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USSR Report

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

(FOUO 3/80)



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REGIONAL

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE ON THE NECHERNOZEM TERRITORY

Moscow UZBEKISTAN-NECHERNOZEM'YU (Uzbekistan to the Nechernozem) in Russian 1979 signed to press 21 Dec 78 pp 1-63

[Book: UZBEKISTAN-NECHERNOZEM'YU by S. M. Mamarasulov, deputy chairman of the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers, et al and edited by V. T. Piskunov, chief editor, Izdatel'stvo Politicheskaya Literatura, 50,000 copies, 63 pages]

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The Nechernozem territory is really reviving. This is a broad and important area in our country. Workers from other fraternal republics came to assist their Russian friends and brothers so that together they could put into practice the tremendous program designed by the Communist Party for reorganizing the Nechernozem area of the RSFSR.

The workers of sunny Uzbekistan, whose patriotic initiative was approved by the CPSU Central Committee, were one of the first to include themselves in the common drive to transform the Nechernozem area.

Four years of intense work have passed since that time in the Nechernozem area. How is the assistance being definitely exhibited? How is the work of Uzbek builders and reclamation specialists organized? What has already been done and what problems have arisen? This brochure discusses this.

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S. M. Mamarasulov, deputy chairman of the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers

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The Decree of the CPSU Central Committee, 14 May 76: "On the Obligations of the Collectives of Water Conservancy and Construction Organizations of the Uzbek SSR in Rendering Assistance to the Ivanovskaya and Novgorodskaya Oblasts in Carrying Out the Decrees of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers on the Further Development of Agriculture in the Nechernozem Area of the RSFSR"

Party, soviet, water conservancy and construction organizations of the Uzbek SSR developed measures for rendering assistance to the Ivanovskaya and Novgorodskaya oblasts in carrying out the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers "On Measures for the Further Development of Agriculture in the Nechernozem Area of the RSFSR" and actively became involved in putting them into practice. In these oblasts in 1975 the reclamation specialists and builders of Uzbekistan began to work on improving the lands and on building housing and industrial projects. In a short period of time, they completed a significant number of designs and surveys and established two construction trusts which were staffed with engineers and technical workers as well as with labor personnel, and the necessary machines and equipment.

In answer to the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, the republic's labor collectives assumed increased socialist obligations for further assisting the Ivanovskaya and Novgorodskaya oblasts in creating a modern materials and machinery base of reclamation construction, in reinforcing water conservancy organizations with personnel, and in introducing advanced methods of conducting reclamation work.

Transferring the great experience gained in the Uzbek SSR in reclamation construction and comprehensive reclamation of lands will be a significant contribution towards the successful implementation of the common program for improving agriculture in Nechernozem.

The CPSU Central Committee decrees:

1. To approve the work conducted by party, soviet, water conservancy, and construction organizations of the Uzbek SSR in rendering practical assistance to the Ivanovskaya and Novgorodskaya oblasts in carrying out measures for the further development of agriculture.
2. To recommend to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of union republics, kray committees and oblast committees of the party to use the experience of the Uzbek SSR while participating in the realization of measures for improving agriculture in the Nechernozem area of the RSFSR.

Union and republic ministries and branches should in every way possible assist the workers' collectives of union and autonomous republics, and krays and oblasts in successfully carrying out the socialist obligations assumed by them in rendering assistance to the rural workers of the Nechernozem in accelerating the rate of agricultural production development.

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S. M. Mamarasulov
Deputy Chairman of the
Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers

According to the Laws of Fraternity

A complex and thoroughly scientific approach towards carrying out the task of a comprehensive expansion of the production capabilities of agriculture characterizes the agrarian policy of the party at the present stage--a stage of developed socialism. One of the brilliant examples of such an approach is the complex and long-term program for the comprehensive development of agriculture in the Nechernozem area of the RSFSR which was developed on the initiative of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet L. I. Brezhnev. The complex character of the indicated program is expressed by the fact that its realization will allow the insurance of a steady expansion of agriculture, reorganization of the character of the work, and fundamentally alter the appearance of the countryside and the farmers' way of life. L. I. Brezhnev indicates that the intensification of agriculture in the Nechernozem area will significantly increase its production powers and essentially, will allow the new virgin soil in the European part of the USSR to be opened up.

The intended plan for expanding agriculture in the Nechernozem area is really a tremendous one in its scale and tasks. It is enough to remember that the territory of the Nechernozem area stretches from the Baltics to the Urals and from the Arctic Ocean to the Chernozem steppes and comprises over 2.8 million square kilometers. It includes 29 oblasts and autonomous republics in which approximately 60 million people live.

The Nechernozem area is not only a region of high industrial development, but also a significant agricultural region where there are about 10,000 kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Today about a fifth of the grain which is gathered in the RSFSR is produced in it, as well as over 50 percent of the potatoes, 43 percent of the vegetables, almost all of the flax fiber, 30 percent of the meat, 39 percent of the milk and eggs, and many other agricultural products.

But the potential of the agricultural industry here is much greater. L. I. Brezhnev called the Nechernozem, an area of tremendous potentials. Thus, the volume of farming and animal husbandry output production in this area by 1990 must increase by a factor of 2-2.5 in comparison with the present level. Of course, to attain such an increase in production can be done only by a comprehensive intensification of agricultural production--an increase on a tremendous scale of land reclamation, the introduction of chemical processes, the complex mechanization of production, and transferring it to industrial methods. If one bears in mind that simultaneously with increasing the production of the agricultural industry output,

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it is necessary to increase the capacity for its industrial reprocessing, as well as on a tremendous scale accomplish housing-communal and road construction, then it will become clear how great the tasks are which are to be carried out in the Nechernozem area.

Always Together

The decree "On Measures for the Further Development of Agriculture in the Nechernozem Area of the RSFSR" was approved in March 1974 by the Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers and found a broad and lively response from the entire country. The task really assumed a nation-wide character. The Leninist komsomol announced the Nechernozem area as an All-Union vital komsomol construction project. Many oblasts, krays and autonomous republics of other areas of the Russian Federation, as well as union republics and large industrial centers began to manage oblast and autonomous republics of the Nechernozem area.

One of the first to show such an initiative were the workers of our sunny Uzbekistan. At meetings of the collectives of water conservancy organizations of the republic, obligations were assumed for rendering practical and efficient assistance to the workers of the Novgorodskaya and Ivanovskaya oblasts. This patriotic undertaking of the reclamation specialists, irrigators, and builders was supported by the CPSU Central Committee and by the government of the republic. Already in November of 1974, the first volunteers of Uzbekistan entered the Nechernozem.

On the eve of the two-year anniversary of the day on which the historical decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers was approved: "On Measures for the Further Development of Agriculture in the Nechernozem Area of the RSFSR," an article was published in IZVESTIYA titled "The Fields Will Become More Fruitful." In it questions were raised concerning the further development of agriculture in the Nechernozem area of the RSFSR, the work of water conservancy organizations of Uzbekistan on rendering managerial assistance to the Novgorodskaya and Ivanovskaya oblasts in carrying out the broad program for land reclamation was discussed.

The collectives of the Uzbek SSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources and the Glavsredazirsovkhozstroy came out with a new initiative. They assumed greater socialist obligations for rendering assistance to the Ivanovskaya and Novgorodskaya oblasts as well as to the Volgogradskaya Oblast in the reclamation, irrigation and complex opening up of the lands. The obligations stipulate the significant increase in the assistance given the farmers of these oblasts in creating a powerful base for reclamation construction, its further strengthening, the transfer of the experience gained in the republic in industrial forms of irrigation, and in constructing agricultural complexes and projects for social amenities.

It is intended to construct four new sovkhoses, put into operation 16,000 hectares of irrigated lands, dry 65,000 hectares, carry out cultural and

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professional work on an area of 55,000 hectares, and build 180,000 square meters of housing and many other projects for production and social amenities.

The Central Committee of the Uzbek Communist Party studied and approved the new elevated obligations for reclamation specialists of the republic for rendering managerial assistance in carrying out the broad program of transforming the lands of the Nechernozem area of the Russian Federation. The workers of Uzbekistan, just as all of the Soviet people, as it was stated in the approved decree, greeted the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress with a feeling of tremendous satisfaction. From day to day in the republic the production and political activity of labor collectives is growing. The advanced innovations which arrived during the Ninth Five--Year Plan are developing and taking on a new sweep. Socialist competition for the successful implementation of the tasks established by the congress on increasing industrial production and putting the agrarian policy of the party into practice is growing broader.

The decree of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee defined new frontiers for building and installation work for 1976-1980 in the amount of 210 million rubles or by 40 million more than was stipulated earlier, including that for the Novgorodskaya and Ivanovskaya oblasts--100 million rubles and in the Volgoradskaya--10 million rubles.

The Central Committee of the Uzbek Communist Party obliged the oblast, city and rayon party committees, the primary party organizations, the Uzbek Council of Trade Unions, the Central Committee of the republic's komsomol, the Ministry of Rural Construction, the industries of construction materials, installation and special construction work of the Uzbek SSR, the Uzkolkhozstroy, the Utsel'khoztekhnika, the Administration of the Central Asian Railway and other ministries and branches of the republic to render assistance to the Uzbek SSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources and the Glavsredazirsovkhhozstroy, and to define definite measures for its active participation in carrying out the assumed obligations.

The good evaluation which the CPSU Central Committee gave the patriotic initiative of the collectives of water conservancy and construction organizations of Uzbekistan was met by the republic workers with tremendous happiness and pride. Reading and re-reading the decree of the CPSU Central Committee, the workers of Uzbek cities and rural areas spoke of the great fraternal friendship which ties the nations of our country. Thousands of people expressed the desire to go to work in the assisted areas of Nechernozem'ya. The inspired word of the party also gave new strength to those sent to Uzbekistan who had arrived on the lands of the Ivanovskaya and Novgorodskaya oblasts in 1974.

In all of this, the strength of the international fraternity is shown clearly. The active participation of the workers of Uzbekistan in developing agriculture of Nechernozem'ya, as it was particularly underscored in the decree of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee,--this

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is another bright evidence of the glory of Lenin's national policy, the unbreakable and ever-stronger friendship and brotherhood of the soviet people, the boundless loyalty of the working class, kolkhoz peasantry, and intelligentsia of the republic made firm by the principles of creative soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism. This is the contribution of great respect of the Uzbekistan workers to the great Russian people.

For the Uzbek people remember something else. They remember lines which saw vans in which after the Great October, the soldiers of the young Red Army--workers sent from Moscow, Petrograd, Ivanovo-Voznesensk, and other industrial centers of Lenin's homeland--Russia were hurrying to help their Turkish brothers.

Later they again hurried to the south, to Turkestan, Tashkent, and echelons sent from the very heart of the young Soviet republic. At the railroad platforms and on the cars stood the first tractors made by the capable hands of the workers of Piter, motor vehicles with the trademark from the Moscow Automobile Company AMO, and packages of the famous Ivanovskiy cotton... Revolutionary Russia, which was itself hungry, undressed, and lifeless after many years of war, stretched out its brotherly hand to help the people of the Turkestan area who had entered the path towards a new life.

Those of the working class who were sent from Moscow, Petrograd, Tver, and Ivanovo-Voznesensk lay the first bricks for the foundations of future factories and plants on the Uzbek land. The teachers of the first Uzbek weavers were professional textile workers of the Ivanovskiy "cotton region" Those sent from Russia also cut the first furrows on the land of Uzbekistan kolkhozes...

Yes, the Soviet people are always together--in years of peaceful construction and in years of severe trials of war. When the sacred Soviet land was attacked by Fascist hordes, all of the Soviet people, as a single person, rose to protect their much-loved Motherland, in order to destroy the hateful enemy and defend the victories of the Great October.

Together with the soldiers of Russia and other fraternal republics, soldiers from Uzbekistan also fought. For them the entire Soviet land is their homeland. On many obelisks which were erected on the land speckled with blood as a brilliant tribute to the great gratitude of those who are living to their protectors who fell and to those who freed them, the names of thousands of Uzbek soldiers were carved. These were the soldiers who bravely fought outside of Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad, and Novgorod... Upon the ancient Novgorod land outside of Staraya Russa, the now First Secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee Sharaf Rashidovich Rashidov who is now a candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and who was then a political worker of one of the units, fought and was wounded.

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When in April of 1966 the raging underground movement imposed heavy losses on the capital of sunny Uzbekistan and put to ruin its many areas, Tashkent was assisted from all directions by helpful hands and, primarily, by its older brother among equal fraternal people--the Russian people. Years passed and the new Tashkent rose, grew, and began to glitter with brilliant colors. It is a beautiful and modern city in which new sectors appeared--Moscow, Leningrad, Ivanovskaya, Ukrainian and Belorussian... This is how the Tashkent people called them who were warmly grateful for the rebirth of their beloved city.

The handsome metro which was put into operation in the Uzbek capital for the 60th anniversary of the Great October is the pride of the Tashkent people and of all the republic workers. Literally the entire nation built it and, first of all, the people sent from the capital of the great Soviet state--the heroic city of Moscow.

It is not surprising that the laborers of Uzbekistan always keep in their hearts a feeling of boundless love and gratitude to their elder brother--the great Russian people and to the peoples of other fraternal Soviet republics for the fortune of a free life which came to the once backward and deprived Turkmen region. As a result of the tremendous assistance from the peoples of our great Soviet nation, the appearance of the republic is unrecognizable.

