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DESCRIPTION OF CITY OF STALINABAD

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Stalinabad, the capital of Tadzhik SSR, is located on the Varsob River in the center of the Gissarakaya Valley. The city has straight blocks, and wide, straight streets paved with asphalt; industrial plants are located on the outskirts, especially on the southern side. Roads and railroads stretch out in the shape of a fan from the center of the city and pass between fields of cotton and trees.

The territory of present-day Stalinabad was formerly occupied by three villages: Sarry-Assiya to the north, Sakhmansur to the south, and between them, Dyushambe. Translated from the Tadzhik, Dyushambe means second night and corresponds to the Russian for Monday. In 1924, Dyushambe was made the center of Autonomous Tadzhikistan, and one year later it was established as a city. In 1929 it became the capital of the reorganized Tadzhik republic, was connected with Termez by railroad, and its name was changed from Dyushambe to Stalinabad. At that time, Stalinabad had no water pipelines, bridges, electricity, industrial enterprises, or labor cadres. Its mineral resources were not developed and its trade was insignificant. The new city was to become the center of all future means of communications of the agricultural country which was backward at that time.

In 1929, industry made up only 20 percent of the gross national product of the republic. Nearly all the industries were concentrated in northern Tadzhikistan. They included small cotton-cleaning plants, creameries, the Shurabi Coal Mines, petroleum industries, and in addition outstanding domestic-type industries. Southern Tadzhikistan's industry was extremely backward and undeveloped. So little cotton was grown, especially in the Gissarskiy Valley, that it was all consumed where it was grown.

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Water for city irrigation passes through open irrigation ditches and partly through pipelines. Water for daily needs is pumped from the Dyushambinka River and is purified by filters before it is passed on to the mains. The length of the water main is 50 kilometers and 22,000 cubic meters are piped to the population every 24 hours. Shortage of water for daily needs is not foreseen at the present time.

The development of resources and industrial activity in Stalinabad began with the building of scientific research institutes. During the first years of development, several scientific research institutes were organized and the groundwork was laid for the Tadzhik branch of the Academy of Sciences USSR. In 1926, the town had 5,607 residents and several elementary schools. In 1939, Stalinabad had 82,540 residents and three VUZ, nine tekhnikums and special institutes, and four FZO schools, all of which were attended by a total of about 3,000 students. Elementary, secondary, and higher institutions in Stalinabad had over 17,000 persons enrolled, or more than one fifth of the total population.

During the first 10 years of the city's existence, a cotton-spinning plant (1926), a rolling mill (1927), a meat combine (1930), silk-spinning factory (1932), and a tannery were built. All these enterprises process local raw materials. In 1936, a large cotton combine was built which was already producing during the war, and in 1939 a silk-weaving factory was put into operation. The population of Stalinabad also began to grow rapidly and other enterprises were built, among them a soft-drink plant (1932), a sewing factory (1933), footwear factory (1937), mechanized bread-baking plant (1938), and a brewery (1939). In the northern part of the city, brick (1930), alabaster (1937), asphalt and concrete (1938), and cement (1941) plants were built. In addition to these main enterprises, there exist many artels, shops, bakeries, creameries, and other minor industries. A coal-mining center, Ravatskoye, is located 135 kilometers from Stalinabad. Nearer the city are two other coal-mining centers, Tashkutanskoye, 75 kilometers away, and Ziddinskoye, 80 kilometers. All three places are high in the mountains. The coal mined in Ravatskoye is of high quality and plays an important role in the Stalinabad economy, while in the other places the coal is of low quality and is not used in Stalinabad. By 1950, only traces of petroleum had been found in the Gissarskaya Valley.

The city's population has increased primarily because of newcomers. In 1926 the population was 5,607 persons; in 1928 it increased to 16,000, in 1929 to 19,000, in 1930 to 24,000, in 1938 to 42,000, and in 1939 to 82,540 persons.

