georgian students in Rostov's Railroad Transport Engineering Institute, the Agricultural Machinery Institute, and a vocational-technical school (PTU) "besmirched" the honor of Georgia and its people. One student was charged with 11 burglaries and 2 assaults in the space of 2 months. Another was caught, in company with several associates, with 50 grams of opium. Many Georgians have been involved in fights. Criminality and hooliganism aside, most of them are said to lead dissolute lives.

The Georgian students perform wretchedly in school, cut classes, and in general exhibit a deplorably low intellectual and cultural level. Most of them have such a poor command of Russian that special Russian courses have had to be set up just for them.

Further, there is evidence of crooked dealing on the part of the parents of these "students" -- people who have plenty of money and can pull strings. Their motive is that Georgian PTU graduates holding "outstanding" diplomas are accepted without examination in Rostov VUZes, and many have taken advantage of that fact. But are their diplomas genuine? Missing school records and other suspicious evidence give grounds for serious doubt. In one case, a young man named Besarion Natsvlisvili, who was once enrolled in the Crimean Medical Institute, expelled, enrolled in the Rostov Medical Institute and then expelled from there for poor grades and cutting classes, wound up "reinstated" in Tbilisi Medical Institute. The author notes that something is surely amiss.

These and similar episodes elsewhere (for example, in Kalinin Polytechnic last year) prove that Komsomol and local authorities responsible for young people under their jurisdiction are not doing their job.

GEORGIAN TRANSPORT MILITIA'S ANTIDRUG EFFORTS DESCRIBED

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Georgian on 21 December 1986 carries on page 3 under the title "War on 'Runners'!" Gruzinform correspondent V. Yaralov's 1,500-word interview with Transport MVD Chief Colonel Robinson Tushurashvili concerning that organization's increasingly successful efforts to combat drug smugglers on the republic's railroads. Statistics show that the number of "runners" and dealers that have been caught has doubled in the past 3 years, and amounts of drugs confiscated have tripled. To some extent this reflects increasing efficiency, but it also indicates rising drug trafficking. Runners range from age 18 to 30, they live in the Transcaucasus, North Ossetia, Stavropol and Krasnodar krais, the Ukraine, and Central Asia. Most of them are not employed in socially useful labor. This past year, one-third of the crimes solved by the Transport MVD were drug-related, but in a larger sense, the narcotics problem exacerbates the whole crime picture.

Colonel Tushurashvili notes that the manufacture of narcotics "is not a tradition in Georgia," hence most of them come in from outside. As a result, Georgian MVD teams have gone outside the republic to collaborate in drug busts with, for example, Ukrainian authorities; a link between Lvov and the Georgian resort town of Tskneti was recently broken up. It is essential to get to the manufacturers, not just dealers and users. Recently a hashish supplier in Shovgenovskiy, who worked in a poultry plant as a cover, was caught with large amounts of hashish and weapons in his home.

The Transport MVD has expanded its activities in recent years, now patrolling train station districts and accompanying all trains through Georgia. Colonel Tushurashvili stresses that cadres are specially selected for the work, persons who have good powers of observation and sound intuition. Several incidents are sketched in which suspicious persons were caught with drugs--one episode even involved a couple who had a child with them as cover. Yet, it is emphasized, not a single false arrest has been made in recent years.

REPRODUCTOLOGY CLINICS, FIRST IN USSR, OPENED IN GEORGIA

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Georgian on 3 January 1987 carries on page 2 under the title "First Results" a 400-word article by L. Mamaladze, head of the Organizational-Methodology Department in the Zhordania Scientific-Research Institute for Human Reproductive Functions, concerning the need for modern methods in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of childlessness. Some 10 to 15 percent of Georgian married couples are unable to have children. Accordingly, reproductology clinics [kabinety] have been opened in a number of rayons under the supervision of the institute. Headed by gynecologists, they provide consultation and other needed services. Men's reproductive problems are handled by urologists trained in andrology. Patients who need it are sent to the institute for hospital treatment. Results are already encouraging, and it is envisioned that the system--the first either in Georgia or the USSR as a whole--could become more widespread.

MISDIAGNOSIS HAMPERS GEORGIAN ANTIDRUG EFFORTS

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Georgian on 16 January 1987 carries on page 4 under the heading "It Is the Worst of Plagues" a 1,300-word article by Professor D. Gegeshidze, vice-rector of the Tbilisi Medical Institute, concerning factors that hamper the fight against drugs, especially among young persons and students. In particular, owing to the proliferation of new varieties of drugs--many of them home-made since certain regular ones have been withdrawn from official production--medical personnel have a hard time making accurate diagnoses. Addicts are taking all kinds of toxic substances such as sleeping pills, stimulants, and tranquilizers. Many are growing cannabis and poppies in their own gardens. Biochemical methods alone are no longer adequate for accurate diagnosis.

