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2. Personnel and Veterinary Organization:

   a. The more important and authoritative body of veterinarians is, of course, located within the Narodni Komissariat Zemlyedyel (Ministry of Agriculture, referred to as Narkomzem). Narkomzem, Moscow, assigns a chief veterinarian to each of the republics. Veterinary inspectors of Narkomzem are dispatched throughout the republics, oblasts and rayons. Each oblast and rayon is assigned a veterinary. The district veterinaries are provided with more facilities and in most cases each rayon has a Veterinarnaya Lyechebnitza (Veterinary Hospital). The rayons are divided into uchastke (smaller land areas) which do not rate a doctor of veterinary medicine, but are assigned feldschers.

   b. Narkom Sovkhoz (Ministry of Sovkhozes) has its own veterinarians which it assigns to the Sovkhozes throughout the USSR.

   c. Narkom Myesnoye Promyshlyenost (Ministry of Meat Industry) assigns its own veterinarians to slaughter houses where they serve as meat inspectors.

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d. The forces of the Red Army and the NKVD have their own veterinary departments.

e. In addition to the above, the Ministry of Transport assigns its own veterinarians to major shipping junctions within the USSR. Whenever livestock is transported from one sector of the USSR to another, a livestock inspection is held and a bill of health issued by the District Veterinarian. However, a subsequent examination of the livestock is made at the junctions by the Ministry of Transport veterinarians.

/See last page of this report for Chart of Organization under Narkomzem./

3. Disposition of Doctors of Veterinary Medicine in the Samarakand Oblast 1941 to 1946:

a. At oblast headquarters, there were approximately 30 DVMs in 1946. Headquarters used to assign them to positions in the field.

b. The University of Samarakand had a faculty of 15 professors, all doctors of veterinary medicine, whose primary concern was teaching, but they did some research.

c. The Nauchno Sledstvenny Institut (the Scientific Research Institute) employed 10 DVMs who devoted their entire time to research in infectious animal diseases.

4. Biological Industry:

a. The oblast and Narkomzem had a large district veterinary diagnostic laboratory at Katta Kurgan, Uzbek, USSR.

b. There was another diagnostic laboratory at Harshi. This laboratory prepared a serum SZHYK - Sivorota Zerobyk Kobyl, a serum taken from pregnant mares. This serum was used in accordance with the method of Zavodovski to produce multiple birth in karakul sheep.

c. All drugs and instruments required for veterinary use in the Samarakand Oblast were provided by a district supply house, referred to as Rayoniy Snabzheniye.

5. Government Disease Control Program:

a. The Rayoniy Vrach, who was responsible for control of infectious diseases in his district, would make a yearly plan for such control. Upon completion of his plan he would submit it to the oblast where the plan was to be examined. The oblast would either improve upon this plan or send its own with recommendations to Narkomzem. In the event that the representative of Narkomzem in the republic could not agree upon control measures, he would submit his plan for disease control to the Narkomzem, USSR. When the plan was finally received from headquarters, Moscow, the Rayoniy Vrach took such measures as follow:

(1) He checked all of the sheep within the rayon for brucellosis. To make the test for brucellosis, we intradermally injected brutzellizat, a biological product with which we could detect this infectious disease.
(2)[redacted]instructed to inspect all the horses in the district for glanders.
(3)[redacted]vaccinated for anthrax. The serum used for anthrax was the same as that used in the US.

b. In disease control in the USSR, certainly in my region, there were two parallel groups involved:

(1) ZooteKnichiskaya Rabota (Animal Husbandry) was responsible for food planning for livestock, for animal husbandry, and for available statistics on the number of animals expected to be born. It was also responsible for sufficient stables and corrals for the livestock.

[redacted]

(2) Assignments which included the need for veterinary science were handled by the Rayoniy Vrach, who was expected to maintain disease control. He was responsible not only for the livestock, but for whatever birds and fowls were found on the kolkhozes

(a) Whenever an animal died an autopsy had to be performed before the animal could be removed. It was compulsory for a veterinarian to issue a certificate concerning the details of death of the animal.

