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a "Report on Psychology in the USSR," prepared by the noted Soviet psychologist, Professor Aleksandr Romanovich Luria, and dated 20 Jul 62. The author is an active member of the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, RSFSR, and Director of the Institute of Defectology under that same academy.

In this four-page report, which is presented in English, Professor Luria describes Soviet psychology under the following four main categories:

- a. The Soviet Psychological Society - the membership, various branches and areas of professional activity are described.
- b. Research on Psychology in the USSR - the roles of the research academies and ministries and the universities and pedagogical institutes are illustrated.
- c. Teaching in Psychology - the curriculums in the three major university Departments of Psychology are presented and general details about advanced study are presented.
- d. Practical Work of Psychologists in the USSR - the most important areas in which Soviet psychologists are working are listed and their particular projects are noted in each case.

This survey report on Soviet psychology is UNCLASSIFIED.]

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July 20, 1962

Report on Psychology in U.S.S.R. by Prof. A. R. Luria (Moscow)

Soviet Psychological Society

Psychologists in USSR are incorporated in the Soviet Psychological Society which is an association of all scholars of scientific psychology working in different fields of psychological science (general and physiological psychology, pedagogical psychology, industrial psychology, medical psychology, etc.). The most part of members of the S.P.S. are trained psychologists with special degrees.

The amount of members of S.P.S. is about 1,100.

The Society has about 20 branches; the biggest ones are: Moscow Psychological Society (about 300 members), Leningrad P.S. (about 250 members), Ukrainian P.S. (about 220 members), Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaidjan, Bielorussian, Ouzbek P.S., and others.

The most important branches of S.P.S. have sections such as: section of pedagogical psychology, industrial psychology, medical psychology, psychology of sports, etc.

S.P.S. holds its general assemblies (congresses) every 2 years with an extensive program covering all fields of psychological science and with about 1,000 participants. Every branch has its own regional conferences, partly limited to special problems of psychology. Transcaucasian conferences of Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaydjan P.S. are held every 2 years; Ukrainian conferences--every year. There were special conferences on such topics as "Psychology of Personality," "Psychology of Labour," "Problems of Engineering Psychology," etc.

Scholars in Higher Nervous Activity & Conditional Reflexes are working in the frames of Soviet Physiological Society; a considerable number of scientists are engaged in this field working in different Research Institutes and Laboratories of Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Rostov, Tbilissi, etc.

Special Conferences on Higher Nervous Activity are held every year in Leningrad mostly in the Pavlov memorial days; about 800-1,000 participants take part in these conferences.

Scholars in Pedagogical Psychology are associated with Soviet Pedagogical Society which has branches in different parts of the country. A special Section of Defectology (Education of handicapped children) is a part of this society.

Conference on Defectology are held every 2 years with about 800-1,000 participants (teachers, psychologists and psychiatrists) with papers in Psychology and education of Deaf, Blind, Mentally retarded children as well as Children with Hard of Hearing, Speech Disorders, etc.

A part of Soviet psychologists are associated with Soviet Society of Neurologists and Psychiatrists, with branches in a series of cities and its own conferences.

Soviet Psychologists publish their papers in "Questions of Psychology" (Journal of S.P.S.), in "Proceedings of the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences," as well as in "Soviet Pedagogics," "Question of Philosophy," "Journal of Higher Nervous Activity," "Journal of Neuropathology & Psychiatry," etc. A series of special journals mostly on Education are published in different Republics of the USSR in their own languages (Ukrainian, Bielorussian, Georgian, Armenian.

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Ouzbek, etc.). The most part of books in Psychology is published by the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences Publishing House; a part of books in Psychology is published by Pedagogical and Medical Publishing Houses as well in the Academy of Sciences of USSR Publishing house.

Symposia in special fields of Psychology and Education is published in a special series "Izvestia of the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences"; more than 120 volumes of this series were published during the last 15 years.

Research in Psychology in USSR

Two systems are responsible for Research in Psychological Science in USSR: the System of Academies of Sciences or Ministeries with special Research Institutes (research only) and the system of Universities and Pedagogical Institutes (teaching and research).

The most important research work in psychology is associated with the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of the Russian Federation. This Academy has a series of Research Institutes in Education, and two Institutes especially working in the field of Psychology. (Institute of Psychology and Institute of Defectology).

Institute of Psychology (Moscow) with a staff of about 100 full time Research associates has Laboratories in Physiological Psychology, Individual Differences, Perception, Thinking as well as in Pedagogical Psychology, Industrial Psychology, etc.