Incompetent diagnoses lead to grave consequences and give a false picture of the narcotism situation. In particular, the Republic Narcology Hospital has

"on more than one occasion" diagnosed actual addicts as "clean" while wrongly labeling innocent persons as addicts. The Medical Institute has had to work out its own method of detecting drug users among its faculty and students in order to decide whether anyone should be expelled, etc. Briefly, it consists of "characterization" by student academic groups, which are "a reliable barometer" of such abuse and considerations such as class attendance, academic performance, and the like. On the negative side, students thus expelled are left to their fate "on the street."

The author urges a program to provide graduate training of narcology specialists, of whom there is a severe shortage at present not only out in the rayons but in Tbilisi itself. Concerted efforts by psychiatric, legal, medical, and other specialized cadres are essential, to be spearheaded by a special laboratory of the Psychiatric Institute. Throughout, better equipment is needed. Above all, narcology hospitals and clinics must be staffed with "skilled and moral" personnel.

Finally, the author urges "rethinking" of the practice of dispensing narcotics to severely ill patients in their homes, a procedure that is practiced only in Georgia.

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CSO: 1830/454

SOCIAL ISSUES

KAZAKH EDITORIAL LOOKS AT RURAL SCHOOLS

[Editorial Report] Alma-Ata QAZAQSTAN MEKTEBI in Kazakh No 12, December 1986 carries on pages 3-8 a 3,000-word editorial entitled "Let Us Improve Rural Schools." According to the editorial, the vast majority of KaSSR schools, including 6,254 of 7,767 republic general education, and 2,749 of 3,981 middle schools (with 1,649,500 students in all republic rural schools) are rural, meaning that there are often special problems associated with their operation which, in the view of the editorial, are not always given adequate attention by the educational authorities.

The editorial goes on to discuss some of the issues which are, in its view, particularly problematical for republic rural schools. These include not just shortage of cadres but an acute shortage of the best cadres (only 85.9 percent of rural teachers have a higher education, a figure that is an improvement over recent years), poor and inadequate school facilities, weak development of some vital programs including math, the sciences and vocational education (in spite of the current emphasis on vocational education, particularly to meet needs of rural areas for trained specialists, only training in physical labor is available in most cases), poor support of certain types of instruction including Russian language teaching, also some technical subjects, and the conservatism of rural school administrations making change and the solving of problems difficult if not impossible. The editorial makes clear that in all this the key issue is making rural schools responsive to local conditions and local needs.

PROMISED KAZAKH SCHOOLS BECOMING RUSSIAN SCHOOLS

[Editorial Report] Alma-Ata BILIM ZHANE ENGBEK in Kazakh No 9, September 1986 carries on pages 10-13 a 3,400-word article by BILIM ZHANE ENGBEK special reporter Marat Toqashbayev published under the rubric "School Reform--In Practice," entitled "From the Past to the Future." The article looks at the past and present of the Kazakh nationality school. There are now, Toqashbayev records, a total of 2,440 Kazakh schools in the KaSSR--856 middle, 782 8 and 852 primary schools--with 937,046 students, and more open with each passing year.

However, Toqashbayev complains about the uneven development of Kazakh schools from one part of the republic to the other (there are few or no schools, for example, in some areas of heavy Kazakh population concentration and about the tendency of Kazakh schools to become Russian schools through neglect. He also scores the many problems of adequately supporting 837 Kazakh kindergartens (with 17,157 students). Here the problem is above all cadre shortage, since Kazakh teacher training schools are producing few specialists in preschool education. The result again is the conversion of Kazakh into Russian schools since instructors knowing no Kazakh cannot teach in that language but teach in Russian.

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CSO: 1830/445

REGIONAL ISSUES

RSFSR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 20 Feb 87 p 3

[Replies by I. Kuleshov, chief of the Far Eastern Territorial Administration for Regulating the Use and Protection of Water Resources, RSFSR Minvodkhoz [Ministry of Water Resources], to questionnaire, under rubric "Our Questionnaire: From February to February": "Protecting Purity"]

[Text] [Question] What real features of the restructuring do you see in life and in your collective?

[Answer] 1. Yes, it is specifically the features, rather than the results, of the restructuring that we ought to talk about. Although we can already see today, for example, serious changes in the attitude toward the preservation of mineral wealth, the pernicious squandering of which I wrote about in the article "In Defense of the Marine Field" (13 February 1986). The project for shifting the flow of the northern rivers has been rejected, and there is a hope that the surface of Lake Baykal will be cleared of the cellulose foam.

What truly gladdens a person and gives him hope is the decisive, precisely directed turn that has been taken by public opinion toward the active protection of the environment. The results of the consistent, decisive governmental measures are being revealed: the ecologists' voice has become, I must say, rather decisive. And not just their voice. During the year after the congress we have got a rather large number of volunteer assistants. I do not have to go far to get examples. Recently, reacting to a warning message from a person who, so to speak, is an outsider, engineer O. Kulunzhakov, we were able in a time-responsive manner to eliminate the consequences of the effluent of harmful substances from the aluminum structural-elements plant in Khabarovsk. An ecological catastrophe was prevented. True, it was on the small Chernushka River, but, judged on the basis of its scope, it was a real catastrophe. I can name dozens of other people who helped us to cope promptly with other emergency situations such as this.