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(b) In practice, the issuance of death certificates by veterinarians was based on autopsy results or findings, but in most cases, this was very difficult. [redacted]

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Since the rule for autopsies in each case makes a veterinarian partially responsible for losses of animals, he does not always submit true findings when diagnosing a particular disease. To preclude the possibility of being personally implicated and charged with sabotage the veterinary slants his diagnosis and findings thereby hoping to prevent action against himself or others who might be accused.

(c) Incidentally, if an animal died of injury, negligence or malnutrition, someone at the kolkhoz had to make restitution (as an example, a Khovkhoz cow is priced by the state and not the Khovkhoz). If in the veterinarian's conclusions after diagnosis, a cow has died of any of the aforementioned reasons, the kolkhoznik (kolkhoz worker) has to pay its value in money or in kind. The money value is based on the free [redacted]

(d) Whenever an infectious disease was evidenced [redacted] immediately notified the Nachalnik of Harshi (manager or mayor). His response to [redacted]. information followed the form of a question "Did you notify Mr Bassanov?" [redacted] this was ironic for Mr Bassanov knew absolutely nothing about infectious diseases among animals, [redacted] for he was Secretary of the Communist Party of the rayon. [redacted]

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6. Competence of Veterinarians in Central Asia, USSR:

a. The Rayoniy Veterinary of Katta Kurgan, was considered one of the best in Central Asia. This fellow, a Korean (name not recalled) was sent to Korea for a short while after the Japanese surrendered in 1945. Several months later he returned to Uzbek. It was difficult to ascertain his true worth as a veterinarian for [redacted] he was a strong Communist. He may have been considered a good veterinarian because he was a good Communist.

b. The general level of competence is a difficult factor to evaluate, but [redacted] [redacted] the training received at the University of Samarakand was good. The application of this training, however, was not good, Dr Salahov being a perfect example. It must be remembered that in Central Asia the literacy level was lower than in other parts of the USSR. Salahov himself was not able to read or write until he was about 18 years of age. Most of the veterinarians were dishonest, which is typical of the Soviet regime children. There was too much bureaucracy and suspicion, consequently the battle for bread made cheaters out of many of them. Fear of blame caused many of them to sign to dishonest findings in autopsies, in fact, in a number of cases, autopsy certificates were signed without an autopsy being held -- anything to look good in the eyes of the local party secretary.

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25X1 7. Shortages:

25X1 a. [redacted] from 1941 - 46, the critical years of World War II, it would be natural [redacted] to blame shortages on the war economy of the USSR.
25X1 However, during these years [redacted] he existing
25X1 shortage was typical of the pre-World War II period. There was a shortage of surgical instruments and pharmaceuticals in Samarakand and [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] throughout Central Asia.

b. There was a scarcity of qualified veterinary personnel in the USSR. This necessitated the filling of positions which called for the DVM by feldschers and sanitars (male nurses). Training received by the feldschers and sanitars was not on the highest level, but did fit them for general work at the Khovkhozes. In theory they were to handle only minor ailments and request the services of the district veterinarian but in some cases feldschers were able to treat the more common infectious diseases.

8. Infectious Diseases:

a. Central Asia, [redacted] was a region which contained a great deal of malaria. [Off shoots of malaria as contracted by human beings was existent in animals in the form of piraplasmosis [sic] Piraplasmosis was quite a problem, especially in cattle and horses. We had two types of piraplasmosis in my area:

25X1 (1) Theileriosis [redacted] It appeared primarily in cattle. Symptoms of the disease were as follow: high fever, bloody urine, diarrhea or constipation. Post mortem findings included small hemorrhages in the visible mucous membranes which were yellowish and jaundiced. The internal organs of the animal also contained hamorrhages in the trachea, in the bowels, eyes and in the bronchial tubes. The spleen was enlarged.