In 1913 on the territory of modern Uzbekistan, 3.3 million kilowatt hours of electricity were generated. At the present time such an amount of electrical energy, the republics generate in less than one hour! In 1977 the total electrical capability generated by Uzbekistan was almost 35.5 billion kilowatt hours of electricity.

Before the revolution in Uzbekistan, it had neither its own working class nor a technical intelligentsia. Today at the enterprises of over 100 branches of industry, hundreds of thousands of trained workers, and engineering and technical workers operate. Now Uzbekistan produces airplanes and cotton-picking machines, sowing machines for exact seeding and road cranes, electric motors and mineral fertilizers, tractors and excavators, various forms of electrical cables and textile machines, and silk and cotton fabric. In the anniversary year in just single work days, the Uzbek republic produced more than 37 million rubles of industrial products and in each work day, 68 tractors, 24 cotton-picking machines, 17 compressors, 15 elevators, 5 spinning machines, and 4 excavators came off of each working conveyor of the republic...

Truly revolutionary changes occurred in the agricultural industry of the republic. In place of the small, impoverished peasant farms, there arose large and highly mechanized kolkhozes and sovkhoses.

An item of particular pride for the workers of Uzbekistan is the production of such a valuable technical crop as cotton is. At the present time, our republic supplies two-thirds of the All-Union production of cotton. In

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1977 the gross harvest of raw cotton reached a record amount--5,676,000 tons.

The goals for cotton growing intended for the coming years are even greater. The cotton farmers of Uzbekistan have decided during the last year of the Ninth Five-Year Plan to exceed the six million goal! This exists at the same time that the production of all other branches of agriculture is being expanded.

The achievements of the rural workers of Uzbekistan in developing various branches of agricultural production, and first of all in cotton growing, is a direct consequence of the large-scale work in the republic on the reclamation improvement of lands and the irrigation and hydro-technical construction.

The Communist Party and Soviet state constantly and thoroughly are concerned with problems of reclamation of lands and the development of irrigation farming. At the May (1966) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, upon the initiative of Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev, a long-term program for reclamation and land irrigation and the development of irrigation farming was approved in order that in the most varied climatic zones of the nation, constant guaranteed harvests of farming output could be gathered and in order that animal husbandry be effectively developed to be highly productive.

"This is a tremendous task," said L. I. Brezhnev in a speech at the Plenum. "We must realize and definitely say to the entire party, all the people, that this is not an ongoing campaign, but a program in the area of agriculture intended for a long period of time. It is a program requiring tremendous efforts and large capital investments and material and technical resources."

Carrying out the indicated party program, the Soviet people have achieved great successes in expanding the irrigated land. Thus, its increase during the ten years which have passed after the May Plenum of the Central Committee, comprised almost 11 million hectares, which is quite a bit more than for all of the preceding seven five-year plans.

Uzbekistan is a republic with a highly developed irrigation system of agriculture. It is enough to say that the area of irrigated lands here is over 30 percent of all the irrigated lands of the nation.

The gigantic meliorative and irrigation construction which is being conducted in the republic over the course of dozens of years, significantly enriched the practice of reclamation of large areas of land. The complex reclamation of new lands, when at the same time with meliorative improvement of the lands and the installation of an irrigation network, the construction of modern well kept settlements with all of the items intended for the standard of living is being conducted, it originated and passed a practical test at the meliorative and irrigation construction sites of our republic.

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The experience gathered by the water conservancy collectives and those of the construction organizations of Uzbekistan is being used in carrying out similar work in other republics where there is irrigation farming. It was invaluable today in carrying out the program for developing agriculture in Nechernozem, where the complex melioration of lands is, as it is known, the prominent link in the system of changing it into an area of stable and guaranteed harvests and one with a high level of farming and animal husbandry.

In its decree "On the Obligations of the Collectives of Water Conservancy and Construction Organizations of Uzbek SSR in Rendering Assistance to the Ivanovskaya and Novgorodskaya Oblasts in Carrying Out the Decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers on the Further Development of Agriculture in the Nechernozem Area of the RSFSR," the CPSU Central Committee rated highly the great experience in Uzbekistan on the melioration construction and complex reclamation of lands and it expressed the conviction that this experience would be a significant contribution towards the successful realization of the common program to elevate agriculture in the Nechernozem area.

Distant and Near Nechernozem

Thousands of kilometers separate Nechernozem and Uzbekistan, but recently they have begun to be closer to one another. Today the attention of all Soviet people has been riveted to Nechernozem where the program for expanding and transforming this tremendous area has begun to be put into practice. The word "Nechernozem" is now on the lips of city and rural workers of the Uzbek republic. They also imagine very well the present and future of this tremendous area.

Presently, the entire Nechernozem area is a tremendous construction territory. Everywhere the rural workers of Nechernozem are being helped by people sent from all over the nation and who are met on the Russian Nechernozem area as their great friends and faithful comrades in work. They are surrounded by concern and attention, they are helped more quickly and better to become established in the new area and brighten up the difficulties of "campaign" life. The Nechernozem area becomes closer and dearer for those who came here from far away and who arrived due to a call from their own hearts.

As it was said previously, the first echelon with equipment and volunteers left the Tashkent railroad station and traveled towards Novgorod in November of 1974. Then in Novgorod and Ivanovo more echelons moved from Uzbekistan. Captains of industry, trained workers in various professions, surveyors, and designers traveled there. The necessary earth-digging equipment, house trailers, transport, and primary construction materials were sent. We tried to do everything in order that from the spring of 1975 we could begin work on the Nechernozem lands.

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Introducing meliorative and construction operations into this area generally is a very complex matter. The swampy land, abundance of rain, severe frosts during the winter and, finally, lack of rain in certain areas--all of this finally complicated the work done by those sent from Uzbekistan, particularly in the early stages. Finally, all of these difficulties did not bypass local builders and reclamation specialists. However, for the chiefs who had become accustomed to working under the natural climatic conditions of Uzbekistan, these features of the Nechernozem area, naturally, were more complex.

For those sent to the Uzbek republic, to these difficulties were added "their own" which had been caused by a whole number of objective reasons. First of all, a situation had immediately developed which in practice rarely occurs in construction affairs, where long ago a developed and organized technological chain which is a necessary order in doing work in order to construct this or that project. At first they conduct thorough and comprehensive survey work. The designers take the relay baton from the surveyors and their task includes the elaboration of the project. They issue work documentation which is coordinated and "settled" in various instances for the builders. Then next it is time to conduct building and installation work from start to finish.

The people sent from Uzbekistan to the Nechernozem area simply did not have time to adhere to this single faithful technological chain. In practice, the surveyors, designers, and builders left Uzbekistan for Nechernozem on a single, so-called, train. At the time while the builders unloaded the echelons with the equipment and construction materials, prepared the most basic housing, the surveyors were urgently working on plans for future roads, for future construction sites, practically in the "field", and transferred primary documentation to the designers. In the same urgent manner, they issued local, and at times incomplete documents to the builders, so that the builders could begin their construction cycle as quickly as possible.

It is completely natural, that under such a condition unfinished project estimate documentation could exist. And actually, subsequently a number of projects had to be completed and drawn, as they say, to the necessary condition.

It should be said, that similar incompleting works were the consequence not only of haste, but also of the fact that our specialists and designers who had not worked a single year under the system of such well-known design organizations in Central Asia as those of the Order of the Labor Red Banner Sredazgiprovdkhlopok Institute, Sredazgiprotselestroy, Uzgiprovdkhoz, Uzvodpromproyekt, and others met for the first time such natural climatic conditions which exist in Nechernozem.

Another great difficulty which significantly made the work of Uzbek builders in Novgorod and Ivanov areas more difficult, was the separation of construction subdivisions from their support bases which supplied

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organizations and enterprises which supplied construction materials and equipment. For the basic earth-digging, transportation, construction equipment, assembled ferro-concrete, construction engineering, joiner and so on are delivered for the construction projects in the Novgorodskaya and Ivanovskaya oblasts from Uzbekistan and from Tashkent, Angren, Khavast, and Yangiyer...

The break of the meliorative-construction organizations themselves from planning institutes and from the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the republic, the Glavsredazirsovkhozstroy under which they found themselves belonged to this category of difficulties. Very often in construction affairs the necessity of introducing changes into the work design documentation and into the operative decisions of financial issues and so on in all forms of urgent coordination, occurred very often. This was not always possible to insure using mail or telephone forms of communication.

Of course, it is not easy to begin new and large scale construction from "point zero" when no housing has been prepared, nor any parking for equipment, nor storage.

Nevertheless, with the help of local party, soviet, and economic organizations, all of these problems were solved successfully. While by the beginning of work in each oblast only one mobile mechanized column was operating, in the summer of 1975 in Novgorod a trust had already been established called Uznovgorodvodstroy, and in Ivanovo--the Ivanovoirsovkhozstroy, uniting all the construction subdivisions which came from Uzbekistan.

By the spring of 1975 in the Ivanovskaya Oblast there had already been formed mobile mechanized columns, construction brigades, and they had a stock of necessary equipment and materials. However, the project estimates documentation was not yet ready. But the people sent from our republic could not sit with folded hands. They used the existing plans from the local Ivanovomelioratsiya Association according to which they began to supply the project which had not been provided for in the plan. Thus, on the territory of the Sovkhoz 50 Let SSSR of the Ivanovskiy Rayon there appeared a new reservoir with a capacity of approximately 500 thousand cubic meters. According to the scale of the hydro-technical construction carried out in Uzbekistan, this reservoir cannot be called a man-made sea. But for the envoys from the southern republic, it was very dear since it was the first project built by their hands on Ivanovskiy land.

Considering the climatic, land, and hydro-geological conditions of the oblasts being patronized, it was decided to, simultaneously with meliorative work, rapidly introduce the installation of industrial and production bases which would allow the front of construction work to be expanded. Of course, housing was being constructed at a rapid pace in existing populated areas as well as in newly created settlements of reclamation experts, builders, and operators.

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Speaking of the scale of construction work, it is advisable to bear in mind, that the normal conditions of production activity of mobile mechanized columns assume the establishment of their own industrial areas including in them repair shops, garages, parking for earth-digging equipment, washing installations, and storage for equipment and construction material. The average estimated cost of their construction was 1.5-2 million rubles. For example, the erection of an industrial zone in the Shimskaya mobile column Tashkent-1, which went into operation this year, cost over 1.5 million rubles, while the construction of industrial zones in Poddor'ye where the mechanized column Tashkent-7 is situated and in the ancient Russian city of Kholma where Tashkent-8 is situated, each cost 2 million rubles.

At the present time in the Novgorod area eight such columns and one autonomous finance construction sector in Staraya Russ' and the SPMK* Andizhan-1 which was sent by the workers of the award winning Andizhanskaya Oblast are conducting construction-installation work, meliorative and irrigation work. In the Ivanovskaya Oblast seven specialized mobile mechanized columns and one autonomous finance sector are working.

The number of construction subdivisions grew, the production capacity of the trusts increased and, accordingly, the volume of work carried out by these collectives increased. For example, in 1975 the Uznovgorodstroy Trust used four million rubles for construction and installation work, 2,200 hectares of swamps and bogs were dried, and approximately 3,700 square meters of housing were constructed. In 1977 the volume of construction and installation work was already over 11 million rubles. About 3,500 hectares of well prepared lands were given to agricultural workers. New residents received about 6,000 square meters of living space. The rate and area of the work is constantly increasing.

About the same dynamics exist in the construction work of the Ivanovskaya Oblast. The collective of the Ivanovoirsovkhozstroy Trust in 1975 carried out five million rubles worth of work, and in 1977 approximately 11 million rubles were used for construction and installation work, about 700 hectares of dried land were used in crop rotation, and over 4,500 square meters of housing were constructed.

Going ahead a bit, I will note, that next year the collectives of both trusts must surpass the construction and installation projects exceeding 30 million rubles. In other words, in the course of only one year they will have to do almost the same amount as was done in all four preceding years. This task is not an easy one. But it is within the capability of those who went through Golodnaya, Surkhan-Sherabadskaya, Karshinskaya, and the Dzhizakskaya Steppe and who carry the proud title of those who crossed the difficult territories!

What concerns the settlements built by Uzbekistan constructors in the Novgorod and Ivanov areas (for now the discussion concerns only land reclamation settlements), the designers and builders took care to create for

*specialized mobile mechanized column

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their inhabitants maximum comfort in order that more time be given to study, cultural rest, and for physical exercise and sports.

In such settlements, and they are constructed as a rule in the outskirts of existing cities and villages, along with the construction of housing, projects of social amenities are erected: kindergartens, stores, dining rooms, clubs, midwifery points, recreation centers, and sports facilities. In order to make a purchase, view a new movie or repair a dress, shoes, or household appliances, they will not have to make a trip to the rayon center or nearby town.

Here, for example, is the settlement of reclamation specialists in the outskirts of the city of Kholm. After construction is completed, it will occupy 18 hectares. The settlement is primarily made up of one-story cottages, but also they build two and three-storied buildings and a trade center, stadium and other projects for the purposes of social amenities are stipulated. Although it is not far to the center of town, an inhabitant can get whatever the rayon and oblast centers can provide.