Many party committees and ispolkoms of local soviets are also turning their face directly toward problems of protecting the water resources. An extended program of ecological construction was adopted by the buro of the CPSU Khabarovsk Kraykom and the krayispolkom. For these purposes it is planned to assimilate in the kray during the 12th Five-Year Plan 159 million rubles of capital investments. Interpreting that figure, that represents the activation of purification structures with a capacity of 550,000 cubic meters a day, and

a reduction of the effluent of harmful substances into the atmosphere by 85,400 tons a year.

[Question] How are the problems that are alarming you the most being resolved?

[Answer] 2. Well, let's discuss the problems. Can you believe the tremendous efforts that still have to be expended to convince certain "statesmen" (and I deliberately put the word in quotation marks because, although they are state employees, they certainly do not reveal a sense of state duty or civic responsibility) of what ought to be primordially obvious to every manager and patriot! We are actually continuing to prove truisms to them: Russian nature -- that mine of wealth, our benefactress, the focus of our national welfare and spirit -- must not become small change to pay off departmental narrowmindedness!

Nowadays, not a single statement made by a modern economic manager can do without phrases concerning the love of nature. But here is an example that is taken not from the rostrum, but from practical life: the plan for the Soyuzzoloto VPO [All-Union Industrial Association], of USSR Mintsvetmet [Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy], which plan was sent down to the Primorzoloto Association. Its enterprises are supposed to work only in a closed cycle. Instead of that, Mintsvetmet has been increasing the water intake and runoff, and has not been reducing the use of recycled water. An unhappy fate awaits the "golden" streams. It is easy to imagine what a wall of explanations the producers of the valuable metal erect in order to justify themselves. Everything is put in motion: references to the scope of the tasks, to the complexities of the mining operations -- and to this accompaniment, it is planned to give the Primorzoloto Association not a single ruble to carry out measures to protect the water resources! The same can be said about Minrybkhoz [Ministry of the Fish Industry]. At the fish-processing plants in Nikolayevsk and Komsomolsk-na-Amure and at the oceanic fishing base in Sovetskaya Gavan, the volumes of runoff have been growing, but no purification structures are being built.

A long-standing and, to put it bluntly, uneven struggle has been raging between us and such an industrial giant as the Plant imeni Leninskiy Komsomol. Every 24-hour period -- every 24 hours! -- the enterprise spews out 10,000 cubic meters of runoff water, and this is already the twelfth year that the construction of purification structures has been under way. Actually, this leader in the industry has become one of the worst sources of the pollution of the Amur.

I am convinced that, for the Far East drainage area, it is necessary to adopt a system of measures to protect the environment -- on the analogy of those measures that have been proposed to protect the Caspian, Black, and Azov seas. It is traditionally felt that the shore and maritime zones of the Far East are in a comparatively favorable ecological condition. But this is no by means the case. The program for the Comprehensive Development of the Far East which is currently being developed presupposes a sharp transformation of industry and agriculture. That region will be converted more and more from an extractive region into a processing one. The pressure exerted by man on the

environment will become much more severe. It is important for the environmental-protection measures to be balanced with industrial growth. Of course, this will require large expenditures. However, one must not forget that the drainage areas of the Amur and the other Far Eastern seas and rivers are a unique creation of nature. One should not take an "average statistical" approach to them.

[Question] What is your personal contribution? What do you intend to undertake in the near future?

[Answer] 3. I head a collective. Therefore I gauge my personal contribution to the restructuring according to the collective's actions. I could, of course, enumerate our successes, and mention substantial amounts of penalties in order to show that no violators remain unpunished. It has also happened that production had to be stopped. But it is necessary to be honest: we rarely resort to extreme measures. In this regard we ought to take decisive steps to restructure ourselves in the direction of greater consistency, adherence to principles, and steadfastness. Unfortunately, quite frequently we are tricked by the sad experience of "believing the word" of our partners. We understand their position, we accept their guarantee letters, but the oaths prove to be only made of ink. This pertains primarily to the Far East construction workers. They have become accustomed to investing all their efforts and funds in industrial construction, postponing everything else for later on, including the resolution of ecological problems.

We attempt, of course, to display hardness. Recently we drove out in response to a warning message to the Kuldur resort, one of the few sanatoriums in Khabarovsk Kray. It would have seemed that its managers should have kept an especially vigilant watch on the water-resource conditions: the resort exists thanks to the curative springs. However, those very springs proved to be threatened -- they were being polluted by runoff from the resort itself! The question was posed point-blank: either shut down the resort, or immediately stop polluting the water. And things got moving.