Institute of Defectology (Moscow) with a staff of about 60 full time Research associates-- has sections for Studies in Education of the Deaf, Blind, Feeble-minded children, Children with Hard of Hearing and Speech Disorders, Section on Clinical and Physiological Study of abnormal children, Laboratories in Psychology of Deaf and Feeble-minded children, etc. and with a series of experimental schools.

The Academy of Sciences of USSR has a Psychological Section in the Institute of Philosophy.

The Academy of Medical Sciences--several Psychological Laboratories in the Research Institutes of Neurology, Psychiatry and Neuro-Surgery.

In Ukraine an Institute of Psychology is working under the Ministry of Education (Kiev). In Georgia - and Institute of Psychology (Tbilissi) under the Georgian Academy of Sciences. There are special Psychological Research Laboratories in Armenian Republic (Erevan), Azerbaijan Republic (Bakou) etc.

In the Moscow University, Leningrad University, Universities of Odessa, Kazan, etc. and in Pedagogical schools of Moscow (Lenin-Pedagogical Institute), of Leningrad (Herzen-Pedagogical Institute, etc.) there are several Research Laboratories in Psychology.

The review of all fields of Psychology in USSR and of the most important achievements in Psychology is published in two volumes "Psychological science in USSR" (Academy of Pedagogical Sciences Press, vol. I - 1959, vol. II - 1960).

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Teaching in Psychology

There are Chairs in Psychology (Partly--Psychology and Pedagogics) in all Universities and Pedagogical Schools of the country with courses in psychology and education.

A special training of Psychological Research workers is provided by Departments of Psychology in some most important Universities.

The most important Departments of Psychology are Departments of Psychology of Moscow, Leningrad, and Tbillissi Universities.

The curriculum of the Departments of Psychology (5--5-1/2 years training) includes general courses (Social sciences, Philosophy of Dialectic Materialism, Sociology, Linguistics, Logics and Biology, Anatomy, Physiology, Mathematics, etc.), as well as special courses in General Psychology, Experimental Psychology, History of Psychology and Contemporary Psychology, Child psychology, Clinical Psychology, Pedagogical Psychology, etc. There are as well special courses in different problems proposed by professors of the Department.

From the 5th-6th semester every student can choose one of the special fields of Psychology (General & Physiological, Pedagogical, Medical, Industrial Psychology) for his further work and is associated with special Laboratories. Beginning with the 4th semester students have to write every year a special work (firstly a theoretical review, then a result of a special experimental work); during the last year the most part of the time is given for the diploma work. The diploma is defended in special assemblies of the Department. The thesis is equal to MA.

A part of students continue their training in Psychology as post-graduates (aspirants) in Universities or Research Institutes. The training is limited by 3 years. Every aspirant is associated with a special Laboratory and during these 3 years has to write a dissertation (thesis) for the degree of candidate of science (equal to PhD).

A limited number of scholars in Psychology can write a special dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Science (equal to DSc or doctorat es lettres); only a limited number of the most important works can be presented for this purpose.

A restricted number of Leading Psychologists can be elected as Fellows or Corresponding Members of the Academy of Pedagogical Science of the Russian Federation.

Practical Work of Psychologists in USSR

An important part of psychologists in USSR are engaged in teaching psychology in Universities, Pedagogical Institutes, Pedagogical Technica, etc. A large group of psychologists are working as Research Associates in special Institutions and Laboratories.

Another part of psychologists is active in different practical fields of Psychology working in special Laboratories and centers under the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Welfare, etc. or in some industrial enterprises.

Industrial psychologists are active in special laboratories (industry, railroad, etc.). The most important part of their work is concerned with problems of organization of work, adaptation of mechanisms to perception, professional training and consultation, etc.

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Pedagogical psychologists are working in consulting centers, some school laboratories, etc. and are active in problems of selecting the proper methods of teaching, experimental school work, selection of children for special schools, consultation of problem children, etc.

Medical psychologists are working in several Neurological, Psychiatric, and Neurosurgical Hospitals and Clinics. They are active in problems of diagnostics and of rehabilitation of functions and in adaptation of injured to life and work.

In USSR practical work of psychologists is, as a rule, organized as a part of a team work: in industrial laboratories psychologists are working with physiologists and engineers, in pedagogical centers--with teachers, defectologists and psychiatrists, in medical psychology--with neurologists, psychiatrists, neuro-surgeons and speech therapists. Every practical conclusion is made as a result of such a team work.

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