Let us take, for example, the settlement of builders in the outskirts of Ivanov--in Kokhm. Those sent from Uzbekistan are building a strong base of the Ivanovirsovkhozstroy Trust here--mechanical repair shops, motor vehicle base, parking area for hauling equipment, storage for combustible lubricating materials, and so on. This is the main industrial area of the trust. Right beside this area, a large housing facility developed, 150 single story cottages were built from white, silicate bricks and a model two-story building for a kindergarten was built.

The settlement with the widely disseminated name of "Druzhba" in Nechernozem grew in the outskirts of the rayon center of Poddor'ye. On this same Novgorod land, outside of the settlement of Pol of the Parfinskiy Rayon, the settlement of Melioratorov was built. Settlements with the same popular name appeared in Privolzhsk'ye, Novotalitsy, and Gorkino. In the oblast centers themselves, housing is being built by our envoys.

Social and cultural construction in the countryside, and first of all housing construction, is assuming a very important significance in the Nechernozem area. It has the most direct relation in solving the task of expanding agricultural production and improving its efficiency. It is necessary not only in the plan of providing those who will work in the agricultural industry, but also for those who today comprise the material and machinery base of modern production, and who are transforming the appearance of the Nechernozem countryside--it is necessary for builders and reclamation specialists.

For the rate and scale of work is constantly growing in industrial construction, melioration and irrigation, as well as in housing and social and cultural construction. This means that more and more trained workers of leading professions are necessary for various construction projects and for work in complex technology in melioration. This task can be resolved

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primarily by housing construction. If housing exists, that means that the present and appointment of old personnel and the influx of new is what constantly is lacking at the construction sites.

When the work was just beginning in the Novgorodskaya and Ivanovskaya oblasts, then the parks of earth-digging machines and transportation had only a few machines. And now, for example, in the subdivisions of the Novgorod Uznovgorodvodstroy Trust there are about 900 one-bucket and chain-bucket excavators, scrappers, graters, levelers, grubbers and other earth-digging equipment, as well as over 500 motor vehicles with various trademarks and used for various purposes. The Ivanovoirsovkhozstroy is supplied with all of these types of equipment also.

In spite of the great distance which separates construction sites from supplying enterprises, republic organizations were able to organize affairs in such a way that those who we sent do not experience interruptions in having the construction sites supplied with all types of materials including those in which there is a sharp shortage.

In connection with this, one should mention the great attention which the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee, the government of the republic, Candidate Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Uzbek Communist Party Sh. R. Rashidov shows to the Nechernozem construction sites. In the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the republic and in the Uzbek Council of Ministers, on the initiative of Sh. R. Rashidov issues are consistently being studied which are connected with the work of those whom we have sent to the construction sites of Nechernozem'ye, on the progress of carrying out the intended plans, on the leadership of their sub-branch organizations in Nechernozem on the part of the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the republic, and Glavsredazirsovkhozstroy.

Managing party, soviet, and komsomol workers of Uzbekistan regularly travel to areas of Nechernozem construction where our envoys are working, in order that many issues which arise in the course of the work can be solved on the spot and in a day-to-day manner.

Daily attention, assistance from party, soviet and economic organizations of our republic and local organs allow the successful handling of intended plans and allows the rate of reclamation and construction work to be increased and the encountered difficulties to be overcome.

On the Land of the "Red Province"

Ivanovo is the homeland of the first Soviet of the Peoples Deputies. The first Soviet province as an administrative unit was created by the decree of the Soviet government in this famous textile area. The residents of Ivanovo were proud of the great and wonderful revolutionary traditions of their first "Red Province" and of the selfless effort to increase the fame of the textile area. Although now the Ivanovo area is far from being only

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a textile industry and one of famous Ivanovo fabrics. Today the Ivanovskaya Oblast is one of metal working and loom machines, truck crane, control-measuring equipment, automatics equipment and a great deal of other things which are produced at its industrial enterprises. But, of course, Ivanovo still rightly carries the honorable title of a "textile shop" nation. For every fourth meter of fabric, processed by all of the textile industry enterprises of the Soviet Union is from Ivanovo and every third meter produced in the Russian Federation is also from Ivanovo.

Now the workers of the Ivanovskaya Oblast have begun a great campaign to renew the lands and to expand agriculture.

The Uzbekistan envoys are proud of the fact that they are helping the residents of Ivanovo in solving such a great and responsible task, they are working on the land of the first "Red Province" and on the homeland of the first working soviet!

During the current five-year plan Uzbek reclamation specialists and irrigators have taken on the task of drying over 12,000 hectares of land, to conduct cultural and professional work on 25,000 hectares, and construct irrigation systems on an area of no less than 5,000 hectares.

It may seem strange that in an area with a surplus of moisture and with overly wet lands, suddenly a necessity arose for irrigating lands for cultivation. But there is nothing strange in this. The natural conditions for almost the entire Nechernozem area are such that often during the summer period, during the peak of plant growth, not a single drop of rain may fall which greatly threatens the fate of the future harvest for literally all agricultural crops. But the party and government, by issuing forward through the Soviet people a tremendous program for expanding the Nechernozem, have set a task to transform it into a zone of stable and guaranteed harvests which do not greatly depend on the meteorological conditions. This most important task was again underscored in the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers "On the Plan for Land Reclamation for 1976-1980 and Measures for Improving the Utilization of Improved Lands," which was approved in July 1976.

In a number of places in Nechernozem, including the Ivanovskaya Oblast, they are installing drainage systems with so-called dual regulation. When there is an excess of moisture in the land, the system will work to dry it and to divert the excess into a break, or as it is called in Nechernozem, into a water recipient. When it becomes necessary to irrigate, the breaks will be covered and the water will go to moisten the soil along the same drainage systems.

It should be mentioned that in Nechernozem spray irrigation will be widely used for watering cultivated lands by using the efficient native equipment Volzhanka, Fregat, and Dnepr.

Large scale reclamation work is being done by our envoys in Ivanovskiy, Shuyskiy, and Furmanovskiy rayons of the oblast. In the time of their

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work here, the reclamation specialists have already handed over to the agricultural workers approximately 2,000 hectares of dried lands, about 600 hectares with irrigation systems, and almost 7,000 hectares of land which does not require drying and where cultivation work was done, that is, clearing the lands of low-growing trees, bushes, boulders, and rushes and planting them.

The Kolkhoz imeni Arseniy, the Sovkhoz Rossiya of the Shuyskiy Rayon, the Sovkhoz imeni 25th CPSU Congress of the Furmanovskiy Rayon, the Kolkhoz Novaya Zhizn' of the Vichugskiy Rayon and many other farms of the oblast received hundreds of additional hectares.

In the summer of 1978 Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin was in the Ivanovskaya Oblast and became familiar with the life and work of the laborers in the textile area. The head of the Soviet State also visited the Kolkhoz imeni Arseniye where he became familiar with the work of Uzbek reclamation specialists and highly appraised the quality of the improved lands and their use in the economy. The kind words addressed to the Uzbekistan envoys inspired them to do even better work.

The collective of the Ivanovoirsovkhozstroy Trust and its subdivisions do not exclusively conduct meliorative and irrigation work here. Through the efforts of Uzbekistan builders, over 10,000 square meters of housing have already been built, and in the future it is planned that they will construct several times more. Specifically, in just 1978 the increase in living space will be no less than 16,000 square meters.

Simultaneously, the rate and scale of industrial construction is growing significantly. This will allow the improvement of the lands of Nechernozem to be speeded up. Thus, for example, in Shua for a long time already there have been on-site yard works of ferro-concrete goods with an annual capacity of 5,000 cubic meters of goods per year. However, the need for ferro-concrete at construction sites is considerably greater. The question arose concerning the renovation of the Shua on-site yard works, which the Uzbek builders began, and particularly the six specialized mobile mechanized column of the Ivanovoirsovkhozstroy Trust. The task turned out to be difficult, for the renovation and expansion of the plant had to be done without stopping it. But the collective handled this honorably. The Shua on-site yard works of ferro-concrete goods, which is always found among the ranks of operating enterprises, increased the capacity fourfold--from 5,000 cubic meters of ferro-concrete per year to 20,000!

At one time in the outskirts of the capital of this textile area, there was a city dump. Now a tremendous construction area has spread itself out here. On it the construction industrial base of Glavnechernozemvodstroy is being built. This project is one of the most important of those being erected by Uzbek inhabitants on Ivanovskaya land.

The industrial construction base of Glavnechernozemvodstroy is a ferro-concrete goods plant with a capacity of 80,000 cubic meters per year.

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Moreover, its production is used not only for construction in the Ivanovskaya Oblast, but also in the neighboring ones of Vladimirskaya, Kostromskaya, and Yaroslavskaia which will allow the rate of renewing the Nechernozem lands to be speeded up. The industrial construction base is a powerful motor transport establishment for 200 large hauling vehicles which were equipped with the latest equipment and is a base for the Administration of Industrial-Technical Sets of the Glavnechernozemvodstroy with an annual turnover of 30 million rubles. This is the production of metal installation procurement in the sum of approximately 700,000 rubles per year.

Therefore it is completely natural, that at the present time the leaders of the Ivanovskikhkhosstroy and the entire collective of the 106th specialized mobile mechanized column which is building the construction industry base are living through the interests of this great construction site.

This year the weather in the Nechernozem area was hard on the builders. The long cold spring, the rains which did not cease throughout the entire summer--all of this brought on corrective production plans. For a long time reclamation work on the land was curtailed. The equipment literally got stuck in the muddy soil and the front for construction and installation work was reduced.

However, under these difficult conditions the collective of the mechanized column which was led by an experienced expert who had worked for many years on the project in the Golodnaya Steppe, I. G. Omel'chenko, was able to have a great labor victory in erecting a construction industry base.

The increasing volume of work in constructing this base required a greater and greater amount of concrete. However, the suppliers were not able to do it in the time of the increasing rate of construction--this affected the inadequate capacities. There was one solution: to speed up putting into operation their own cement mixing center which would solve the problem of supplying the construction site with mortar.

The komsomol shock group which is led by Talibdzhan Zuparov, took on the important and difficult task. In the most extreme weather conditions, the installation workers from the V. Glazyrin brigade and the road builders from the I. Paka brigade (along with the installation concrete mixing center the construction of approaches for it were built) did not leave the project. Here was the first very important victory: ahead of schedule with a surpassed schedule, their own concrete mixing center was put into operation.

The collective of the column which was inspired by the success, is speeding up the construction of other projects of industrial construction bases. Already in the current year, the main production block should be completed. It is necessary to hurry and also not forget about high quality in the work. Everything constructed by those sent from Uzbekistan to Nechernozem should serve the people for many years.

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An item of particular pride for the builders, reclamation specialists and irrigators of our republic are the new sovkhoses, which are the Uzbekistan and the Druzhba which were constructed as a gift to their Ivanovskiy friends and brothers. These will be large-scale farms for vegetables, meat, and dairy purposes and located on 6,000-7,000 hectares of agricultural lands, and not just lands, but improved areas which were treated by the capable hands of reclamation specialists and irrigators. These farms will annually produce over 3,000 tons of milk, over 400 tons of meat which will be a significant increase on the table of the workers of the oblast.

These sovkhoses will also have an important meaning for the rural workers of the Ivanovo area in the social sphere. Before the first workers appeared on the construction areas of the new Uzbekistan Sovkhoz, oblast residents and guests of the textile area could also become familiar in the Ivanovskaya Oblast area studies museum with the central farmstead of the future farm where its scale model is presented. A trade center, a park for recreation and leisure, a sports complex, and a tea house... This does not count the Houses of Culture and Recreation, kindergartens and nurseries, cafes, and dining rooms which were set out in rural pictures. Such is the appearance of the future sovkhos province.

All work in the field, and in animal husbandry on the new farms is intended to be conducted according to the newest technology, with the broadest use of equipment, most recent achievements of science and the practice of agricultural production. What concerns housing and every-day conditions and the organization of cultural leisure, will not give way to the living conditions, everyday life, and rest of the workers in the city.

The settlements of the new sovkhoses are being built with two-storied cottages with apartments on two levels, with outside facilities for keeping livestock and poultry and for storing feed. It is interesting to note that even farm buildings do not have anything in common with those barns which we have become accustomed to seeing in rural areas. They are good-looking from the architectural point and do not disturb the external appearance of the new settlement. In the homes there are complete sets of city conveniences--central heat, plumbing, and electricity.

A portion of the housing fund on sovkhos properties will be composed of multi-story buildings and the inhabitants of the settlement will be given the right to choose where they want to live: in a cottage or in a "city" two-three story building. And, finally, a maximum amount of attention is given here to the smallest inhabitants: the construction of kindergartens and nurseries is intended to be one of the first projects.

They began building the Uzbekistan Sovkhoz and the Druzhba Sovkhoz with what every construction project must begin--with a road. Everyone who travels on the highway of Ivanovo--the Kostroma, 15 kilometers outside of the famous Volga Ples, will notice a building with a unique architecture in which the ancient eastern architecture and the modern style are combined. This is the Uzbekistan tea room. From it begins the nine kilometer

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road to its central farmstead. Just recently in poor weather this road could be negotiated only on a tractor. Not counting the usual earth, over 20,000 cubic meters of gravel easily lay on this road--that is how swampy this area is. And now the road is like any other road. It serves the people under any weather conditions and at any time of the year.