We had to withstand a major onslaught in December 1986 during the turnover of the second unit of Khabarovsk TETs-3. L. Lipovich, representative of the territorial administration, who is part of a state commission, refused to sign the acceptance document: hydraulic ash-disposal systems had not been prepared at the new object. Unfortunately, the administration there had fallen under the pressure of its own managers. Minenergo [Ministry of Power and Electrification] representatives decided to bypass the stubborn individuals and went to RSFSR Minvudkhov -- all with the very same guarantee letters. But what happened? It is recommended to us that we close our eyes to the violations. But what kind of benefit results from these maneuvers, and for whom?

It would seem that there is a vital need to restructure the environmental-protection system and to raise the status of their territorial agencies. I would like to make an analogy with State Inspection: its agencies have been taken out from under the regional and departmental command element, and large rights have not only been given to them, but have also been provided with the broadest party and public support. Therefore the benefit to be derived from this kind of monitoring is great.

REGIONAL ISSUES

LENINGRAD HOSTS DISCUSSION ON NEVA, LADOGA POLLUTION

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Feb 87 p 6

[Article by IZVESTIYA correspondent A. Yezhelev: "Once More About the Dike: The Opinion of Leningrad Scientists"]

[Text] Leningrad. Last summer, in the part of Neva Bay which is set off from the gulf by a system of dikes that are being constructed to protect Leningrad against floods, spots of "efflorescence" in the water appeared. Undesirable changes in the water quality were also noted farther away, in the city's resort area. All this caused an understandable concern among Leningraders for the ecological consequences of the construction of the protective complex. That concern was expressed on the pages of IZVESTIYA by Academician D. Likhachev, and by writers D. Granin, M. Dudin, and A. Liverovski in the article, "But Where's the Protection Against the Dike?" (No 11, 1987).

On 20 February, at the House of Scientists, there was a discussion, together with the authors of the article, of the questions raised in the newspaper. Those who spoke at that meeting -- chairman of the presidium of the Leningrad Scientific Center of USSR Academy of Sciences, Academician I. Glebov; director of the Institute of Lake Studies, Academician A. Treshnikov; director of the Zoological Institute, chairman of the USSR Academy of Sciences Scientific Council of Problems of Environmental Protection, USSR Academy of Sciences Corresponding Member O. Skarlato; and the heads of the Institute of Hydraulic Engineering imeni Vedeneyev and the State Hydrological Institute -- cited the latest information concerning the state of the water drainage area, remarking that no worsening has been observed. They discussed the measures being taken by the party's obkom and the ispolkom of Lensovet to eliminate the shortcomings linked with the violations in the procedure for constructing the protective complex. It was noted in particular that, in accordance with the new decisions, there will be a two-year acceleration in the activation of the purification structures, which will largely determine the biochemical and sanitary condition of the body of water. It was also mentioned that there may be no clean water in the Neva or in Neva Bay if there is a continuation of the intensive pollution of Lake Ladoga by the unpurified runoffs from enterprises and animal-husbandry complexes and by the mineral fertilizers that are washed off the fields.

Scientists and specialists have noted that there undoubtedly do exist problems which justifiably alarm public opinion. However, as was stated, in the construction of the complex of protective structures there is "no reverse motion." Therefore the most important thing is to search for those ways to carry out the planned intentions in such a way that the unfavorable effect upon the environment will be minimal.

The authors of the article "But Where's the Protection Against the Dike?" have expressed their alarm at the fact that, even today, when openness has become one of the immutable conditions for the restructuring, there continues to be an "information shortage," which pertains, for example, to the water quality and the state of Neva Bay, the purification of the city runoffs, and the appearance of new circumstances that can complicate the ecological situation. Examples were given of the poor operation of the city's purification structures, which by no means always justify the purpose for which they were intended. This put in doubt the data concerning the percentage of runoffs that are actually being purified. The idea was expressed concerning the need to intensify the responsibility for the ecological balance in Leningrad's water system.

The participants at the meeting included numerous specialists, scientists, and correspondents from the central and local newspapers, radio, and television. It was decided to prolong the discussion in March at a new meeting to discuss the problem at the Home of Scientists with a broader circle of specialists and researchers, as well as designers and participants in the construction of the dike.

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CSO: 1800/457

REGIONAL ISSUES

DREDGING CAUSES DROP IN MAJOR RSFSR RIVER WATER LEVELS

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 14 Jan 87 p 2

[Article by Ye. Chekalovskiy, candidate of geographical sciences: "Why Has the 'Silent Don' Become More Silent?"; first paragraph is source introduction]

[Text] The concern that is evoked by the worsened state of Lake Ladoga, as described by Academician A. Treshnikov for the readers of SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA (No 273, 1986) is understandable and explainable. In recent years the flora and fauna of this unique body of water have been seriously harmed. In continuing the discussion that was begun by the newspaper, the author wants to share his thoughts concerning the fate of our rivers.

Today many heated words are written about the fact that our rivers are becoming shallower and are being polluted by industrial waste products, and about the disappearance of valuable species of fish and vegetation. Acute problems, for example, are linked with dredging operations.