Off to one side of the main street are a number of settlements. Most of them are on hills to the northeast on the periphery of the city. In 1940, there were over ten such settlements. They were named the first, second, and third Nagornyy (meaning on a hill) and the first, second, and third Podgornyy (at the base of a hill), Staryy and Novyy Shakhmansur (at the village), Zavodskiy (at the cotton plant), Klinicheskii (at the polyclinic) Privokzal'nyy, and so on. Several of the settlements have become quite large. Nagornyy, founded in 1937, had over 100 houses in 1940. It was settled primarily by Russians and Ukrainians. Most of the settlements will be integrated into Stalinabad.

The most important scientific, educational, theatrical, and other cultural institutions of the republic are located in Stalinabad. The Tadzhik branch of the Academy of Sciences USSR is being built on ulitsa Ayni. It was begun in 1932 and combines six scientific research institutes, an astronomical observatory, and several regional stations. Geologists have found over 250 deposits of useful minerals. Many crops of subtropical plants and new varieties of cotton, grain, and alfalfa are being raised. During the school year 1948-49, the State University was opened. New institutes, tekhnikums, and special schools are now being built. At present, there are over 30 primary and secondary schools, a special scientific research institute of schools, and an institute for the advanced training of teachers. Tadzhikgosizdat (Tadzhik State Publishing House), which

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is located on ulitsa Lenina, publishes several republic newspapers in Tadzhik, Russian, and Uzbek, including the periodical Bolshevik Tadzhikistana in Tadzhik, political, scientific, and art literature, and a series of special magazines. During its 25 years of operation, Tadzhikgosizdat has published over 40 million books in Tadzhik. An opera and ballet theatre has been built on the new ploshchad' imeni Moskvyy. The level of literacy has increased nearly 20 times from 1926 when it was only 3.7 percent of the level of literacy in 1939.

Stalinabad occupies nearly the entire third bench of the Dyushambe River. The city can expand in a southern direction or be extended over to the right bank, which at present is only slightly inhabited. It is here that Lake Komsomol'skaya and its water station are located. It is here also that the Large Gissarskiy Canal begins and the wide ulitsa imeni Putovskogo leads into the long bridge which crosses the Dyushambinka. In general, the city stretches southward, beginning at the railroad, then crosses the second terrace where many new industrial enterprises are being built. In the future, some of the enterprises will be moved south or north, or even outside the city's boundaries.

The southernmost tip of Stalinabad has a tannery which is separated from the city by a green zone. This area was formerly a desert, but now it has been built up with enterprises which are located along the Kurgan-Tyubinskiy highway. So far, a meat combine, textile combine, and machine shop have been built. A majority of the enterprises planned during the postwar Five-Year Plan were being built in this area in 1950.

The length of Stalinabad from the north side of the city to the tannery is about 10 kilometers and its width at the widest point is 6.5 kilometers. The main highways correspond to the four possible avenues, or approaches, to the city: from the north, Tasikentskiy Trakt, changing farther south into the Ura-Tyubinskiy highway which leads to the Vakshskaya Plain; from the west, Termezskiy highway which farther east joins the Novo, Pamirskiy highway. The dividing line which separates the city into two parts consists of Kirov, Lenin, and Lakhuti streets. It is also the main artery which all incoming and outgoing roads cross. To ease traffic, a wide automobile highway will pass even farther eastward along the edge of the city to take care of the extra flow of freight.

In architecture, three stages are easily noticeable. During the first stage, which may be called utilitarian, the necessity was quantity and not beauty. Many standard houses were built at this time. The second stage represents the search for an architectural style, and is represented by such buildings as the Printing House, House of Communications, Building for the Supreme Soviet of Tadzhik SSR and the Ministry of Agriculture of the republic, and so on. The third stage is a modern one, during which Soviet architecture has found its own style. It is represented by the House of the TsK KP(b) of Tadzhikistan, the State House, the hotel, the Tadzhik Theater of Opera and Ballet, the Medical Institute, and many others. The predominance of small, and two- or three-story houses is explained by geological conditions, since the region where Stalinabad is located is a highly seismic one (7-8 balls).