Beside the road there is a canal lined with ferro-concrete sheets from Shuyskiy on-site works. Along the canal, made by the hands of Uzbek irrigators, the water from the great Volga via the water system of the Volga--the Uvod' will arrive on the fields of the Uzbekistan Sovkhoz.

At the entrance to the sovkhos settlement is a village called Novaya. Two mobile mechanized columns are busy here with building production facilities, housing and cultural buildings, and reclamation work on the lands of the young farm. The construction of the settlement and of the production--economic centers is being led by a specialized mobile mechanized column No. 21 and all work on reclamation has been placed upon the 35th collective SPMK. This alone indicates the great significance which the leaders of the Glavsredazirsovkhosstroy Trust give to the creation of a new sovkhos.

Not far from the oblast center, on the road to Kineshm, the envoys of our republic are building another sovkhos, its name is Druzhba. The name given to the farm which is being built can in no better way symbolize the friendship between the people which grows stronger from day to day and from year to year.

The construction of the settlement of the Druzhba Sovkhoz also basically is being constructed of two-story cottages with apartments having two stories. Here several houses have been built using assembled ferro--concrete which was obtained by our builders from the Moscow suburban Bun'kovskiy experimental plant of large-panel construction in the countryside. The houses are comfortable and have an attractive external appearance, but still the specialist-builders and the inhabitants themselves are in favor of squared timber and prefabricated-panel houses lined with steel or silicate bricks. They suit the local climatic conditions more than houses made of prefabricated ferro-concrete. Houses with many apartments are being built here also.

Trade, medical, cultural and domestic services for the inhabitants of the settlement will be organized with consideration for the great demands in these areas. It is quite symbolic that building the central farmstead of this farm and introducing primary projects on it began with the ceremonial opening of the kindergarten. This once again underscores that the concern for the people and for creating the best conditions for rural workers in their life and work is really put in first place.

"Today," said General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev in his speech at the July (1978) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, "the issue can be put only this way: About satisfying the housing and domestic needs

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the increased cultural requests of rural workers, the leaders of the farms, party committees, soviet and trade union organizations must show no less concern than for the development of production."

Not only the settlements of the sovkhoses indicated, but also many rural populated areas which are growing and being built in city and rayon centers of Nechernozem'ya are being built according to such projects that satisfy in the best way possible the housing and domestic needs as well as the increased cultural demands of the rural workers of this area.

In the design institutes of the Sredazgiprovdokhlopok and Sredazgiprotselestroystroy which are carrying out the tasks of those who first came to the Nechernozem area, there were created special departments in which the development of the project estimates documentation for constructing new buildings in Ivanovskaya Oblast were created.

Planning the projects for housing, cultural and social amenities and those intended for industry in the Ivanovskaya Oblast was assigned to the Sredazgiprotselestroystroy institute. In particular, the workers of this institute were given design documentation for expanding the Shuyskiy on-site yard works for ferro-concrete goods which was discussed earlier.

The workers of the complex division for designing Ivanovskiy Sredazgiprotselestroystroy projects are working in close contact with their colleagues from Mosnechernozemindustproekt and Ivanovogradanproyekt which are helping them in becoming acquainted with local conditions and with formulating technical documentation and issuing model designs.

The project estimates documentation goes from the design institutes to the direct users--the builders, who must finish the job, invigorate the land, and construct a new settlement or production complex. After the documentation is prepared, everything is in the hands of engineers, technicians, other production chiefs of various sectors, and within the hands of the workers themselves--installers, bricklayers, electric welders, carpenters, and finishers.

Remembering this, those in charge of the Uzbekistan organization are trying to direct to the Nechernozem area the best reclamation specialists, mechanical experts, builders of large buildings, and leading persons in the professions. The majority of the workers, engineering and technical workers who were sent from Uzbekistan have had considerable experience in the reclamation of new lands, and in civil and industrial construction. The excellent training and great experience allow them immediately upon arriving at the Nechernozem construction site, to become involved actively in the direct process of transforming the Nechernozem area.

For those who have not yet had the time to acquire the more needed profession in the Nechernozem area, there has been a specially created educational combine in the system of the Ivanovirovsovkhozstroy Trust where experienced teachers and tutors help students master the basic or adjacent professions.

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The leaders of the Ivanovoirsovkhozstroy Trust K. V. Smerdov, V. N. Grishina, U. V. Rakhmanov and other production commanders have worked for dozens of years.

Many experienced specialists are in charge of the work of specialized mobile mechanized columns, construction sectors, brigades, and drainage excavator crews. The head of the Shuyskiy SPMK-6 B. V. Tronov has worked over 30 years on reclamation construction sites. The head of the SPMK-35, A. P. Zadorozhniy has worked for dozens of years at the construction sites of the Golodnaya Steppe. The same is true for the chief engineer of this mechanized column A. I. Terent'yev and many other production commanders.

The brigade leaders G. Sharipov, V. Zacypalov, B. Bozhkov, V. Moskvina, S. Khalimov, the engineer of the drainage excavator Yu. Volkov, the driver of the large-hauling vehicles A. Kozlov, and many other workers of the large labor collective of those sent from Uzbekistan enjoy a good reputation in the numerous collectives of the Ivanovoirsovkhozstroy Trust.

The members of V. Moskvina's brigade are not tied by blood, but all of them are true friends and brothers in work which directly intertwines their life and fates. There are 15 persons in the collective of this complex brigade and all of them came to the Nechernozem area from the Golodnaya Steppe together. The brigade successfully and ahead of schedule built the main production complex of the plant for ferro-concrete goods without outside help. In V. Zacypalov's which is also complex, the entire family of the brigade leader works: his wife, son and daughter. This type of "family life" can only be welcomed.

Generally, with good reason it can be said that on the construction sites of the Nechernozem area a kind and good family has developed, a large collective in which the people work selflessly and who are tied together by the single concerns and by one great goal. In a single working row of those who came first, those sent from many republics of the nation stand out, who together with native Nechernozem residents are doing a common job. They are putting into practice a program written by the party for the reclamation of this tremendous area of our nation.

Besides a large working family, many builders find their own personal happiness here also. Often the sparkling sounds of happiness can be heard from komsomol weddings. Those sent from Uzbekistan have families here. This means that the young people who came for purposes of the reclamation of the Nechernozem virgin soil, decided to permanently tie their fates with this ancient Russian land and that they became attached to it with all their hearts.

Beside the Wall of Aging Novgorod

The Uznovgorodvodstroy is the headquarters for those sent from Uzbekistan to the old Novgorod land and is a subdivision of the republic's Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources. The Uznovgorodvodstroy Trust

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began with a single specialized mobile mechanized column called Tashkent-1 and located in the rayon center of the Novgorod area--Shimsk, and with approximately 200 laborers and engineering and technical workers. It should be noted that this column from the very beginning of its organization was headed by engineer and reclamation specialist from Namangan V. S. Mimidinov, now the deputy of the Shimskiy Rayon Soviet. At the present time the Uznovgorodvodstroy is composed of nine mobile mechanized columns, one farming area in which over 3,000 persons work. This is a powerful technical supply of equipment and available power for all subdivisions.

This was already mentioned earlier, but in order to have a more complete picture, several more figures can be shown. The collective of the Ivanovoirsovkhozstroy Trust in addition to the fraternal Uznovgorodvodstroy Trust is competing with the collective of the Ivanovomelioratsiya Association which includes the local Ivanovo reclamation-construction subdivisions. In the current year, Uzbekistan envoys in the Ivanovo area must acquire over 20 million rubles for construction and installation work, and in the Novgorod--almost 22 million. The collective of Ivanovomelioratsiya is acquiring 14 million rubles.

If these figures are calculated for the planned tasks for the third and key year of the Tenth Five-Year Plan, then it will appear that the Uzbekistan builders intend to dry approximately 3,500 hectares in the Ivanovskaya Oblast, about 9,000 hectares in the Novgorodskaya, and build no less than 16,000 square meters of housing in the Ivanovo area and no less than 18,000 in the Novgorod area. For the Ivanovomelioratsiya Association, these figures look this way, accordingly: 6,000 hectares of dried land and over 7,000 square meters of housing.

From the beginning of work on the Novgorod land which was done by the Uznovgorodvodstroy Trust and by the sub-contractors included by the organizations and sub-branches of the Uzbek Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, they carried out construction and installation work which exceeded 26 million rubles. During this period of time, that is in three years, the collective of the trust transferred to kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the oblast 9,000 hectares of dried swamp and overly moist land, and over 10,000 hectares where they had conducted cultural and professional work (clearing low-growing trees, shrubs, boulders and leveling of land), about 19,000 square meters of housing were constructed.

For the entire current five-year plan, the Uznovgorodvodstroy must carry out construction and installation work worth 100 million rubles: insure the utilization of dried lands in an area of 42,000 acres, and of irrigated lands in an area of 6,000 acres, carry out cultural and professional work on 25,000 hectares which do not require preliminary drying, to build convenient housing of no less than 80,000 square meters. On a broad scale the project for cultural and social amenities will be equipped in order to give rural workers the best conditions for living, working and rest.

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It is completely natural that an increase in the grain sowing area, which is now about 200,000 hectares, with 70,000 hectares (moreover on 6,000 there are irrigation systems) will be a considerable influence on the grain balance of the oblast.

For example, this is how the picture of sown areas in the Soletskiy Rayon of the Novgorod area will change after the reclamation specialists of Uzbekistan carry out their socialist obligations for this five-year plan. At the present time in this rayon all of the agricultural crops--grain, potatoes, vegetables and perennial grasses occupy 38,000 hectares. During the five-year plan the Uzbekistan reclamation experts give the rural workers of the rayon over 11,000 hectares of dried land and no less than 5,000 hectares where cultural and professional work will be done. In this way, the sown area in the Soletskiy Rayon will increase by almost a half: there were about 40,000 hectares of useable land and there will be about 60,000 hectares. And again it must be added that on 1,500 hectares of arable land, irrigation systems will be constructed.

On the whole the sowing areas in the Novgorodskaya Oblast, as in the Ivanovskaya Oblast, is expanding. The collectives of local reclamation and construction organizations--the Novgorodmelioratsiya and Ivanovomelioratsiya associations in a united force with whom those sent from the Uzbek Republic are working have assumed great obligations for renewing the land and increasing its productivity.

The examples of individual Nechernozem farms are even more obvious. Thus, in the course of the current five-year plan, only the specialized mobile mechanized column Tashkent-1 will give 10,000 hectares of arid land and over 3,000 hectares of land with irrigation systems to the workers of the Shimskiy Rayon. From this total amount the Stroitel' Kolkhoz and the Leninskiy Put' Sovkhoz will each receive 1,000 hectares of well-prepared land, and the Leninskiye Iskry Kolkhoz and other farms will receive over 1,000 hectares. In the Volna Revolyutsii Sovkhoz the sown area will increase during this period of time by almost 2,000 hectares. A very ponderable increase!

The positive aspect of the work done by reclamation specialists at the present time is the fact that the land improvement is being conducted on large tracts. On that same Volna Revolyutsii Sovkhoz, one of the areas under reclamation occupies over 900 hectares, at the same time that previously reclamation specialists had to work on sections and areas which made up 30-50 hectares. Under such a condition, of course, it was difficult to use the equipment and advanced technology of melioration work in a broad and efficient manner.

The significant increase in dried lands, undoubtedly, promotes the strengthening in the belief of rural workers and agricultural specialists in the power of reclamation and irrigation which repeatedly increases the production of the land. In other words, life itself and the practice of agricultural production on meliorated lands introduced the necessary

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corrective measures into this important work and forced excessive precautionary measures on the part of farm leaders and agricultural specialists to be avoided.

Just as with everything that is new, the reclamation of land in the north-western part of the Russian Federation was met with caution. Apparently, a certain role in this was played by plans for drying which were composed without comprehensive and thorough surveys and economic planning and which subsequently had to have necessary changes.

However, life and the practice of agricultural production showed that under the conditions of an overly wet northwestern Russia, the reclamation and irrigation of sown areas can create and actually do create real miracles. In the Shimskiy Zavet Lenina Kolkhoz, where reclamation work was done by builders from Uzbekistan, the harvest for grain is now 41-42 quintals per hectare. On the meliorated lands of the indicated Volna Revolyutsii Sovkhoz a harvest of rye on individual plots comprises 51-52 quintals per hectare!

When such unprecedented harvests are achieved here, there are fewer and fewer of those who do not believe in the power of reclamation. Another point is that meliorated lands require constant and considerable care on the part of farmers. But what land, regardless of whether it is "new" or "old," does not require and love care?

There is one thing that is unfortunate: the rate for drying land is still slow because in practice this work is being done for only five months--from May to September. Of course, there are objective reasons for this which must be taken into account. Earlier springs and later autumn months of work on drying lands is held back here due to the fact that the earth is swampy and this does not allow the full use of equipment. Bulldozers which do the preliminary preparation of the land for drainage excavators, tractors with hookups and vehicles literally stick in the mud. Moreover, there is not enough equipment for swamp modification which has a greater capacity for moving through it.