One of the most complicated and painful problems, in my opinion, is the artificial deepening of rivers. Let us attempt to trace the various stages in which the river transport workers today "improve" the navigational properties of the water ways. Along the entire length of its navigational path, a dredger digs a ditch along the bottom. If the dredger has dug a ditch with a depth, say, of one meter, they have improved the river by only 10-15 centimeters. And the farther the dredger goes, the worse that ratio becomes, until finally the critical point is reached. Then, no matter how much you scrape the bottom, the depth of the river itself will not change: the water surface will drop by the same figure. Hydrologists call these phenomena "settling." At the present time, practically speaking, there is not a single navigable river which, to one degree or another, has not experienced settling. The water surface has dropped by more than a meter, revealing the banks, in the lower part of the Don, in the upper parts of the Oka, and on the Volga -- downstream from the Volgograd GES. On the Irtysh and the Ob the settling measures 1.5 meters, and on the Tom it exceeds 2 meters.

Why is this phenomenon dangerous? It is difficult to enumerate all the consequences, but here are the basic ones. Settling dries out the water intakes -- the "sunken" river water stops feeding them. The pipeline siphons are actively eroded -- and the revealed pipes, filled with petroleum and gas,

hang over the bottom, creating emergency situations which have already led several times to a catastrophe. The settling also reduces the economic effectiveness of the hydroelectric power stations.

And what about the natural resources? In the bottomlands of major rivers there has been a noticeable drop in the ground-water level, and this is a direct threat to the diversity of the vegetation along the banks. In addition, operations to deepen the river bottom noticeably hinder the river current. The speed of the Don, for example, as in some places dropped by half. Having become truly "silent," the Don has irreversibly lost many valuable species of fish and has become overgrown with blue-green algae, which, as everyone knows, hamper the river's self-purification.

Like persons receiving a punishment, the first to encounter the unforeseen consequences were the river transport workers themselves. In Ufa, Omsk, Pavlodar, and Novosibirsk, the walls of the berths have been laid bare to such an extent that during years when the water level is low, not a single large ship can approach them.

But what has been the reaction to all this? The RSFSR Ministry of the River Fleet, for example, is considering a plan that is fantastic in its logic: leave the bed of the Tom River for quarrying sand and gravel, and lay a canal for navigation! On the Lena, which has also been caused visible harm by the dredgers, exploratory work is under way for designing a navigable lock. You can only imagine what capital investments will be required to carry out projects like this.

The saddest thing is that the lesson learned has not forced anyone to think seriously about the situation, and has not stopped the dredging operations, because everything is continuing to follow the previous pattern. But even the use of locks, from the ecological point of view, is an extremely doubtful way out: it exerts an influence upon the ground water, leads to stagnation phenomena in the river bed, and, consequently, promotes the pollution of the river.

In a word, nature is sending distress signals, but it is as though we do not notice them, but, rather, are stubbornly trying to have it our own way. And we do this instead of soberly evaluating the situation and admitting that the deepening of the bottom is by no means the best way to improve the navigational properties of the rivers. As long ago as the past century, Russian engineers were able to regulate the depths with the aid of guide levees and half-dikes. And currently these methods are being used successfully, for example, on the Tur. The dredging has been reduced there to the minimum, and the navigable depths have been almost doubled. But, unfortunately, for the time being this is, if anything, the exception to the rule that makes it possible to take the consumer approach and attempt to get a quick benefit from exploiting our blue highways. The situation -- and I shall speak without exaggeration -- is critical, and therefore it is necessary to have a harmonious system, monitored by the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, for maintaining the optimal navigational conditions.

There is another problem that is no less painful for the welfare of the rivers -- a problem that is engendered by excessively zealous dredging. We have in mind the barbarous exhaustion of the deposits of sand and gravel with which our rivers are rich. Absolutely no one will stand on ceremony in this regard. And, properly speaking, what is there to discuss? These building materials are needed, the cost of quarrying them is low, and there is no monitoring at all. Thus, unusually beautiful beaches on the Belaya River are being destroyed from year to year. On the Angara it is proposed, within the near future, to start using the sandy wealth of the islands, and this means, factually speaking, ruining them.

Should we be concerned about the beauties of nature and people's convenience when we are considering economic problems? This is an idle question. In addition, in nature, beauty almost always coincides with desirability. Are we really to believe that people have already forgotten the bitter lessons of recent years, when, for the sake of an instantaneous benefit, the pebbles from the Black Sea were shipped to the concrete plants? Or the kind of damage that that "economizing" resulted in, when the sea dashed against the banks that had been laid bare. It was necessary to spend a tidy amount of money to reinforce the banks with concrete blocks.

But what state agency monitors the quarrying of sand and gravel, or weighs its desirability on the scales of economy and ecology? There's no such department! Sand and gravel are practically the only type of mineral resources the plans for quarrying of which are not defended at the State Committee for Useful Mineral Reserves. The State Committee for Hydrometeorology also prefers not to interfere in the activity of the "quarriers." And so it turns out that the RSFSR Ministry of the River Fleet has concentrated in its hands the designing of the quarries, the quarrying operations, and the monitoring of those operations. The plans are overfulfilled, and people receive bonuses... For what? For blithely squandering national property?