Sparseness of construction is characteristic of Stalinabad. The city is growing wider, and keeping its large, green areas free of construction. The average density of the population during the last census was under 30 persons per hectare. The most densely populated section of the city was that formerly occupied by Dyushambe (up to 140 persons per hectare). From here the population decreases in all directions. An especially sparsely settled section of the city is the southern one, which is also spread out, but where dwelling houses are being built at present. A wide-gauge railroad, coming from the west, continues eastward to Ordzhonikidze for 22 kilometers. Local trains go there daily. In addition, two narrow-gauge railroads meet in Stalinabad; one goes south to the cotton-growing Vakshskaya Plain to Pyandzha (240 kilometers), and another stretches

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northward to the Varsob Canyon to the settlement Pugus (32 kilometers), from where it goes to the Ziddinskoye Coal Mines (80 kilometers). This railroad, following the eastern boundary of Stalinabad, serves a group of enterprises, a stone quarry on the Dyushambinka River, and, further north, cement and lime plants located in the vicinity of large deposits of construction materials. A large glass plant is being built and brick and alabaster plants will be moved here later from the city. This northern industrial area, where a group of industries is now located, is separated from the populated section by a 10-kilometer-wide unpopulated strip.

On the central part of the prospekt on the large ploshchad' imeni Moskvyy stand the Tadzhik Opera and Ballet Building. A large three-story hotel is also located on this ploshchad'. Not far from these buildings is the House of TsK KP(b) of Tadzhikistan and farther down is the two-story printing house. At the bend in ulitsa Lenina is the small ploshchad' Pravitel'stva, where the House of Communications and, next to it, the State House are located. Farther north, where ulitsa Lenina crosses ulitsa Putovskogo, stands a large general store. Across from it is the park imeni Frunze and next to it the Tadzhik Drama Theater, the theater imeni Lakhuti, and the Zelenyy Theater. A trolley-bus line runs between this ploshchad' and the station.

Stalinabad continues to grow. Three kolkhoz settlements for migratory workers are being built in the Vakhshskaya Plain. Next to the enterprises processing agricultural raw materials are industries which serve the needs of the agricultural economy, transport, and industry growing up outside the capital. During World War II, machine-building and repair plants were built. The machine-building plant imeni Ordzhonikidze produces petroleum equipment and parts for agricultural machines. An electromechanical plant, "Sel'elektro," produces equipment for electric power stations, including small turbines for agricultural electric power stations. The repair of motors, combines, and the production of parts for them is done by the Motor Repair Plant. Spare parts for automobiles and tractors are produced by the "Traktorodetal'" and "Avtozapaschast'" plants.

Such a rapid growth of the city necessitates expanding its present source of power supply. The problem of supplying the city with local fuel has not been solved. One powerful source of electric energy for Stalinabad is the Varsob River. The second hydroelectric power station, the Nizhniy Varsob GES, is being built between the Varsob GES and Stalinabad; it will be almost twice as powerful as the first GES. Both stations are automatically controlled and in the future it is planned to change them to remote control from a distance of 10 kilometers. According to the postwar Five-Year Plan, new enterprises were to provide additional sources of power. In addition, the construction of cloth, weaving, knitted fabric, dyeing and finishing factories, milk and margarine plants, large confectionery factories, glass plants and "Metalloshirpotreb" were to be completed. At the same time, several operating enterprises are being expanded and reconstructed. For example, the mechanized bread-baking plant is setting up a macaroni shop, a sewer-pipe shop at the ceramics plant, and so on.

The population of Stalinabad grows because of the arrival of new people and also, to a large extent, because of natural processes. The total number of Tadzhikistan residents greatly exceeds 100,000; that is, it has increased by more than 20 times during the past 20 years.(1)

During 1952, a dwelling house for workers of the Ministry of Justice was put into operation and a six-apartment building for timber-industry workers was built. The Kurgan-Tyubinskiy Construction Administration is building new cultural and public service buildings in Stalinabad.(2) Several 18-apartment buildings are also under construction.(3)

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SOURCES

1. Stalinabad, Stolitsa Tadzhikeys SSR (Stalinabad, Capital of Tadjik SSR),  
Moscow, 1950
2. Stalinabad, Kommunist Tadjikistana, 12 Jun 52
3. Ibid., 10 Aug 52

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