25X1 (2) Piraplasmosis itself was prominent in horses and may have infected mules. The causes of the various forms of piraplasmosis were microscopic protozoa of the red blood corpuscles /sic/. The treatment for theileriosis was less effective than for piraplasmosis. In order to treat this disease we used a trypan blue solution which we injected intravenously in doses of one to three grams per animal. This disease was particularly widespread in [redacted] 1945. Within the piraplasmosis family there are two other types, but they are not common in Central Asia, they are francaiellosis and babesiosis.

b. Toxemia - one day [redacted] in the Andizhan Oblast, Voroshilov Rayon, [redacted] [redacted] the sheep within the province were dying of a peculiar disease. [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] that two strange men were seen in the sheep pastures that morning sprinkling some solution on the grass - an excellent
25X1 example of fear of sabotage or biological warfare. After [redacted] the autopsy, [redacted] findings and portions of the anatomy were sent to the diagnostic laboratory in Andizhan.

25X1 (1) The following day [redacted] that the
25X1 laboratory had diagnosed the disease as anthrax. [redacted] dared defy the military
25X1 commission and the laboratory for [redacted] the disease was toxemia [sic]
25X1 Since the officials of the Soviet Union never err, [redacted] eceived a telegram from the laboratory which read "Bacteriological, biological and bacterioscopic
25X1 tests all reveal that the disease is anthrax". [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] A day or two later, [redacted] received a
25X1 wire confirming [redacted] the disease was toxemia [sic] The laboratory admitted that it had erred, and had actually performed the test on the entrails of
25X1 another animal and not the one [redacted] dispatched to them.
25X1 (2) [redacted] toxemia was transmitted by large ticks which heavily infested the dirty wooden corrals [sic]

25X1 c. Suiluk - (a non-scientific name adopted by DVMs in Samarakand)

25X1 (1) We discovered an infectious disease in the Andizhan area [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] was unknown to any other parts of the USSR. Since toxemia was

25X1 prevalent throughout the area, we originally believed it to be a form of toxemia, but as we saw more of this disease we discarded our original theory.
(2) This disease infected only horses, and strangely [redacted] the infected horses had subsisted at a certain altitude (height not recalled) and in dry fields. The disease was found in those regions where straw had lain in the fields after harvest [redacted] the straw which had been consumed by the horses had lain in these fields from five to six months).
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(3) The disease affected the respiratory organs of the animals, primarily the lungs. The breathing becoming more and more difficult and eventual death of the animal followed. Subsequent autopsies revealed that the lungs were the recipients of the attack. Because of a development of interstitial tissue the lungs were so affected that they resembled a cow's udder. In touching these lungs [redacted] they even felt like udder tissue. The disease developed slowly, losses were quite heavy with a predominance of fatalities during the summer months.
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(4) Although no successful cure was discovered [redacted] certain professors suspected that the disease was caused by various type molds, which developed in the disintegrating straw and the residue of harvest.
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d. Tetanus

(1) Tetanus was a very common disease in Central Asia and was prevalent primarily in horses. It was caused from saddle sores which were the result of a custom still practiced by many of the Mongols in the region - the Mongols did not remove the saddles from their horses for a number of days at a time. When the saddle was removed the horse would naturally roll in the dirt and grass thereby contracting tetanus.

e. Trypanosomiasis (sometimes referred to as suarau in Central Asia) /sic/ - this disease, very prominent in the area, was found primarily in horses and in camels, among which the death rate was extremely high. In order to treat this disease, we used a Soviet preparation called Niyaganin. It was given in doses of 0.01 per one kilo of body weight of the infected animal and was injected intravenously. The results of recovery were remarkable. [redacted] [redacted] the preparation niyaganin [redacted] it was brilliant green, a German dye product. Whenever [redacted] short of niyaganin [redacted] a preparation [redacted] was sent [redacted] from the Department of Veterinary Medicine in Moscow. [redacted] [redacted] With reference to trypanosomiasis in camels the outbreak and spread was quite extensive in 1943. [redacted] first to discover that it was existent in camels. [redacted] Soviet Laboratory [redacted] [redacted] ad discovered the trypanosomiasis parasite in the camel blood. [redacted] he same medical formula which was being used for horses and obtained excellent results. [redacted] because of the death of a large number of camels a considerable number of Soviet officials had been jailed for sabotage.