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REGIONAL ISSUES

POSITIVE, NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF NATIVE LANGUAGE STATUS IN ARMENIA

Official Concern With Development

[Editorial Report] Yerevan SOVETSKAN AYASTAN in Armenian on 18 December 1986 carries on page 3 a 1,700-word article by Hovh. Baghdasaryan titled "Our Old and Rich Language." The author states that, according to the Constitution of the Armenian SSR, the Armenian language is an official language of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, that everything possible shall be done to promote its development, and that the constitution guarantees the use of the language in governmental and public agencies, in cultural, educational and other establishments. The author states that developing and working the language to bring it up to a level adequate to official use is of the utmost importance. In support of this statement he says that there has long been in operation a terminological committee attached to the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers, consisting of linguists, literary scholars, writers, historians, journalists, and representatives of other fields. The committee is tasked with determining the principles of standardization and development of terminology in standard literary Armenian; with creating, when needed, new words, terms, and acronyms; and with correcting terminology, controlling linguistic borrowing, and working with matters pertaining to correct spelling, grammar, and transcription. The author notes the importance of development of terminology. He states that there are currently more than 60,000 terms in the area of electronics alone. He states that at the present time matters pertaining to developing terminology are at a crucial stage. There are many who maintain that it is proper to borrow foreign words and terms directly into Armenian because certain words and terms do not lend themselves to translation, while others argue that there should be absolutely no foreign borrowings. The author expresses his own views on the extent of borrowings and creation of new Armenian words and terms.

Teaching Aids, Methods Outdated

[Editorial Report] Yerevan GRAKAN TERT in Armenian on 19 December 1986 carries on page 1 a 1,400-word article published under the heading "Anticipating the Plenary Session of the Board of the Union of Armenian Writers," by HAYOTS LEZUN YEV GRAKANUTYUNE DPROTSUM [The Armenian Language and Literature at School] chief editor Lyudvig Karapetyan, titled "Native Tongue." The author states that teaching the native language and literature is of primary importance in the schools. The author quotes K. Demirchyan as stating that in the

school every pupil should master his mother tongue. The present situation is not promising, however, as regards meeting this requirement. Curricula and textbooks play an important role in the school reform, to achieve qualitative improvement in instruction. For a number of years curricula and textbooks have been in the process of "improvement, refurbishing, and reform," but this process does not seem to be coming to an end. "Old" authors continue to hold a monopoly on the preparation of textbooks, and the legitimate demand that new textbooks be co-authored by our best teachers, methods experts, and writers is hardly ever met. Instead of developing written and oral mastery of one's native language, instead of teaching the ability of word-building, the schools continue with the mechanical process of rote memorization of rules of grammar--there is a lack of real contact with the living language. The author states that it is also important to listen to what teachers of language and literature have to say and stresses the importance of those teachers who teach other subjects but feel a responsibility with regard to this question.

The author also addresses a "special" matter pertaining to language teaching. Many Armenians living outside the Armenian SSR frequently write letters to the editors of SOVETAKAN AYASTAN asking for advice on how to teach Armenian to themselves and their children. A textbook by Ararat Ghazaryan came out many years ago, but it is out of print. There is a great need for a new self-taught Armenian language textbook, records for learning the Armenian language, recordings of the finest works of Armenian writers, etc.

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CSO: 1838/401

REGIONAL ISSUES

AGRICULTURE INSTITUTE ATTACKED FOR POOR RESEARCH

[Editorial Report] Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri on 4 January 1987 carries on page 2 a 1600-word article by E. Iskandarov, deputy director of the Science, Culture, and Health Department of the AzSSR Peoples Control Committee, and KOMMUNIST correspondent M. Samad headlined "Research Must Be Profitable" attacking research conducted by the Institute for Agricultural Economics and Organization. Pointing out that the institute has a "careless attitude" toward the dependency of quality research on practical experience, they claim that "here, preference is given to people without practical experience in agriculture. Out of 130 people directly engaged in research at the institute, close to 100 have never worked directly in agriculture. Out of 37 chief scientific workers, department directors and section chiefs, 16 have never been connected to kolkhozes, sovkhoses, or other agriculture departments. Between 1981 and 1986 27 senior and junior scientific workers did not even prepare one scientific article, yet they were all reappointed."

SUCCESSSES ANNOUNCED IN HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

[Editorial Report] Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri on 13 February 1987 carries on page 1 a 1400-word lead editorial headlined "Wide Room for the Construction of Social Buildings." It points out that "our builders worked well in this sector last year and exceeded plan commitments in the construction of pre-school childrens' institutions, general education and vocational schools, hospitals, polyclinics, clubs, and cultural houses. For the first time more than 2 million square meters of housing space were turned over for use so that 200,000 republic workers greeted the New Year in new, well-appointed housing." Problems remain in the construction of schools. In addition, "there are still a number of educational-cultural centers located in inadequate buildings lacking the necessary equipment."