In the winter there is another problem--the deep freezing of the ground (up to 1.5-2 meters), which lasts from late autumn to early spring. Then again the equipment which the reclamation specialists have on hand is powerless, since it is also not adapted to working under such conditions. Special digging machines or rotary attachments are needed for the drainage excavators EFTs-202. However the Uzbek irrigation trusts do not have such machines and the attachments in their own shops are made under almost amateurish conditions and do not have the desired effect since they are out of operation very quickly or just are not in a condition to handle the deeply frozen earth which is full of dozens of cubic meters of rock per hectare.

The question of supplying the reclamation and construction organizations which are improving the Nechernozem area, with the best equipment which is suitable for working at all times of the year remains a primary problem.

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Besides reclamation work, the Uzbekistan envoys are conducting large--scale industrial and housing construction in the Novgorod area. The erection of industrial zones and settlements in Sol'tsy and Volot, Kholm and Poddor'ye, and Shimsk and Parfino has already been mentioned. Large--scale construction has begun outside of Staraya Russ', the city where in the years of World War II the Soviet soldiers including Uzbekistan fighters, became famous.

On the glorious monuments and obelisks the names of those who died here in defending the blessed Soviet land are inscribed in gold. But the best tribute to the glorious memory of those who fell will be the renewed and beautified land, new sovkhozes and settlements, and new plants and roads which have appeared where the heroes defended the land from the hated attackers.

Now on the vacant property beside the long operating ferro-concrete goods plant, a construction area has spread out. Here, beside the already established motor depot Uznovgorodvodstroy Trust, its base with a repair--mechanical plant, a ferro-concrete goods plant with a capacity of 25,000 cubic meters per year, with a loading-unloading railroad platform, approach roads, and storage facilities for various purposes is being constructed. Housing will also appear here, since putting all of these projects into operation will mean that the number of laborers, engineering and technical workers, and employees will reach an impressive figure. This means that there will be child-care facilities, enterprises for cultural and domestic services, and trade.

In the Novgorod area, as in the Ivanovskaya Oblast, the Tashkent and Druzhba sovkhozes are being constructed as a gift to the Novgorod friends and brothers. Both of these farms are also vegetable-meat-dairy oriented and are about equal in the planned volume of agricultural production.

For a more or less complete characteristic of these new farms it would not be out of place to cite this figure. The Tashkentskiy Sovkhoz will produce as many early vegetables as all the farms of the Novgorodskaya Oblast produced in 1975. The area of this sovkhoz expanded on both sides of the highway leading from the oblast center to Shimsk. Cultural and professional work has expanded in full force here and on individual areas they are installing closed drainage, and underground irrigation. With time, vegetable plantations with glass-covered ground and housing for animal raising will begin to be constructed; moreover, all of this will be done at truly rapid rates. Towards the end of the five-year plan, the new sovkhozes must put into operation working agricultural enterprises, although their first output they will begin to issue quite a bit earlier than the official reception by state commissions.

To the left of the Novgorod highway is Shimsk which is a neighbor of the Lesnaya village. There a settlement is growing, and actually a small city of the Tashkentskiy Sovkhoz. Very recently builders came here, but multi-storied buildings already tower in the center and the smokestack of the

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boiler room rose, and the first four hostels for workers were filled. The smallest inhabitants in this beautiful lovingly constructed Cheburashka kindergarden celebrated being in their new home. In the Tashkentskiy Sovkhoz, as everywhere, where Uzbekistan builders are working, kindergartens are part of primary projects and in order to have them built in time, the strictest and effective control have been established on the part of trust leaders and their subdivisions, party and social organizations.

The scale of building the Tashkentskiy Sovkhoz is fairly convincingly and eloquently explained by the fact that two mobile mechanized columns are building it--Tashkent-5 and Andizhan-1. Moreover, the former in order to better coordinate the work and to have a more effective guidance in the construction, combined two SPMKs within itself. Now the annual volume of construction and installation work done by this collective already exceeds seven million rubles with a leaning towards a considerable increase, for time doesn't wait and the end of the Ninth Five-Year Plan in which the task for the new sovkhov was intended, is not far away at all.

There is one more figure: the project cost estimate of the Tashkentskiy Sovkhoz is approximately 35 million rubles, moreover one-half of this sum will go to erecting a sovkhov settlement, and the other half will go to meliorative improvement of lands, constructing an irrigation network, and production facilities.

An equal of the Tashkentskiy Sovkhoz is his fellow Druzhba Sovkhoz. The estimated cost of the complex construction for this sovkhov will be 39 million rubles; on the lands of this farm there are plans to construct drainage and drying systems in an area of 6,000 hectares and irrigation systems on 1,000 hectares.

With putting these modern agricultural enterprises in the Novgorodskaya Oblast into operation, the production of vegetables and products for animal husbandry increases significantly.

As a rule, almost all planning and survey work for Uznovgorodvodstroy for meliorative improvement of the lands, irrigation construction, cultural and professional measures are done by one of the senior planning institutes of Uzbekistan--Uzgiprovodkhoz. Within the framework of this institute a special department for Nechernozem construction for the Novgorod area has also been created. Its employees give all of their knowledge, experience, ability, and creative enthusiasm to such an important and great business as the transformation of Nechernozem'ye. The head of the department V. Mansurov, chief engineers of the project V. Rozenshteyn and I. Veslitskiy, group leader T. Tyrina, engineers A. Nichkasov, A. Zhdanov, G. Ioffe, M. Rybak, and others of the best surveyors and designers can without a doubt be called the first to cross the Nechernozem virgin land. They are really the first to cross it.

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What concerns the design projects of the production, housing, and cultural and domestic service area, it is being carried out by the collective of the design institute Uzvodpromproyekt which comes under the system of Uzbek SSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources.

The division of the Novgorodskaya Oblast submitted to the large design organization the entire project estimate documentation for building housing settlements and production bases for Uzbek specialized mobile mechanized columns in Novgorod, Volota, Kholm, Staraya Russ', Shimsk, Sol'tsy, Poddor'ye, and Pole. Of course, as in everything, there were difficulties here too.

Designers and builders are working in full contact, in a friendly manner, and harmoniously, knowing what a great honor and along with it responsibility has fallen to them. Now when surveys are made and builders are given the full extent of the necessary planning estimate documentation, the job rests in the hands of production commanders, engineers, technicians, installation workers, bricklayers, excavator operators, and drainage crew members. The fate of the new construction sites depends and will depend on them while it is imprinted on the designer's tracing paper.

Who in Uzbekistan puts into practice that which has been designed, who realizes the lines of the tracing paper into drainage and irrigation systems, into industrial areas of specialized mobile mechanized columns, and housing settlements for reclamation specialists and builders? It is impossible to name all of them, but it is necessary to mention at least some of them.

The Uznovgorodvodstroy Trust is headed by an experienced engineer from Tashkent Yu. Mukhamadiyev, a person who has worked on big construction sites and is well acquainted with industrial, civil, reclamation, and irrigation construction. Large-scale projects in the republic's capital, work on new construction in the Golodnaya and Karshinskaya steppes--this is far from his complete list of service. Now he is working on Novgorod land. And is it not noteworthy, that Yu. M. Mukhamadiyev has been selected as deputy of the Novgorodskaya Oblast Council of the People's Deputies.

The Alimzhanov family is well-known to the builders of the new irrigated zone in the Golodnaya Steppe. There are several brothers in it and all of them have involved their lives with reclamation and improving new lands. Now the eldest brother, V. M. Alimzhanov, is head of the engineering service in the Uznovgorodvodstroy Trust and is its chief engineer. The youngest brother, R. M. Alimzhanov is head of SPMK Tashkent-4 and is in charge of reclamation and construction work on one of the distant rayons of the oblast--in Volotskiy Rayon.

There are many years of experience in construction organizations behind the deputies of the trust administration A. F. Adiyarov and N. A. Guzev, the head of the production department O. I. Zhedulev, head of the SPMK Tashkent-6 A. I. Luk'yanenko, and other production commanders. For example,

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the head of the SPMK Tashkent-1 V. S. Mimidiminov worked in water conservancy organizations of the Namanganskaya Oblast of Uzbekistan. He was one of the first to move to the Novgorod area. The mechanized column which is led by them is one of the best in the trust system. It is exactly in this brigade that work does not cease in reclamation even in the winter time, for here record construction is conducted.

Among the best crews is the small international team of drainage workers which is headed by Namangan komsomol member Tursunpulat Rasulov. There are five people in the team and they belong to four nationalities of the Soviet Union. The komsomol workers operate in such a way that the teams of drainage excavators of all trust reclamation subdivisions try to equal them. In 1977, T. Rasulov's team installed 114 kilometers of closed drains with an annual assignment of 50 kilometers. The name of the excellent reclamation specialist was carried on the Novgorodskaya Oblast Plaque of Honor.

For the selfless work in renewing the Novgorod land, 23 of those who were victorious in the socialist competition of the recent year including R. Baltayev, I. Turdyev, A. Bidin, G. Zorin, T. Rasulov and others were sent into the Book of Labor Glory of the Novgorodskaya Oblast, and 40 of the best reclamation specialists and builders were awarded the Mark of Winner of Socialist Competition for 1977.

The young envoys of Uzbekistan are not only working in an excellent manner on Novgorod land, they do not forget about sports and artistic independent activity about organizing cultural and beneficial leisure. In the office of the head of CPMK Tashkent-1 V. Mimidiminov one can see many prizes, diplomas, and documents which note the sports achievements of young Uzbek builders.

The city and settlements of the Novgorodskaya Oblast are becoming more beautiful, newer and newer lands are being used in agricultural cultivation, and production capacities in enterprises of the construction industry are growing. All of these are the fruits of joined labor among brothers and friends--workers of the Novgorod area and those sent from sunny Uzbekistan.

Our Common Cause

Above we told in detail about the labor collectives and people who directly participated in improving the land in the Ivanovskaya and Novgorodskaya oblasts. But in fact, in this great creative era, literally all workers of the republic participate. Some by their direct participation, and others who by sending their friends from the brigade, workshop, and plant to the new construction sites are carrying out production tasks which were done by those comrades who left; and the third group works at carrying out the requests of Nechernozem and Zavolzh'ye at enterprises of the construction industry; while the fourth group is occupied with designing irrigation and domestic services projects as well as with composing estimates documentation and so on.

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Together with the komsomol of the entire nation which sent over 70,000 persons to the Nechernozem area, the komsomol of Uzbekistan is actively participating in transforming the lands of the Ivanovskaya and Novgorodskaya oblasts. In just the past two and a half years, the komsomol of the republic sent over 3,500 young men and women to work at permanent posts on new construction in the Ivanovskaya and Novgorodskaya oblasts.

Each year during the summer season for their "working semester," hundreds and thousands of student construction work groups go out and make a significant contribution in carrying out the established tasks. Just this year at a new construction site of the Nechernozem area, about 4,000 student--construction workers left Uzbekistan, including about 2,000 to the Novgorodskaya and Ivanovskaya oblasts. In the last, anniversary year the student construction work groups from Uzbekistan fulfilled over six million rubles worth of construction and installation work at the new construction site of Nechernozem.

In the process of studying, the future warriors and student construction work groups are becoming specialized as bricklayers, installers, finishers, and carpenters so that during the "work semester" they could be of maximum assistance to the collectives working on the Nechernozem lands. In higher education facilities of the republic schools for experts have been established in which during the period of training for the student work summer about 500 students studied. Studies with student construction work groups have been also organized in safety, protection of labor which also raises the efficiency of their work at important construction sites.

In Tashkent, Andizhan, Namangan, Fergan, Karakalpakiy, and other cities and oblasts of the republic new construction work groups are being formed which are intended for the lands of the Nechernozem area. During the period of August-September 1978, the collectives of Uznovgorodvodstroy and Ivanovoirsovkhozstroy gained more than 3,000 trained builders, irrigators, and reclamation specialists. Among them were many young people and komsomol members.

There are representatives of our republic within the All-Union shock komsomol work group imeni 60-letiy VLKSM also, which in September 1978 left for the construction work of the Nechernozem area. In his greeting to the participants of this work group, L. I. Brezhnev wrote: "I am sure that your patriotic example will be worthily continued and the new thousands of young men and women from various corners of our Motherland will enter the ranks of construction workers who are transforming this broad area of the nation. Here young hands and work enthusiasm as well as inexhaustible energy of the komsomol is necessary."

At the enterprises of the republic which are carrying out the tasks of the Nechernozem area, the young production workers are laboring under the slogan: "Nechernozem Orders--Ahead of Schedule and with High Quality and Improved Reliability!". And there are many of these orders. Just from the enterprises of the Promstroyaterialy Trust under the Glavsredazirsovkhozstroy system, in the last two and a half years the new construction

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projects of the Ivanovskaya Oblast was given about 60,000 cubic meters of pre-fabricated ferro-concrete and over 2,000 tons of constructional engineering, as well as many other construction materials. A great deal of equipment and construction materials from enterprises of the construction industry of the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the republic are going to Novgorod and Volgograd construction projects. A good word should be said to the workers of the Central Asian railroad, who in spite of the difficulties with the rolling stock, in spite of the great distances, insure the movement of this huge mass of cargo in the planned amount of time.

For example, the delivery of pre-fabricated ferro-concrete for housing and cultural and domestic construction in the Ivanovskaya Oblast is being realized by the Dzhizakskiy combine of ferro-concrete goods; the Yangiyerskiy combine of construction materials sends goods for industrial and civic construction there as well as goods for hydro-technical and irrigation construction; the Chinazskiy combine--for industrial construction and underground road construction. Tile, "joiner," sanitary engineering equipment are sent to the Nechernozem area by workers from the Angren, Tashkent, Bekabad, and other industrial centers of the Uzbek republic.

