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CURRENT SUPPORT MEMORANDUM

CENTRALIZATION OF CITY MANAGEMENT IN USSR

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CENTRALIZATION OF CITY MANAGEMENT IN USSR

Abolition or consolidation of sixty-two urban rayons (city districts) in the USSR since 1954 has centralized the management of several cities and has reduced the total number of urban rayons in the USSR by approximately 10 percent. These abolitions have eliminated the dual administrative structure in certain cities and reportedly have resulted in more efficient city management.

The number of urban rayons decreased by nine between 1 March 1954 and the beginning of 1956. A comparison of statistics shows a loss of ten urban rayons among the Azerbaidzhan, Lithuanian, Uzbek and former Karelo-Finnish SSR's, and a gain of one in the Armenian SSR. 1/ Between January and June 1956, twelve urban rayons were abolished by the Presidiums of the Supreme Soviets in the RSFSR, Estonian SSR and Uzbek SSR. 2/ Since 7 August 1956, the RSFSR, Azerbaidzhan and Latvian SSR's have abolished an additional thirty-four. 3/ Thus the USSR sustained a net loss of fifty-five urban rayons among six of its republics during the period.

Kaunas lost its urban rayons between March 1954 and January 1956. The chairman of the Kaunas city ispolkom (executive committee), has cited the resulting increased efficiency in city administration as justification for centralization and, in a 19 July 1956 Izvestia article, stressed both savings in expenditures and curtailment of red tape as advantages obtained through the change. 4/

Other criticisms of the dual nature of city and urban rayon governments appeared in 1955 and 1956, 5/ perhaps the most outspoken of which was published in Pravda on 15 October 1956. The head of the Zolochov division of Gosbank, complained that the city of Zolochov, because it is of oblast subordination, is subjected to unwarranted duplication and "parallelism" having city and rayon organizations for both Soviet and party structures. In other words, cities which include both city and urban rayon governments have dual councils, party committees, ispolkoms, and departments subsidiary to these organizations. 6/ A Pravda editorial of last summer made the understated observation that "rayons in towns could in a number of cases be merged quite successfully." 7/

In addition to suggestions for the outright abolition of certain urban rayons, there are numerous examples of increased city ispolkom activity at the expense of the urban rayons. Decrees by assorted republics have abolished specified departments of rayon ispolkoms, assigning their functions exclusively to the city ispolkom counterparts. 8/ The advantages of this reorganization are similar to those obtained by abolishing urban rayons entirely, although of course more limited.

Acclaim for the increased activity of city Soviets and ispolkoms comes from several quarters. 9/ In a more general way, this increased activity has been mentioned in the Soviet of the Union. 10/ It seems probable that many cities, particularly those with four or less urban rayons, will follow the trend now established, and improve management by simplifying city governmental structure and eliminating superfluous organizations.

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Urban Rayons Abolished in the USSR Since 1954 11/

<u>Republic</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Urban Rayons Abolished</u>	<u>Net Number Abolished</u>	<u>Number Remaining</u>
RSFSR	Chkalov	Kaganovichskiy	1	3
	Gorkiy	Zheleznodorozhniy, Kirovskiy & Stalin- skiy abolished. Voro- shilovskiy & Zhdanov- skiy became Priokskiy. Sverdlovskiy & Kuyby- shevskiy became Sovet- sky	5	6
	Kalinin	2 undertermined rayons	2	3
	Kalugi	Tsentralnyy	1	2
	Komsomolsk- on-Amur	Leninskiy, Stalinskiy, Tsentralnyy	3	0
	Kursk	Stalinskiy & Dzerzhin- skiy became Promy- shlennyy.	1	3
	Kuybyshev	Dzerzhinskiy, Proletar- skiy & Frunzenskiy be- came Samarskiy.	2	7
	Makhachkala	Stalinskiy, Sovetskiy & Leninskiy became a rural rayon.	3	0
	Ordzhoni- kidze	Zaterechnyy, Leninskiy, Promyshlennyy	3	0
	Penza	Zhelenznodorozhnyy, Severnny & Yuzhnyy be- came Leninskiy.	2	2
	Rostov-on- Don	Andreyevskiy, Ordzhoni- kidzevskiy	2	6
	Smolensk	Stalinskiy & Krasnoar- meyskiy became Tsen- tralnyy.	1	2
	Stavropol	Kaganovichskiy, Stalin- skiy, Ordzhonikidzev- skiy	3	0
	Syzran	Tsentralnyy, Promysh- lennyy & Oktyabrskiy became the town of Oktyabrsk.	3	0
	Vladimir	Promyshlennyy, Tsen- tralnyy	2	0
	Yuzhno-Sakh- alinsk	Oktyabrskiy, Sovetskiy	2	0
	Petrozavodsk	Zaretskiy, Oktyabrskiy, Pervomaiskiy	3	0

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Urban Rayons Abolished in the USSR Since 1954 (cont.)

<u>Republic</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Urban Rayons Abolished</u>	<u>Net Number Abolished</u>	<u>Number Remaining</u>
Azerbaijdzhan SSR	Baku	Gorodskiy, Dzhaparidzevskiy, Duvanninskiy, undetermined rayon	4	13
	Kirovabad	Stalinskiy, Nizaminskiy	2	0
Estonian SSR	Tallin	Nymmeskiy	1	3
Latvian SSR	Riga	Krasnoarmeyskiy, Molotovskiy	2	6
Lithuanian SSR	Kaunas	Leninskiy, Pozhelskiy, Stalinskiy	3	0
Uzbek SSR*	Samarkand	Bagi-Shamalskiy, Siabskiy, Zheleznodorozhnyy	3	0
	Tashkent	Stalinskiy, Moskovskiy	2	6

*Three of the abolished rayons in the Uzbek SSR may be either those listed beside "Samarkand" or Kuybishevskiy, Leninskiy, and Tsentralnyy rayons in Tashkent. Abolition of those in Samarkand seems more likely, and thus Samarkand is credited with the abolished rayons in the table.

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