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MID-WINTER COLD WAVE GRIPS EUROPEAN AREAS OF SOVIET UNION

MOSCOW BECOMES COLDER -- Vechernyaya Moskva, No 8, 10 Jan 50

Since 29 December, the weather in Moscow has become very cold. During the past 12 days, the temperature rose to only 15-16 degrees below zero; all readings are centigrade/ the rest of the time the frosts were considerably stronger. For example, on 8 January, the average daily temperature was 28.6 degrees below zero, that is, 18.7 degrees below the average norm for this day (according to observations made over a period of many years). Today, it was colder. At 0600 the temperature was 35 degrees below zero, and in Klin it was 39 degrees below zero.

The minimum temperature at night in Moscow was 35 degrees; at noon 34 degrees; and at 1500 it was 32.4 degrees below zero.

Tonight and tomorrow in the central oblasts of European USSR, temperatures will drop to 35-40 degrees below zero, but during the following 2 days they are expected to grow somewhat milder.

Tomorrow in Moscow the weather is expected to be slightly cloudy with no precipitation. Night temperature will be 37-39 degrees below zero, daytime temperature 33-35 degrees below zero with a rise in temperature toward evening to 30-32 degrees below zero. Cold air from the northeast is spreading over nearly all of European USSR.

TEMPERATURE DROPS IN LATVIA -- Sovetskaya Latvija, No 9, 11 Jan 50

A sharp and prolonged drop in temperature, beginning in Latvia on 28 December, was increased by the intrusion of Arctic air coming from the northern regions of the European territory of the USSR and spreading to the Baltic area. During the first days of the temperature drop, the minimum temperature at night in the eastern regions of Latvia dropped to 9-10 degrees below zero, and in the western areas to 7-10 degrees below zero.

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During the past few days, the temperature has continued to drop. On 10 January, the morning temperature in Riga was as low as 27 degrees below zero.

During the next 3 days, Latvia will continue to have freezing weather. Minimum air temperature is expected to be 19-24 degrees below zero in the western regions and 27-33 degrees below zero in the remaining regions of the Latvian SSR.

COLD WAVE SPREADS -- Sovetskaya Belorussiya No 9, 12 Jan 50

During the last days of December and the first 10 days of January, an intrusion of cold Arctic air swept into Belorussia from the Barents and Kara Seas. The strongest frosts occurred during the nights of 9 and 10 January. Morning temperature, in comparison with the past 10 days, dropped 8-10 degrees, reaching 26-33 degrees below zero. On the morning of 11 January, the frosts increased, with the temperature dropping to 32-36 degrees below zero.

The lowest temperature was recorded in Brest, Poles'ye Bobruysk, and Molo-dechno oblasti. On the morning of 11 January, the temperature dropped to 36 degrees below zero in Prushany and Slutsk.

In Minsk, during the night of 11 January, temperatures dropped to 34 degrees below zero.

During the night, 12 to 13 January, frosts in the republic dropped to 36-40 degrees below zero. A gradual abatement of frosts and a rise in temperature is expected.

SNOW FALLS IN BAKU -- Bakinskiy Rabochiy, No 10, 14 Jan 50

During the past 3 days, Baku has had a heavy snowfall, due to the intrusion of a mass of Arctic air from the Kara Sea region to Apsheron. The temperature ranged from 2-6 degrees below zero. In places, the depth of the snowfall was more than 50 centimeters. Such snowfalls are a rare occurrence in Baku.

During the next 2-3 days, it is expected that the snowfall will cease and there will be a gradual rise in temperature.

STALINABAD HAS SUDDEN TEMPERATURE DROP -- Kommunist Tadzhikistana, No 13, 18 Jan 50

Following a period of rainy but warm days, Stalinabad had a snowfall and a sharp drop in temperature. During the night of 16 - 17 January the temperature dropped to 17 degrees below zero. At noon, the temperature was 13 degrees below zero.

During the next 2-3 days, clear and cold weather will continue in Stalinabad. Severe frosts may be expected in the mornings.

ICE BLOCKS FORM IN KURA -- Vechernaya Moskva, No 15, 18 Jan 50

On 13 January, ice appeared on the Kura River. By 24 January, the entire navigable expanse of the river, from the Khillinskiy wharf to Yevlakh formed about 50 ice blocks, some of which were one kilometer long. Such complete freezing on the Kura is an extremely rare phenomenon.

Kura River work are operating under extremely difficult conditions. The fleet is stationed at ship-repair points and is supplied with emergency equipment and materials. The river is under daily 24-hour observation and brigades are present to free ice-blocked barges.

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