Many other labor collectives working in various areas and branches of the national economy of the republic could be named which directly or indirectly help the workers of the Nechernozem area in improving its land. All of this attests to the fact that for the workers of Uzbekistan, putting into practice the programs for renewing the lands of Nechernozem has become a close and dear business.

For four years now the workers of our republic have been giving supervisory assistance. All of this time they have been working shoulder to shoulder with their Ivanovo and Novgorod friends and brothers, feeling great concern, attention, and the kindest and warmest relations from local party, soviet, and economic organizations. The first secretaries of the oblast party committees: Ivanovskaya--V. G. Klyuyev, Novgorodskaya--N. A. Antonov constantly and thoroughly examine the needs of construction and construction workers. They help to solve effectively the most varied problems which arise in the course of construction.

For example, in August of the current year, the Novgorodskaya Oblast party committee bureau discussed the work of the Uznovgorodvodstroy Trust collective and its party organization in carrying out socialist obligations and planned assignments. According to the results of the discussion, the First Secretary of the CPSU Oblast Committee N. A. Antonov had a meeting with the party and economic aktiv of the trust and with construction subdivisions. At the meeting there was a business-like and interesting discussion about the tasks which have been carried out and those which remain, about the achievements and shortcomings in the work, and about the large and not yet touched resources at the construction sites and ways of using them.

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The Deputy Chairman of the Novgorodskaya Oblast Party Executive Committee N. I. Bavykin, chairman of the Shimskiy Rayon executive committee Yu. M. Levkov and from the Parfinskiy Rayon executive committee V. V. Bukovskiy, and other leaders of the oblast and rayons constantly visit the projects under construction.

Problems of work for the supervisors from Uzbekistan are practically never off the agenda of the meetings of the bureau of party committees and executive committees of the Soviet of People's Deputies of the Ivanovskaya Oblast. In July 1978 at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Furmanovskiy Rayon Soviet of People's Deputies, the issue concerning the progress of construction of the Uzbekistan Sovkhoz was discussed. Not a single issue raised by the leaders of the mobile mechanized columns remained without the attention of the rayon organization. The Chairman of the Rayon Executive Committee L. P. Zhirovigin consistently visits the construction areas, attends planning and production meetings in the SPMK, and devotes a great deal of attention to the cultural services of the builders. The construction workers of Uzbekistan are obliged to the chairman of the rayon executive committee for the fact that a projector has appeared in their trailer-town.

In a word, a firm friendship and strong business-like ties are characteristic for the mutual relations of the supervisors and their subordinates. And wherever there is a great, real, and strong friendship, there are also great work achievements. They exist even now and they will be even greater in the near future!

Since the day of the approval of the Decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers on the further development of agriculture in the Nechernozem zone of the Russian Federation, almost five years have passed. In this relatively short period of time great changes have taken place.

"In our plans a great deal of attention is given to the Nechernozem zone of the RSFSR," said General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev at the July Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee (1978). "It can be noted with satisfaction that the planned comprehensive program for realizing the transformation of the agricultural industry of this broad area is beginning to have a positive affect upon increasing production output, and improving the conditions for work and everyday life for rural laborers. And yet work on improving the Nechernozem area has not been expanded to the scale and business-like efficiency which are necessary for successfully carrying out the established tasks.

Judging by the results of two years of the five-year plan, there is a lag in carrying out the tasks on reclamation and increasing the productivity of the land, creating an industrial base, housing and social amenities construction. Little has been done in building roads. Work on settling families from sparsely populated areas into comfortable settlements is

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being done slowly. The capacities of flax-manufacturing, food and meat and dairy industries are behind the plans. Apparently, not all the workers of the central, republic, and local organizations have understood the economic and political significance of the solution to the Nechernozem problem.

The ministries and branches which have been entrusted with conducting the work in the Nechernozem area, as well as party, soviet, and economic organizations, must do everything in order to overcome the lags and carry out the tasks ahead of schedule in the entire complex of measures for transforming the agricultural industry in this area. Of course, in the plans of the 11th Five-Year Plan, the problems of the Nechernozem area will be given the necessary attention."

Discussing the materials of the July (1978) Plenum of the Central Committee of our party, party, soviet, water conservancy organizations of the republic, Uzbekistan envoys to the Nechernozem area subjected the results of their work in rendering assistance in the reformation of the Nechernozem area to a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the first result of their work. Shortcomings were discovered in the material and machinery supply for construction, in the organization and quality of work done on various construction projects, in the organization of mass-political and cultural-educational work among reclamation specialists, builders, mechanical experts and a system of measures was developed, the realization of which will allow the rates, scales, and efficiency of our supervisory assistants to be improved in renewing the Nechernozem area.

In the Decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers concerning the further development of agricultural in the Nechernozem area, the necessity for a complex solution of the problems in improving the lands and using natural resources of this potentially most rich area was particularly underscored. It is exactly in this comprehensive manner that the improvement of the land in Uzbekistan is being conducted--in the Karshinskaya, Dzhizakskaya, and Surkhan-Sherabadskaya steppes, that is, simultaneously with the meliorative improvement of the lands, hydro-technical construction, while the construction of new settlements, projects of production and social amenities for today's builders and tomorrow's users of the great land masses is being carried out ahead of schedule.

Improving the Golodnaya Steppe convinced one of the fact that the effectiveness of these expensive works can be achieved with such a complex resolution. Wherever these necessary conditions were not adhered to, there the output of the newly improved lands inevitably was held back, and individual plots fell out of crop rotation since there was no one to work them.

At the present time state commissions simultaneously accept land masses from reclamation specialists and irrigators while new sovkhoz settlements with a full complement of social amenities--from the builders. In our opinion, such a principle of having state commissions accept introductory

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complexes would be advantageous to spread in the Nechernozem area in order that to eliminate this sad situation when there is land waiting for its plowman, but there is no plowman...

In the Ivanovo and Novgorod areas Uzbekistan is building four new and modern farms where, as was mentioned previously, animal husbandry and farming will be placed on an industrial base and will be based on the most recent achievements of science and technology. The new technological base of modern agricultural production requires well trained and qualified personnel who are capable of efficiently handling this machinery. Therefore, preparing the personnel for the newly created farms in the Nechernozem area and other zones of the country, today is of primary significance. One of the vital sources for increasing the ranks of builders, reclamation specialists, and irrigators is the expansion of the network of rural professional and training schools and of secondary specialized and other educational facilities.

The influx of new working power at the new construction sites of the Nechernozem and Povolzh'ye areas frequently restrain the housing shortage and in a number of cases the absence of adequate social amenities. It should be noted that although the rates of housing and cultural amenities construction in these areas are increasing, they still do not correspond to the growing scope of improved new lands and the number of people working at these projects.

Increasing the rates of housing construction could be promoted by a wider transfer to the pre-fabricated method of construction and to changing construction plots into installation ones. In its turn, this presents new problems for the designers--problems of working out large-panel housing with heating and northern modification and with consideration for rural conditions. City models for mass housing can not be blindly transferred to the countryside. Life and practice refute such a method of planning the population of newly created settlements.

The rapid solution of the housing problem rests on the shortage of capability for housing construction combines. Expanding the network of enterprises producing ferro-concrete goods is the pressing need of the day. It is also important that the combines and plants for panel house-construction supply installation sections not only with building components for single and two-story buildings, but also pre-fabricated ferro-concrete for constructing projects used for social-cultural and everyday use--kindergarten, schools, medical facilities and so on, which will be very advantageous with time.

In the plan for improving and speeding up construction, the question concerning the place for the production of pre-fabricated ferro-concrete and other construction materials used by the increased demand in new constructions in rayons is very important. At present the vast majority of construction materials is supplied to Uzbekistan's subordinate supervisory rural construction sites of the Ivanovskaya and Novgorodskaya oblasts from

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enterprises of our republic, that is a distance of 3,000 kilometers, at the same time that they can be produced directly on site.

There are more problems which require a rapid solution. For example, the problem of using forests and shrubbery on lands which are being put to use for agriculture. At the present time, this forest is practically unused and almost all the wood turns into gigantic bonfires carrying into the wind a great deal of national money. Even shrubbery areas are both a technological kindling, wood alcohol, wood shavings stoves, wood tar, and many many other things.

An improved hectare is expensive for the national budget and each hectare of new land must be treated with the greatest care. However, everywhere one can observe a scene when fairly large cultivated areas are covered with boulders brought from reclamation areas. Throughout the Nechernozem area such "rocky deposits" on the improved land comprises many hundreds if not thousands of hectares. But these lands can and must be used for agricultural cultivation and can and must serve man.

In many rayons of the Nechernozem area, there is a shortage of road metal, particularly now when massive construction of hard surface roads has begun. Establishing rock crushing aggregates in these places will allow the land to be freed and to a certain extent it will supply the need for road metal.

I would like to also discuss the role and contribution of science in the improvement of Nechernozem. In our opinion, it appears to be advantageous to create a single scientific center in Nechernozem patterned on the Siberian or Far Eastern branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Presently, the problems of transforming the lands of this region are being handled by dozens (if not hundreds) of the most varied scientific and planning organizations which operate, for the most part, independently and in full or partial isolation from their related departments. In the Ivanovskaya Oblast the survey-planning work is done by eight planning organizations. A much greater effect can be achieved when all survey, planning, and research work in the most varied areas--reclamation and irrigation, in industrial and civic construction, in seed raising and so on--will be concentrated in a single scientific center which conducts a single scientific and technical policy.

Years will pass and this ancient Russian land will change beyond recognition. According to the plan for transforming the Nechernozem area of the Russian Federation, already within the course of the upcoming 15 years, here work on melioration and irrigation will basically be completed thusly: by 1990 9-10 million hectares of agricultural farm land will be dried, 2-2.5 million hectares will be irrigated, and on 8-10 million hectares cultural and professional work will be carried out. The renewed land will generously thank man. The renewed Nechernozem area will become another brilliant confirmation of the fact that the will and intelligence of the Communist Party are multiplied in the work heroics of the people and are capable of creating and really do create miracles.

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V. G. Klyuyev

First Secretary of the
Ivanovskaya Oblast Committee
of the CPSU

By United Efforts

An impressive and indestructible friendship directly ties the nations of our multi-national Homeland. Born during the difficult years of struggle for Soviet power, it matured, hardened and grew stronger on the fronts of the Civil War and those of World War II and during the peaceful days of building a mature socialist society. Strengthened by the new USSR Constitution and the unfading glow of light, now when our nation is united around the Leninist Communist Party, it is erecting a bright communist building with enthusiasm.

One of the manifestations of the creative Leninist national policy, principle of proletariat internationalism, fraternity and friendship among the peoples of the Soviet Union has truly become the sincere and heartfelt closeness, direct and constantly strengthening ties between the workers of sunny Uzbekistan and the Ivanovskaya Oblast. This tie goes back to the years when at the call of the party, the Ivanovo-Voznesensk "red weavers" under the command of M. V. Frunze together with the poor Uzbek peasants fought for establishing Soviet power in Central Asia. The task was not only to get rid of the yoke of oppression, but also to give an economic life to Uzbekistan. The Ivanovo textile workers together with the Uzbek peasants worked on cotton fields, participated in the organization of kolkhozes, sovkhoses, assisted in the development of a textile industry in the republic, and were active propaganda workers for socialist reform.

In 1929 during the time of intense struggle for USSR independence in cotton, socialist competition unfurled under the slogan "The Road of Thousands," which really became a massive school for progressive methods. Including the new collectives, which were reformed and improved, this form of competition is becoming more and more a powerful incentive in international ties, friendship and cooperation among nations.

Within the great fraternal family of peoples of Uzbekistan and within an unprecedentedly short period of time the outskirts of Russia changed from a backward and semi-feudal order into an area of powerful industry and modern highly mechanized agricultural industry. The economic and cultural ties between the workers of the textile area and the Uzbek SSR have become even more durable.

Old-timers from the Ivanovo area remember how the first Soviet textile industry was put into operation in 1929--the melange yarn combine. The cotton growers of Uzbekistan attended this celebration. The first fabric

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was woven from cotton which was supplied by this delegation. Since that time, along the steel highways echelons with "white gold" travel to the textile shop of the nation: 70 percent of all the cotton which is processed in our oblast is raised by the caring hands of Uzbek peasants. Beautiful and strong fabric is processed from them by Ivanovo textile workers, and even more beautiful and stronger are the ties of friendship and fraternity which unite the people.

Along "Dogovoru Tysyach" [Agreement of the Thousands], hundreds of Ivanovo residents traveled to Tashkent and in that wonderful sunny city met with its excellent people, shared their experience, and adopted it from Uzbek comrades. And when the unprecedented earthquake destroyed Tashkent, and eliminating over two million square meters of housing, the Ivanovo residents sent their best builders to rebuild the destroyed city, who with their own hands erected new buildings and housing blocks in the capital of Uzbekistan.

