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ROLE OF DOSARM UNDER RECENTLY APPROVED REGULATIONS

L. M. Abramov

The regulations of the All-Union Volunteer Society for Assistance to the Army (DOSARM USSR) have been approved. DOSARM is one of the mass workers' organizations of the USSR, through which millions of patriots are drawn into social work, which increases the power of the Soviet Army. The regulations stress the fact that work among the masses and volunteer spirit are the basic characteristics of the society. It can become strong only by its ability to reach the masses and by satisfying their desire for military knowledge and military sports.

The regulations define the duties of DOSARM in accordance with its aims. The society is charged with providing propaganda to encourage military and technical studies, teaching its members military specialties; training the population for antiaircraft defense and protection against chemical attacks, and developing military sports and short-wave radio amateurs.

To perform these tasks, the society is carrying on varied practical measures through circles, sports teams and sports clubs, radio circles and clubs. It provides for the showing of instructive films on military and technical subjects, as well as constructive exhibitions by radio amateurs, automotive technicians, etc.

The society has its own newspaper and magazines, and publishes books and posters.

An extensive network of radio circles, under primary organizations of cities and towns, aids tens of thousands of novice radio amateurs to grasp the principles of radio engineering, build simple receivers, set up antennas, and operate radio apparatus. Programs and practical work have also been arranged for more advanced students.

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The society has at its disposal many educational and technical organizations which make it possible to give daily assistance to radio amateurs. Among such organizations are: the Central Radio Club and local clubs, the Central Radio Station and a network of collective radio stations in many cities and villages, a central correspondence radio consultation office, and a central radio laboratory. All these organizations promote development of the short-wave amateur movement, disseminate technical knowledge among the workers, and help raise the level of radio amateurism.

The regulations state: "The society shall educate its members in the spirit of devotion to the Soviet Fatherland and of readiness to defend the Soviet state." The society is, therefore, responsible for bringing its members and all workers belonging to clubs, sports teams, schools, and DOSARM clubs to a high level of political, patriotic, and scientific preparedness.

According to the regulations, "The work of the All-Union Volunteer Society for Assistance to the Army shall be founded on the independence and initiative of members of the society." The independence and initiative of DOSARM members are the only foundation for the growth of a volunteer society which will unite millions of citizens who desire to aid the growth of the Soviet Army.

Article 9 of the regulations states: "Any person who has reached the age of 15, acknowledges the regulations of the society, belongs to one of the primary organizations of the society, and pays the membership fees may be a member of the All-Union Volunteer Society for Assistance to the Army." Being a mass organization, DOSARM unifies the volunteer work of workers, peasants, employees, students and housewives, without distinction as to nationality or sex. Membership in the society is decided on an individual basis by a committee of the primary organization, or, if no committee exists, by a general meeting of the primary organization.

The requirement that every member should also be a member of a primary organization is necessary because it is only through the union of closely knit organizations that DOSARM can accomplish its tasks.

The regulations also define the rights of society members. Each active DOSARM member has full rights in his own organization.

By its constitutional structure DOSARM is based on democratic centralism. All governing bodies are elected by the members and are accountable to them. DOSARM organizations decide on all questions concerning operations by a majority vote and in accordance with the regulations and the resolutions of the governing bodies. The lower organizations obey the higher organizations.

All governing bodies are elected by secret ballot. The regulations provide that these bodies should be elected from among society members who have reached the age of 18.

The intrasociety democracy insisted on by the regulations demands extensive criticism and self-criticism in all DOSARM organizations. Such criticism is needed not simply in governing bodies and formal meetings, in conferences and committee work, but likewise in the work of clubs, circles, and sports teams. Without it there can be no progress.

The chief reasons for poor mass work in various clubs are that club life has not been well developed, members and committees do not meet, and there is no one to criticize them. They cease working with radio amateurs and tend to become closed educational organizations. But clubs which are not afraid to put their work under mass control, carry on successful educational work together with propaganda for radio knowledge, development of short-wave amateurism, etc. The Leningrad, Kiev, and L'vov clubs belong to the latter category.

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Democracy within the society does not exclude a highly conscious discipline from the ranks of DOSARM. In the primary organizations, circles, sports teams, and clubs are called upon to spread military information among the masses and give them the rudiments of military education. In all these links of the society there must be firm discipline.

According to the regulations: "The primary organizations form the basis of the All-Union Volunteer Society for Assistance to the Army." The regulations also state that these primary organizations shall be formed in enterprises, kolkhozes, MTS, institutes, and educational institutions where there are not less than three society members.

The primary organizations act as organizers, educators, and agitators in mobilizing great masses of society members for patriotic work. They direct the unification of workers for mass military work, develop independence and initiative among members, and cultivate the active membership -- the real assets of the society.

The scientific organizations of the society -- including the radio clubs -- can best aid the primary organizations by conducting seminars of radio club leaders and helping propagandists prepare their talks and lectures.

Radio clubs can also prepare lectures for primary organizations, and arrange for the showing of instructive films and transparencies, demonstrations of apparatus, mobile radio stations, etc.

The All-Union Council of the society passed a resolution suggesting organized study of the regulations by all society members. The council obligated all organizations strictly to observe the provisions and requirements of the regulations to ensure further development of DOSARM and of democracy, criticism, and self-criticism as a means of strengthening the society.

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