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CSO: 1830/438

REGIONAL ISSUES

ADJARIAN RAYON RANKS FIRST IN GEORGIAN POPULATION GROWTH

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi LITERATURULI SAKARTVELO in Georgian No 49, 5 December 1986 carries on page 16 under the title "From Goderdzi to Khikhaná [place names]" Mikheil Makharadze's 1,100-word review of a TV documentary on highland Adjaria's Khulo Rayon. Among other interesting data, viewers were informed that Khulo Rayon ranks first in Georgia in the rate of population growth, with some 1,200 to 1,300 births yearly [current rayon population is approximately 40,000]. Khuloans are proud of this, also the fact that they have made their own considerable contribution to the demographic revival of parts of Meskheti and of Tsiteltskaro Rayon, having sent many of their number to settle and "multiply" in those districts.

A number of problems are touched upon as well as positive aspects. The forests are in sad shape, and with excessive cutting there is the danger that they will be totally depleted in 10 to 15 years. Unemployment is a problem in the winter; this could be alleviated if small processing plants and other facilities were set up. The rayon lacks dentists, doctors, and teachers, also pharmaceutical facilities. The fine, centuries-old Christian church in Skhalta is badly in need of restoration.

The documentary's candid treatment of highland Adjaria's problems, the reviewer emphasizes, is a refreshing change from past "stereotypical" and "prettifying" looks at the region.

SVANS DEBATE RESETTLEMENT AFTER AVALANCHE DISASTER

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi AKHALGAZRDA KOMUNISTI in Georgian on 24 January 1987 carries on page 2 under the title "Khocha Ladegh [the Svan greeting]" special correspondent Manana Kartoziá's 2,800-word reportage on the avalanche disaster that struck villages in highland Mestia Rayon (Svanetia). Bad weather set in around mid-December and continued into January, with heavy snows that cut many communities off and blocked even the main roads. The local newspaper, recalling the disaster of 1976, warned everyone to take precautions and called for the evacuation of avalanche-prone communities. Disaster did strike "like lightning" on 9 January, when five families in the village of Zhamushi (a few kilometers from Mestia) were wiped out--a total of 25 persons. The reporter describes in graphic detail the heroic efforts to rescue any survivors and the numb grief of heartbroken relatives; one

father wore on his chest the pictures of his dead children. Some 5,000 mourners showed up for the mass funeral.

Fear of the future, both immediate and long-term, has led many Svans to talk seriously about leaving Svanetia to settle elsewhere in Georgia--Tandzia [Bolnisi Rayon] and Udabno [Sagaredzho Rayon], for instance. There have been more and more applicants in recent years. Others, however, argue against quitting their ancestral homeland; they know the fate of highland Khevsureti [north of Tbilisi] and Racha [north-central Georgia], which have become virtually depopulated. Besides, they invoke the old legend of the "Kurdiani boy," the sole survivor of an avalanche that wiped out everyone else in his big family. He stayed in Svanetia, typically produced numerous progeny of his own, and now there are Kurdianis everywhere. On another upbeat note, on 17 January eight babies were born in the Mestia hospital.

The author of the article emphasizes throughout the Svans' industriousness, courage, and pride, which have enabled them to live and thrive in Svanetia's severe conditions from ancient times. Unfortunately, in recent times many Svans merely pay lip-service to their heritage, spending as little time as possible there, perhaps to add "a romantic page to their biography" or attract attention, and putting down roots in other places--Tbilisi, Sukhumi, etc.--where life is easier. "Svanetia should not be used as a springboard [trampolin]," the author states.

Admittedly, Svanetia is backward in many respects and lacks the amenities that are long since considered the norm elsewhere in Georgia. It is up to the Svans themselves--especially young people--to do something about it, and the Komsomol has indeed been very energetic. But republic-level ministries and departments must also take steps.

OVERLOADED PRINTING PLANTS DELAY GEORGIAN DICTIONARIES

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi AKHALGAZRDA KOMUNISTI in Georgian No 12, 29 January 1987 carries on page 3 under the title "Language Is the Nation's Mother" [a weekly feature focusing on problems of standard usage in all aspects of public life] Levan Gvindzhilia's 1,200-word inquiry into the fate of two very essential dictionaries whose publication has been delayed for a number of years. They are: "Dictionary of Terms in the Economics of Trade and Commodities Handling," and Akhvlediani & Topuria's "Georgian-Russian School Dictionary," both to be published by Ganatleba Publishing House.

The trade and economics dictionary, designed to impose order in the presently chaotic terminology of merchandising and goods, was prepared by Tbilisi State University in accordance with a special Council of Ministers decree in 1970 [as printed; 1980 is presumably intended] for Tsekavshiri [the republic consumer cooperative system]. The Georgian-Russian dictionary goes back even further. They both have suffered the same fate as dozens of other titles--mainly textbooks and other educational literature--which Ganatleba has had to "carry over" from one year's plan to the next. In the

case of the latter, the original itself is far from completely ready for typesetting and printing.