A new era in the development of our mutual ties was 1974, when the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers ordered the intensive development of an agricultural production center in Russia--the RSFSR Nechernozem zone. The workers of Uzbekistan were one of the first to express a desire to actively participate in improving this huge area of our country, in changing it into an area of high yield and stable harvests, the high productivity of animal husbandry, and the broad social reforms in the countryside. Only in our Ivanovskaya Oblast the capital investment in agriculture was 750 million rubles in the 10th Five-Year Plan. This is over twice what was acquired in the Ninth Five-Year Plan.

The oblast communists assigned the workers of the countryside who were supervising the industrial enterprises, to considerably increase the volume of all types of agricultural products and during the current five--year plan meet the demands of the people for basic food products by using their own production.

The production of the gross output per worker laboring in the agricultural industry will increase in the 10th Five-Year Plan, in comparison with the past one, by more than a factor of 1.5. The entire increase in the gross output will be achieved by increasing the productivity of labor. From the sale of basic types of products and by reducing its cost, in 1980 it is expected that an increase of 73.5 million rubles will be gained as opposed to the 7.3 million rubles in 1975 and a level of rentability of 23.9 percent will be insured.

The oblast party organization put together a clear program for the further specialization and concentration of agricultural production and transfer it to an industrial base. Large-scale measures have been indicated for an improved utilization of land, and particularly for reclamation construction for the construction of which 151 million rubles have been allocated during the current five-year plan.

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Uzbek reclamation specialists decided to make a sizeable contribution for the successful realization of the intended program. Party, soviet, water conservancy and construction organizations of the Uzbek SSR developed measures for rendering assistance to the Ivanovskaya and Novgorodskaya oblasts in carrying out the Decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers "On Measures for the Further Development of Agriculture in the Nechernozem Area of the RSFSR." The Central Committee of the party approved this initiative.

In 1975 the Ivanovoirsovkhozstroy Trust of the Main Central Asian Administration for Irrigation and the Construction of Sovkhozes was created on Ivanovskaya land and now it is composed of seven mobile mechanized columns, two autonomous finance construction sections, on-site works for ferro--concrete goods, and a motor depot. From the institutes of Sredazgiprovodkhlopok and Sredazgiprotselinstroy two groups of work planning in water conservancy and industrial-civic projects operate. In order to train personnel for mass professions, an educational combine has been organized under the trust and a branch of the Yangiyerskiy Communal-Construction Specialized Secondary School has been opened.

The envoys of sunny Uzbekistan are now conducting reclamation construction in six rayons of the oblast.

For example, in the Furmanovskiy Rayon, an irrigation system is being constructed on the so-called Krasinskiy meadows. These naturally low-yield lands occupy almost 2,000 hectares. By the end of the construction, 25 sprinkling machines "frigate" will work here simultaneously. The productivity of this mass of land should reach 12,000 tons of feed units annually. Such a quantity will be enough to keep 4,000 high milk-yielding cows. Similar irrigating systems are also planned to be built in the Shuyskiy and Ivanovskiy rayons. During the years of the five-year plan, the Uzbek reclamation specialists plan to dry a total of 12,000 hectares, irrigate 5,000 hectares, and carry out cultural and professional work on 23,800 hectares.

The project of the complex construction of large-scale specialized vegetable-dairy Uzbekistan and Druzhba sovkhozes which is being done by our friends from Uzbekistan is very important in the plan for developing land reclamation. These farms have a decisive significance in carrying out the program designated by the oblast party organization on increasing the production of vegetables on the basis of concentration and specialization of the branch. Presently, almost every second farm of the oblast is occupied with their production. With the completion of the construction of sovkhozes, vegetable raising will be concentrated on nine farms. Moreover, the Uzbekistan and Druzhba sovkhozes will assume the main burden in providing the people of the oblast with vegetables. Of the 80,000 tons of vegetables which are intended to be produced by 1980, over half will be raised on these sovkhozes. They will be produced on irrigated lands using advanced irrigation machinery with an automatic control system.

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At the present time, the planning institutes of the Main Central Asian Administration on Irrigation and the Construction of Sovkhozos are developing designs for expanding the Uzbekistan and Druzhba sovkhozos and technical plans for the first steps of construction have been issued. Today their territory represents a tremendous construction area. Now in the Uzbekistan Sovkhoz the contours of the future central farmstead are being drawn.

Here four and two-story buildings will appear, as well as cottages with attached lots and of course, a trade complex and movie theater, a House of Culture, kindergarten, and nursery. A total of about five million rubles of capital investment have been acquired for the construction of the Uzbekistan Sovkhoz.

Besides this, Uzbek reclamation specialists are creating a large base of a construction industry of Glavnechernozemvodstroy in the oblast. Upon putting it into operation, the needs of reclamation construction in prefabricated ferro-concrete will be completely insured, which will allow the creation of more reliable and long-lasting systems of drying and irrigation systems.

The republic envoys are to render great assistance in designing bases for reclamation construction in the Il'inskiy and Yur'yevetskiy rayons and in the strengthening, expansion and construction of the production bases for repair-construction PMK in the Komsomol'skiy, Furmanovskiy and Ivanovskaya rayons.

Simultaneously with the work on the reclamation and improvement of the lands and with the creation of bases of the construction industry and the exploitation service of water conservancy organizations, the Ivanovoirsovkhozstroy Trust is expanding its capabilities. The production base with housing area is being built in Kokhm, the construction of their own PMK base has begun in Privolzhsk, Rodniki, and Novo-Talitsy, and their construction is being designed in the cities of Shua and Ivanov. The remodeling of the Shua plant for ferro-concrete goods, the capacity of which is being increased by more than threefold, is being finished.

During the 10th Five-Year Plan, Uzbek irrigators decided to carry out construction and reclamation work worth 100 million rubles. The production program has been carried out (for October 1978) by 28 percent and 28 million rubles have been acquired.

Many brigades, builders, and mechanical experts are successfully carrying out their assumed socialist obligations and are selflessly working at carrying out the tremendous program for improving the Nechernozem area. Among the best production subdivisions is the collective headed by the leader of the sector FMK-6 of the Ivanovoirsovkhozstroy Trust K. N. Medvedev. The reclamation specialists of the sector submitted an important project with a "good" evaluation--drainage systems in the Dulyapinskiy Sovkhoz and on the Oktyabr' Kolkhoz of the Ivanovskiy and imeni

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Gor'kiy Shuyskiy rayons. The collective, headed by the work superintendent V. Ye. Shuranov, put into operation an irrigation system on the Lezhnevskiy Sovkhoz. The communist crane driver of the caterpillar A. A. Volkov, excavator operators A. A. Medvedev and N. I. Makushin, blacksmiths A. D. Barinov and many others achieved high production indexes.

Together with this, the Ivanovirsovkhozstroy Trust is undergoing considerable difficulties. Cadre stability has not been attained and at times there is a shortage of local construction materials. The characteristic weather of our area unfavorably influences the reclamation work. Basically, the work is done during summer and autumn months. Unfortunately, the problems of organizing everyday life and public catering for reclamation specialists, the timely allocation of lands, organization of work for cultivating land masses are not being solved effectively everywhere. Now the efforts of party, soviet and economic groups in the localities are directed at eliminating these shortcomings.

There is no doubt that the combined efforts of the workers of the Ivanovskaya Oblast and their fraternal Uzbekistan in carrying out the tremendous program for reforming the Nechernozem area will become another brilliant page in the history of the development of our mutual ties, friendship and fraternity, and it will be one more touch in the strengthening of the power of our multi-national Homeland.

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N. A. Antonov

First Secretary of the
Novgorodskaya Oblast Committee
of the CPSU

Through the Paths of Friendship

Novgorod residents, just as all Soviet people, are working enthusiastically and full of determination to carry out the assigned tasks for the five-year plan and to realize the resolution of the July (1978) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the orders of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet L. I. Brezhnev which were expressed by him during his trip through the areas of Siberia and the Far East.

In the anniversary year of 1977, the workers of the oblast worked intensely and now are trying to fully utilize the experience gained and increase it having taken the order given by L. I. Brezhnev as a fighting program of activity. The order concerns the fact that it is necessary to preserve and strengthen the work effort and rhythm of the anniversary competition.

In the past years of the 10th Five-Year Plan, the industrial potential of the oblast increased and the production of gross output for agriculture grew. From year to year, the volume of acquired capital investments are growing and the base for construction organizations is growing stronger.

In the achievements of the rural workers of the oblast, our friends, the envoys from sunny Uzbekistan, made a significant contribution.

Thousands of kilometers separate the Novgorodskaya Oblast from the Uzbek SSR, but this did not interfere with the Uzbek people's stretching out their hand in helping the Russian brothers in improving the Nechernozem land, for which we express the most heartfelt gratitude and thankfulness.

The heated interest of the Uzbek brothers for their mutual success is a natural expression of the fact that all of us have a single cause--because of our party, common expectation and hope, and goals and ambitions. This is the source of one of the most powerful moving powers of the Soviet society--the friendship of the peoples of the USSR.

The strength of the friendly ties between the people to a great extent depends upon that which they have experienced and lived through together. Our friendship is strengthened by blood. Many Novgorod residents helped the Uzbek brothers establish Soviet power, struggle against the basmak, and build the Turksib and Bol'shoy Ferganskiy Canal. During World War II thousands of Uzbek people fought on our Novgorod land.

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The war cost many human lives, swept away from the Novgorod land hundreds of settlements and villages, and damaged the arable land. The first steps in reestablishing the destroyed cultivation of the burned land were difficult. Full of enemy shells, it was fraught with death. The war from time to time reminds us of itself by the explosion of an untriggered bomb, removed from the depths of the earth by an excavator or dug up by a tractor plow.

From the first days of peace, the party and Soviet state have given a great deal of attention to reestablishing and further developing the national economy and to improving the standard of living for the people.

The Decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers "On Measures for the Further Development of the Nechernozem Area of the RSFSR" was a bright example of putting into practice the course taken for intensifying agriculture which had been developed at the March (1965) and subsequent plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and approved by party congresses. For us it is a long-term program for uplifting the economy of the oblast, reforming the countryside and villages into comfortable settlements which resemble the city type, creating fields of crops and pasture lands, which are suitable for widely inclusive aggregates and more powerful machinery. For us it is also a program for putting to use all resources and capabilities in order to increase the agricultural production output. The basic realization of these tasks is the reclamation of the land.

On the Uzbek land, for thousands of years a struggle for water for irrigation went on. As a result of the centuries old developed of irrigation, most valuable experience in using water resources for increasing agriculture production was gathered in the republic. Today the Uzbekistan envoys generously share their experience with us.

Right after the appearance of the Decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers concerning Nechernozem, the communists of Uzbekistan came forth with an initiative concerning rendering assistance in carrying out meliorative work in a number of oblasts of the Nechernozem area of the RSFSR. And although the measures indicated in this decree were intended to be realized during the 10th Five-Year Plan, in November 1974 Novgorod residents met the first rank of Uzbek reclamation specialists. In the Shimskiy Rayon they established the first specialized mechanized column Tashkent-1, and in 1975 the Soletskaya SPMK Tashkent-2 was created. In the first year of work the Uzbekistan envoys dried 2,200 hectares of wet land.

In 1976 two more mechanized columns were established--the Shimskaya SPMK Tashkent-3 and the Volotovskaya SPMK Tashkent-4. In the same year all of the SPMKs were united in the Uznovgorodvodstroy Trust. Presently there are 2,500 persons working in the trust. Reclamation specialists from Uzbekistan are working on a territory of seven rayons of our oblast and are carrying out an extensive program on drying and irrigating lands, and on constructing Tashkentskiy and Druzhba sovkhozes and bases for the SPMK.

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In the 10th Five-Year Plan the subdivisions of the trust must acquire 100 million rubles of capital investment, dry over 40,000 hectares of wet and swampy lands out of 100,000 hectares which must be dried in these years.

From the beginning of the 10th Five-Year Plan, the Uzbek reclamation specialists transferred almost 11,000 hectares of dried lands to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, prepared and put into operation 400 hectares of dried peat bog, enriched 14,500 hectares of lands which did not require drying and cultural and professional work, and put into operation 21,000 square meters of housing.

Among the right-flank is the collective of the first to be on the Novgorod land, the SPMK Tashkent-1. From the beginning of its work, this collective insured the introduction of 4,500 hectares of dried lands and acquired 8.5 million rubles of capital investment. On 5,000 hectares of land which did not require drying, cultural and professional work was conducted and over 4,000 square meters of housing were put to use.

The collective of the SPMK Tashkent-1 already put into operation 776 hectares of dried lands and in the future another 400 hectares of improved land will be transferred to the Volna Revolyutsii Sovkhoz.

With the first team of Uzbek reclamation specialists came Begiyev Rashid Abubekyarovich and since that time he has worked as a bulldozer operator in the Shimskiy SPMK Tashkent-1 and carries out the monthly norm by 170 percent. The machine operator of the one-bucket excavator Mamutov Sarved Ganiyevich came to the Soletskaya SPMK Tashkent-2 from the Andizhanskaya Oblast. From day to day he exceeds his assignment and carries out the norm by 140-180 percent. The crew of the drainage excavator which is led by machine operator Resler Viktor Andreyevich began to work in the Shimskaya SPMK Tashkent-1 in 1976. He fulfilled his five-year plan assignment by the time of the anniversary of the approval of the new USSR Constitution having installed 266 kilometers of drainage. In December of 1976 bulldozer operators Blyum Valentin Nikolayevich and Gopkin Fedor Semenovich came to the construction project of the Tashkentskiy Sovkhoz. There was not a single time that they carried out their shift norm by less than 140 percent.