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f. Brucellosis - was very common among both cattle and sheep. The Soviet officials were very much perturbed by the spread of brucellesis in sheep, for sheep milk was widely used in making a cheese called Brindza.

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g. Smallpox - was very common in sheep every year. [redacted] [redacted] Smallpox was also prevalent in goats. Incidentally, [redacted] sheep could not transmit smallpox to goats or vice versa.

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h. Foot and mouth disease - - - - foot and mouth disease was common among cattle and hogs.

i. Anthrax - this was an acute bacterial disease which attached all species of animals in Central Asia but [redacted] the Samarakand Oblast, was free of it because [redacted] guarded against it by vaccination.

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j. Pleuromulmonia - This disease which primarily attacked goats, particularly the young, caused permanent damage to the surviving animals. [redacted] [redacted] the killer was a virus. From its name you can readily deduce that it was dominant in the pulmonary organs of the animal. The mortality rate was exceptionally high. The surviving animals did not develop properly appearing emaciated, lifeless and underdeveloped. This disease was unknown elsewhere in the USSR. The first symptom of pleuromulmonia was high fever. The remainder of the flock of goats was injected intravenously with neosalvarsan.

k. Dictocaulosis -

(1) Losses from this disease were extremely high in both sheep and goats. [redacted] much of Central Asia was badly infected with it. The highest ranking authority on parasitology in the USSR, Prof Skryabin, now about 70 years of age, stated that dictocaulosis was the bane of the sheep industry in the USSR. Skryabin, who was a member of the Vhyerhovni Soviet and decorated by the order of Lenin, was himself unable to determine a cure for this disease.

(2) [redacted] shocked at the viciousness of this disease, [redacted] losses in many flocks [redacted] approximated 40% of the total. This disease which affected the lungs was caused by a lung worm and was most difficult to treat. [redacted] used tracheal injections of solutions of iodine and potassium iodide. This medicine originated in the Soviet Union.

(3) Although this disease was prevalent among sheep and goats, [redacted] [redacted] a case [redacted] was discovered after a post-mortem on a horse. [redacted] conducted the post-mortem at the University of Samarakand in order to point out the possibility of its spread to other animals. The administrative authorities of Central Asia were highly perturbed because of the extensive karakul industry in Samarakand and Bukhara.

l. Scabies -

(1) This disease was quite a problem in sheep and goats [redacted] It attacked Angora goats primarily. At the oblast meetings [redacted] reached a conclusion that the Angora species, because of the fine soft wool, were the primary victims of scabies. Besides scabies in sheep and goats it was found in horses and camels. [redacted] were under constant pressure from the military to give preferential treatment to horses since the military was in dire need of these animals. For treatment of horses special gas chambers where the horses could be sprayed with sulphur gas were used.

(2) To treat sheep and goats, [redacted] adopted the most primitive methods [redacted] prepared the solution in big cans and vats and poured it over the animals. With reference to scabies [redacted] witness the "big lie" in the Soviet Union, for in their propaganda they deny the existence of this disease officially, but it does exist and is very common.

m. Black leg - is not uncommon. The usual medical measures against it included the use of common and generally known vaccines. [redacted] immediately vaccinated animals bearing this disease.

n. Tuberculosis - [redacted] where cattle were kept out of doors. TB was extremely low and was not a problem. In fact [redacted] one year when [redacted] checked two thousand cattle for TB, [redacted] did not find a single case of it.

o. Foot rot - [redacted] never sure that the Soviet diagnosis of foot rot was authentic. [redacted] watched for symptoms of mass limping among the flocks. Whenever such a situation occurred foot baths were given to the suspected animals. [redacted] used a solution of copper sulphate and creolin. [redacted] this disease is serious one for if grazing animals are affected with it they are unable to walk and in many cases die of starvation rather than foot rot itself.

p. Rinderpest -

(1) With reference to rinderpest in the USSR [redacted] of the 1941-46 period. [redacted] was one of the few diseases which the Soviets had eradicated or most certainly controlled very well within the borders of

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the USSR. Between 1943-45 there was a serious outbreak of rinderpest on the Afghan border. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Soviet authorities were very much concerned. The authorities [redacted] immediate mobilization of veterinarians, feldschers and sanitars. This personnel was given top priority to travel by rail to the Afghan border, in itself an unusual practice in the Soviet Union for only the highest authorities are given such travel privileges.