In a lengthy reply to the author's inquiry, Ganatleba's director, Luka Khundadze, pleads that the publishing house's printing plants are woefully inadequate to their exacting tasks--ranking very low in the USSR as a whole--and are always badly overloaded. He cites numerous figures reflecting Ganatleba's backlog of textbooks and dictionaries and the numbers of printing sheets [listy] required. Moreover, even the various clients, including Tsekavshiri and the Education Ministry's Textbook Administration, hardly seem to care, although the economics dictionary has now been taken to Tsekavshiri's own printing plant for typesetting.

Not all is hopeless, however. Khundadze notes the progress that has been made in the past two years, the fact that several essential texts and reference books are now in press. What Ganatleba needs to improve its dictionary publishing program is to receive a yearly allotment of 150-200 sheets specifically for that purpose. In addition, Goskomizdat [State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade] must monitor the situation more closely. He anticipates that the new khozraschet system of management and stricter enforcement of contract discipline will help. And he promises that the Georgian-Russian dictionary will be out in the fall of 1988.

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REGIONAL ISSUES

KAZAKH FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

[Editorial Report] Alma-Ata SOTSIALISTIK QAZAQSTAN in Kazakh on 24 January 1987 carries on page 3 a 2,400-word article in three parts by SOTSIALISTIK QAZAQSTAN reporters A. Zholdasbekov, M. Abughaliyev and B. Abdirazaqov, published under the rubric "Supply With Food and Produce, A Responsible Duty," entitled "Let There Be No Lack of Attentiveness in Sales." The article reviews problems in the sale of meat, milk, and other food products in three KaSSR oblasts: Chimkent, Eastern Kazakhstan, and Kzyl-Orda. The authors show that there are considerable problems with food availability in all three areas.

Specifically, Zholdasbekov, Abughaliyev and Abdirazaqov complain of great unevenness in food availability from store to store, of rural abundance and urban shortage, of seasonal oversupply, of poor quality products, of too much spoilage, and of many trade system irregularities (short weights, overcharging, etc.). They suggest that a large part of the problem is due to failure of the authorities to take difficulties discussed seriously enough. Failure of suppliers to meet output plans is also a problem.

GREAT DISPARITY IN KAZAKH TELEPHONE DEVELOPMENT

[Editorial Report] Alma-Ata SOTSIALISTIK QAZAQSTAN in Kazakh on 6 February 1987 carries on page 2 a 2,100-word article by KzSSR Minister of Communications S. Bayzhanov entitled "Urgent Need To Improve Telephone Connections." The article evaluates the achievements and problems of KaSSR telephone systems.

According to Bayzhanov, major progress in developing republic telephone systems has been made with 252,400 new telephones installed during the years 1981-1985 alone. Every fifth urban inhabitant of the KaSSR now has a telephone at his or her disposal and every 12th rural inhabitant (by 1991, however, every third urban house and every eighth rural house will have a telephone, above all due to efforts to provide newly completed housing with telephones already installed; the percentage of housing completed with telephones installed will rise from 77 percent today to 85 percent by 1991). By 1993-1995, republic communications workers, Bayzhanov goes on, should be able to eliminate the current backlog of telephone orders completely and to provide new service within no more than a year. By the year 2000, republic telephone needs are "to be met completely," claims Bayzhanov.

Turning to problem areas, Bayzhanov scores construction lags in building up some systems and failure to install electronic systems as construction takes place. He also notes serious problems due to regional inequities in telephone service. Instead of the average of 20 telephones per 100 inhabitants (the figure given by Bayzhanov in the beginning of his article), figures are substantially below this in many oblast centers. For example: Uralsk, 9.5 per hundred; Pavlodar, 17.4 per hundred; Gur'yev, 9.7 per hundred; Arqalyq, 10.0 per hundred; Dzhambul, 10.7 per hundred; Kzyl-Orda, 11 per hundred.

KAZAKH, SOVIET URBAN GROWTH TRACED

[Editorial Report] Alma-Ata BILIM ZHANE ENGBEK in Kazakh No 1, January 1987 carries on pages 12-13 an 800-word article by journalist Marash Toqashbayev, published under the rubric "Flourishing Since the Revolution," entitled "History Written in Stone." The article looks at Soviet and KaSSR urbanization in a world context, noting how in fact the Soviet Union has no means been immune to the effects of a revolution which has changed the world from a largely rural state into one of major urbanization today with more than 200 cities with populations exceeding one million.

In 1926, Toqashbayev continues, only one-fifth of the population of the Soviet Union lived in cities. Today two-thirds does, or 180.2 million persons, a more than 6-fold increase over 1926, during a period when the general population increase was only 1.5 fold. Alma-Ata is among 22 Soviet cities with a population of one million today. That level was achieved in 1981 and signified a 10-fold increase in the population of the city since 1917.

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