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Transportation in Western Sinkiang

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- In 1951 the Soviet-Chinese Civil Aviation Company (SKOGA), with headquarters at Urumchi (N 43-38, E 87-35), operated flights from Urumchi to Peiping, Kashgar (N 39-29, E 75-58), and Alma Ata. The airline made two round-trip flights a week between Urumchi and Kashgar, and occasionally stopped at Aksu (N 41-15, E 80-14) and Ining (N 43-55, E 81-14) during these flights. SKOGA also made flights between Kashgar and Yarkand (N 38-24, E 77-16), but these were infrequent and not a regular service. The planes used by the airline were Dakotas with Soviet markings and were flown by Soviet pilots. The planes on the Urumchi-Kashgar flight carried air mail, officials in transit between the two cities, and some civilian passengers. A ticket for a one-way flight for civilian passengers cost 95 rupees. Civilian passengers were required to obtain a certificate from their local mohalla (sic) police station before purchasing a ticket.
- The Kashgar office of the airline was at the airfield outside Kashgar. The office was staffed with Chinese officials, and Chinese ground crews serviced the planes. The Soviet pilots and technicians assigned to the airline to train Chinese technicians lived at the airfield in their own barracks.
- In 1952 the Soviet railway in Kirghiz S.S.R. extended from Osh (N 40-32, E 72-48) to Irkeshtam (N 39-42, E 73-50). Plans had been made to extend this railway from Irkeshtam to Kashgar, and, ultimately, across southern Sinkiang; but in 1952 no construction work had started on the Sinkiang side.

Communications, Kashgar and P'uli

- From early 1949 to late 1952, there were no private telephones in Kashgar. All telephones were for official use only and for local calls only. Connections were made by giving the operator the name of the person being called. In 1949 there were about 30 telephones in Kashgar; in 1952, there were over 100 telephones. During the Chinese Nationalist regime the telephones were old-fashioned, hand-rung types

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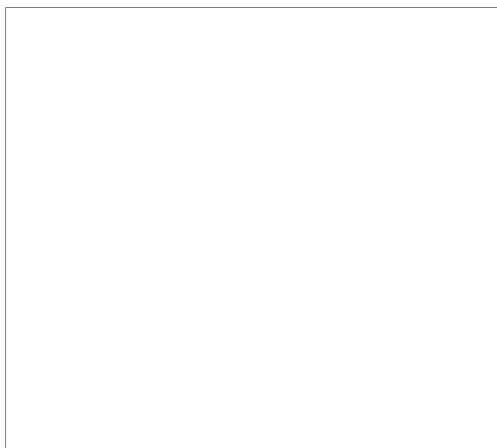


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that usually hung on the wall. The Communists replaced these with modern instruments and built a new telephone exchange near Tushak Gate in Old Kashgar. The telephone system was administered by the Chinese postal department in Kashgar. Maintenance was done by Chinese and Turkis.

- 5. In 1952 there were no privately owned radio sets in Kashgar with the exception of those in the possession of foreigners resident there. The Chinese Communists installed radio sets in various People's Clubs around Kashgar and broadcast a daily Turki propaganda program from Urumchi for the benefit of the native Kashgar populace.
- 6. By late 1952 the old Nationalist wireless station at P'uli (N 37-47, E 75-14) had been completely rebuilt and enlarged. Larger antennas consisting of five 20-foot iron rods joined at the tops by wires had also been added.

 Comment.  the extension of the Andizhan (N 40-50, E 72-30) railway from Osh eastward in the direction of Irkeshtam and Kashgar was begun during the summer of 1952.



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