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(2) One [redacted] feldschers, a member of the mission which was dispatched to Afghanistan, told [redacted] that the disease was eliminated and that all animals suspected of being infected were immediately quarantined and then destroyed. He was not able to learn the nature of the medical preparations which were employed in treating rinderpest. The feldscher did say, however, that a vaccine was specially prepared and used by the veterinarians who worked with the disease on the Afghan border.

(3) [redacted] there was no rinderpest in the USSR proper and definitely none in the Samarakand and the Uzbek areas.

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9. Reasons for Infectious Diseases:

a. [redacted] the USSR does have a sound knowledge of infectious animal diseases and their treatments. Fear of the administration by those working with livestock prompts them to have an ever existing concern for animal losses through infectious disease.

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b. [redacted] there is considerable change in administration in the USSR on the lower levels. No concise book or national statutes concerned with veterinary methodology for the regions is in existence. [redacted] would receive directives from the authorities concerning methodology but several months later these directives would be rescinded by new administrators. Consequently the field men were unable to follow a policy pattern. [redacted] this poor organization and administration impeded qualified veterinarians in their endeavors to do a job.

c. Despite the many losses [redacted] attributed to various infectious diseases, [redacted] much of the loss was due to a greater degree to malnutrition and improper care.

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d. One constantly sees Soviet statistics on the lack of diseases and the large output of livestock. Sometimes visiting foreign dignitaries come back from the Soviet Union with glowing accounts of the especially fine livestock they had seen while visiting there. [redacted] on a certain occasion while [redacted] in the Archangel area, visiting dignitaries were taken to a Sovkhoz where they were shown prize Soviet cattle. Of course, the Soviet authorities explained to the visitors that this was typical of all cattle in the USSR. [redacted] [redacted] however, [redacted] special concentrates in sugar beet toppings were fed these animals and [redacted] they were given special care for window-dressing purposes.

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10. Anti-animal Biological and Chemical Warfare:

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a. [redacted] [redacted] the Government does not have to direct the people to prepare for chemical warfare because of a natural suspicion which exists among the Soviet citizens. [redacted] no matter what the cause of death might be in any animal, this cause is always questioned in the light of possible sabotage against the Soviet State.

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b. For military purposes during World War II each district veterinary hospital was provided with a special kit of anti-gas preparations. The materials within the kit consisted of two small boxes of drugs and instruments which were to be used in the event of a gas attack. The primary concern was protection against yperite and other gases. [redacted] nothing was concentrated in the direction of preparation for anti-biological warfare.

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c. As previously stated everyone is prepared to expect the worst in biological warfare. Any spread of infectious diseases is considered not only a disaster, but is looked upon as a crime to be investigated and the perpetrator apprehended. As an example, during the period of purge in 1937, many innocent veterinarians were jailed or liquidated for allegedly purposely spreading infectious diseases. [redacted]

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d. Whenever we held a veterinary meeting it was attended by the Nachalnik of the town, representatives from the district Communist Party headquarters, and, of course, a public prosecutor. The Nachalnik of the town would ask such questions of the veterinarian responsible for the area as "Tell me please Tovarish, why is your district behind in the quota?" or "Do you know, Tovarish, that 27 horses died in your area last quarter? What is your explanation?" Actually the veterinarian was giving testimony which either cleared him or placed him in a precarious position for he was on trial whether he was aware of it or not.

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e. Another examp[redacted]he Samarakand Oblast [redacted] veterinarian [redacted] had been sent to prison for 10 years. [redacted] [redacted] a foot and mouth disease had developed in the area with the result that [redacted] had been accused of spreading the disease either through negligence or wanton willfulness.

11. Research and Statistics:

a. The prevalent breed of sheep in Central Asia is karakul. In fact Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan and Kazakhistan are the largest producers of karakul sheep in the USSR.

b. Artificial insemination - the Zavadovski method:

(1)[redacted]sed a combination of SZHYK and hormones, equine gorradotropin, in order to increase the number of births per karakul sheep.

(2) Normal birth in karakul sheep is about 110 lambs per 100 mothers. By use of the above metho[redacted]ncreased the number of births to such extent that twins and triplets were not uncommon. In fact[redacted] several quadruple and quintuple births.

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(3) The statistics issued by the USSR on the results of this Zavadovski method were a true picture of the birth rate. These statistics, however, failed to divulge the disasterous results to the sheep bearing these young, for the karakul mothers were not physically constituted to support multiple birth with the result that death among the mothers decreased the original yield by almost 50%.

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c. Poultry and eggs: [redacted] the kolkhozes are given a production norm for each year. Included within this norm [redacted] was a requirement that the kolkhozes were to provide the Government with 40 thousand chickens and a certain number of eggs as their share of the national norm. Of course, the Soviet Government in its national statistics showed how the Samarakand Oblast, for the glory of the Soviet Union, had exceeded its norm of 40 thousand chickens and eggs (number of eggs not recalled). But what the statistics failed to show was the human element involved. Many chickens had died, others had been stolen from the kolkhozes but the norm was met. In order to meet the norm each Kholkhoznik was deprived of his own chickens and eggs with absolutely no consideration for his welfare. In some cases kolkhozniks even went to the free market where they purchased eggs and chickens to meet the requirements. Thus the norm was always fulfilled.

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d. Statistics on the animal mortality rate: [redacted] the statistics on the low animal mortality rate because of infectious diseases in the USSR is untrue. Whenever a number of animals died because of infectious diseases, malnutrition or some other cause, we veterinarians did not certify that all the deaths were the result of one specific factor. Instead [redacted]ould try to break the figures down to show a variety of innecuous causes such as old age, unavoidable accident, and etc. [redacted] [redacted] the true picture the authorities would single out an individual could charge with a crime against the Soviet State. [redacted]he glories of the Soviet Union and their statistics were [redacted] the "Big Lie". [redacted]n order to survive in the USSR, everyone must at some time or another lie.

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12. Veterinary Education:

a. The University of Samarakand

(1) There are two schools of discipline at this university. One of these is the department of Agronomy and the other the Department of Veterinary Medicine.

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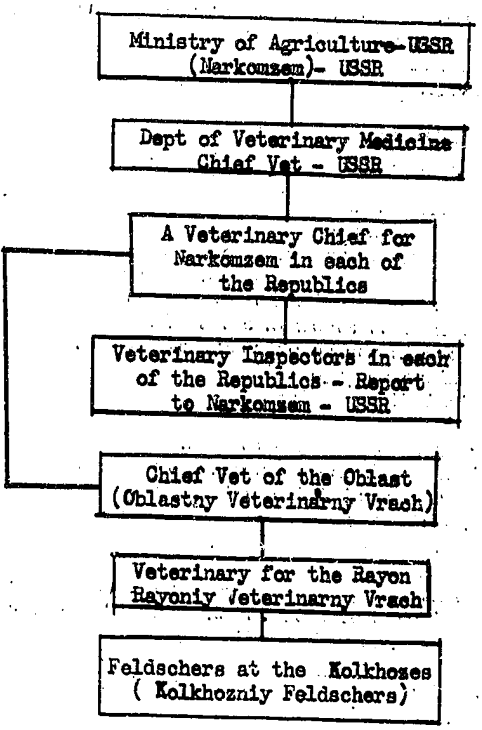
Organization of Veterinarians Under Narkomzem - USSR



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