Many more examples of shock work on the part of Uzbek representatives at rural construction sites of the oblast can be given.

Our cooperation with the Uzbek comrades is not limited to reclamation alone. Three construction PMKs which erect production bases, are building dairy and feed complexes and projects of social amenities and everyday needs.

It can be said without exaggeration, that there is no area of life where the fraternal unity of our peoples is not reflected. Its joining power are the relations between our republics and oblast party organizations. In 1977 a group of writers from Uzbekistan came to us. In the Soletskiy

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House of Culture a literary evening was held. The writers gave the builders a series of classical and contemporary Uzbek literature. This year in Novgorod an exhibition was organized called the "Decorative and Practical Art of Uzbekistan." Our national ensemble Sadko went to give concerts in Tashkent.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers are constantly paying attention to the work of all those who find themselves in the area of the Uzbek organizations and to providing their material and labor resources.

In almost every SPMK economic sectors are created which work on a sub-contract basis. They are composed of 400 persons who came from various oblasts of the republic. The Central Committee of the Lenin Komsomol of the republic rendered a great deal of assistance to the subdivisions of the Uznovgorodvodstroy Trust having formed a team of young volunteers.

Without a doubt, the supervisory assistance rendered by the Uzbek friends in reforming our oblast is truly tremendous. It is natural that in such a large business difficulties arise which sometimes are based on objective reasons, and sometimes on organizational inadequacies. Thus, for example, the comrades who arrive are often not adequately acquainted with the conditions and technology of the forthcoming work, and teaching them on-site has not yet been organized on the necessary level. The assistance program has not provided resources for this goal. As a result, people together with the machinery are sometimes used inefficiently.

Resources for acceleration are used in the organization of the work also. The natural conditions of our area are such that the extended period of daylight allows one to work a considerable part of the year in two-three shifts. But, unfortunately, in not a single subdivision is a multi-system of work organized. Naturally, this negatively influences the rate of work and the productivity of the machinery and labor resources used.

These and certain other inadequacies could not but influence the realization of the production program. The kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the rayons, where specialized mobile mechanized columns of the Uznovgorodvodstroy Trust work were short by over 10,000 hectares of dried land and almost 2,000 hectares of irrigated land. About 600 hectares of dried peat bog were not put to use. Putting housing into operation is also behind.

Local party, soviet and agricultural groups are rendering great assistance in the organization of more constructive work for reclamation specialists and construction columns of the trust. We hope that through joined efforts we will be able to achieve more rapid work in improving our area.

The assistance which the envoys from sunny Uzbekistan unselfishly give us is considerable and versatile. It has not only an economic significance, but also a political one and serves as a bright example of international friendship.

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We are certain that in the process of future joint work, the fraternal cooperation of the Novgorod residents and Uzbekistan workers will become broader and deeper and the mutual exchange of the achievements of material and spiritual culture will grow stronger.

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OVERVIEW OF DIFFICULTIES IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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[Report by F. P. Filin, Director of the Russian Language Institute of the AN SSSR [USSR Academy of Sciences] and corresponding member of the AN SSSR, to a meeting of the Presidium of the AN SSSR: "Further Development of Research of Problems of the Functioning and Study of the Russian Language and the Teaching of Russian Literature in Union and Autonomous Republics and Autonomous Oblasts and Okrugs of the USSR," a report of the ensuing discussion and a decision by the Presidium of the AN SSSR]

[Text] Questions on a study of the functioning of the Russian language in the national republics and autonomous oblasts of the USSR, as well as measures for improving the teaching thereof, had been examined at a meeting of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences and at the 34th Session of the Council on Coordination of the Scientific Activity of the Academies of Sciences of the Union Republics.* The shifts that have occurred recently in this area and new tasks that face the scientific academies were discussed at a recent meeting of the Presidium, where Director of the AN SSSR Russian Language Institute and corresponding member of the AN SSSR F. P. Filin delivered a report.

Report of F. P. Filin

A task of enormous state importance faces us--that of promoting in every way the further development and blossoming of all the Soviet Union's nationality languages and simultaneously that of seeing to it that the whole nationality population of our country possesses the Russian language. This is a task not for just one year or for just 2 years but for a longer period. It can be solved only by the joint efforts of all

*See VESTNIK AN SSSR [Herald of the USSR Academy of Sciences] Nos 3 and 8, 1977.

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elements of public education, linguistic institutions of the USSR Academy of Sciences and its branches, the republic academies of sciences, and other institutions.

It must be said that after the question had been discussed at a meeting of the AN SSSR Presidium and the 34th Session of the coordinating council, the matter was appreciably enlivened. The ministries of education and of higher and secondary specialized education and the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, with whom we are in close contact, undertook to work out the methods problems of teaching Russian in schools for the nationalities and to prepare different types of lesson plans, textbooks, study aids and dictionaries, which are now being published by the hundreds in our country. And among the most important concerns of academic institutions are those of raising the scientific level of teaching personnel and improving Russian-language study literature.

Not so long ago only the UkSSR Academy of Sciences, of all the republic academies, had a special section for the Russian language; this was created in the Institute of Linguistics at the initiative of its director, Academician I. K. Beloded.* This section continues to do multifaceted work on spreading the Russian language in the Ukraine and on extending assistance to all elements of public education, and it is developing a theoretical foundation for the functioning of Russian where there is Russian-Ukrainian bilinguality. This section has published, in particular, a series of monographs that have been evaluated highly by the scientific community. A portion of them has been translated abroad. For example, Russian and German language editions of the book, "Velikiy Oktyabr' i russkiy yazyk" (Der Grosse Oktober und die russische Sprache) [The Great October and the Russian Language] were published simultaneously in Kiev and Leipzig recently. We also have strong ties with this section, and much work is being carried out jointly.

And how is the matter going in the other republics?

A Russian-language section was recently established in the Institute of Linguistics of the Academy of Sciences of the Belorussian SSR. Right now all of Minsk's schools are conducting studies in the Russian language--this is the desire of the populace. For Belorussia as a whole, work on raising the sophistication of Russian speech is first priority, since almost all the republic's population possesses the basics of the Russian language.

Special scientific subdivisions have been established in the Moldavian and Armenian and in the Latvian and Lithuanian academies of sciences; a laboratory for the study of Russian has been created in the Tbilisi Institute of Psychology; Russian-language sectors have been established in the academies of sciences of Kirgizia, Tadzhikistan and Uzbekistan; and Russian-language sections have been created in the academies of sciences

*See Beloded, I. K. "Vsyak sushchiy v ney yazyk" [Everything That Exists in It Is Language], VESTNIK AN SSSR, No 6, 1978.

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of the Azerbaijan and Kazakh SSR's and an interagency Russian-language council has been established in Estonia. Russian-language topics are included in the work plans of philological institutions of branches of the USSR Academy of Sciences. However, all this is just a start. Most of the specialists in Russian philology in nationality academic institutions are still inadequately trained, and there are few of them. There are fewer than 200 specialists in Russian philology of higher qualifications--doctors of sciences--in our country. A fourth of them work in the Russian Language Institute of the AN SSSR, more than half live in Moscow or Leningrad, and more than five-sixths of them live in RSFSR cities. Meanwhile, in some republics, in Turkmenia and Uzbekistan for example, there is still not one specialist in Russian philology--a doctor of sciences; in other republics there is one.

What is the way out here? The Russian Language Institute of the AN SSSR can in the next few years train tens of highly qualified specialists in the Russian language through special-purpose graduate study and on-the-job training and, in the next 5-10 years, provide the republics of the nationalities completely with the needed personnel of higher qualifications. We can provide scientific direction for 30-40 special-purpose graduate students and on-the-job trainees, or even more. Inceed, in the institute we have about 45 doctors of sciences and about 20 graduate students (only 4 of them are special-purpose). I hope that the situation is changed radically. The problem of training personnel as specialists in Russian philology for the scientific-research institutes and for institutions of higher learning of the nationality republics is completely feasible. And the main thing--the training of teacher-philologists for middle schools--depends upon the institutions of higher learning for teachers.

We have recently held many conferences and consultations for beginning specialists in Russian philology from the Union republics. An All-Union Conference on the Russian language convened in Frunze in October 1978. A conference in Baku and a conference of supervisors of Russian-language sections and groups of all republic academic institutions in Tashkent were dedicated to similar problems. Thus, we are striving mainly to coordinate the efforts of our academy and of the Union-republic academies of sciences in research on the functioning of the Russian language in the coming years and in the long term. I hope that in the future there will be fewer conferences and we will pay the main attention to daily creative work.

And now about Russian-language textbooks and study aids, as well as methods works that have been published in our country. Not all of them are of high quality. Unfortunately, the publishing houses--those at the center and local ones--still have not put into practice the transmission of even the most important manuscripts to the AN SSSR Russian Language Institute or to other authoritative scientific institutions for scientific approbation.

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And what are we ourselves doing in this regard--our sector for study of the Russian language in the nationality republics and the Russian Language Institute as a whole? We are publishing collective monographs; for example, "Russkiy yazyk kak sredstvo mezhnatsional'nogo obshcheniya" [The Russian Language as a Means for Communication among the Nationalities] (a collection that has been highly assessed by society), "Kul'tura russkoy rechi v usloviyakh russko-natsional'nogo dvuyazychiya" [The Sophistication of Russian Speech Where There Is Bilinguality in Russian and a Nationality Language], and "Russkiy yazyk v sovremennom mire" [The Russian Language in the Modern World]. A dictionary of the most-used words that contains 5,000 words, with equivalents in the English, French and Spanish languages, has been published. A second edition of it is being proposed, specially for our nationality republics. A defining dictionary of 4,500 words of the Russian language for school children, and a dictionary of foreign words of the same volume, for pupils, as well as a study aid, "Slovar' slovosochetaniy" [Dictionary of Word Combinations] have been prepared.

An experimental Russian-language textbook for grades 4-8, which can be oriented to the peculiarities of the various languages of peoples of the USSR and was prepared by our institute, should be published in 1979. Ozhegov's one-volume dictionary is being reprinted in a large number of copies. An orthographic dictionary was republished recently in 100,000 copies. I will note that there is a gigantic demand for this literature, which we are not satisfying completely.

At the instruction of the president of our academy, A. P. Aleksandrov, and the Russian Language Institute imeni A. S. Pushkin, we have made an analysis of Russian-language textbooks that are in use in our schools for the nationalities and compared them with the textbooks of the English and French languages for foreigners that are published in England, the USA and France. The conclusions obtained are very curious. In some things our textbooks are in the lead, in some things we have to catch up. The results of this analysis and the main conclusions will be published.

For the first time, a one-volume encyclopedia, "Russkiy yazyk" [The Russian Language], which discusses in abbreviated popular-science form the structure of the Russian language, its categories, history and so on has been published. The encyclopedia is intended for philologist teachers of the Russian and the nationality schools (there is also in it a methods chapter and a bibliography) and, in general, for everyone interested in the Russian language. It is planned to create a series of diversified short dictionaries for various specific purposes.

It can be said that the Russian Language Institute is preparing dictionaries, textbooks, encyclopedias and other Russian-language aids without a special orientation to specific languages of the Soviet nationalities. In this connection, I should declare the following.

While there are many institutes in the world for physics, mathematics, philosophy, economics, linguistics and so on, our institute is the only

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one in the world, a unique scientific-research center, for the Russian language, and it faces very great tasks. Although the science of the Russian language has a long and rich history, much less has been done yet than remains to be done. In the coming years we intend to complete a cycle of operations dedicated to the Russian language (beginning with its primitive Slavonic origins and ending with the language of our day), its grammar, phonetics, vocabulary, morphology, syntax and all its diverse forms: the literary language and the dialects. This is a work that our scientific predecessors could not even dream about. We are getting ready to carry it out, but it will not come easily for us. The institute is very small--there are in all about 200 scientific workers in it. They know Russian and other Slavic languages but, as a rule, they do not know enough Turkish, Finno-Ugric, Caucasian and other languages of peoples of the USSR. We are capable of preparing and we have prepared dictionaries and study aids--standards that can serve and already are serving as models in the creation of aids applicable to each specific language of the nationalities. But the creation of such aids is a task for the linguistics subdivisions in the Union republics, with whom we have established close contacts. Work is also needed on fundamental problems of the Russian language and on a study of its functioning.

We have augmented our sector for the study of the Russian language in the nationality republics through internal reserves. There is now a severe need for specialists in Russian philology who know the languages of the peoples of the USSR. The sector's work can and should become still more fruitful.

Much depends upon our institute and other linguistic institutions if the level of research and teaching of the Russian language in higher institutions and schools of all the Soviet republics is to be raised.

Discussion of the Report

A number of questions were put after the conclusion of F. P. Filin's report. One of them--by Academician V. A. Ambartsumian--touched on a differentiated approach to the study of Russian by representatives of the peoples who are included in the Slavic, Indo-European and non-Indo-European language groups. The speaker concurred with the fact that this problem is exceptionally important in both a scientific and a practical sense and that a differentiated approach is necessary, but until now the degree of difference between the students' native tongue and the Russian language has not been considered much in the nationality schools when making up Russian-language programs. Right now the job is to see to it that the number of hours allocated to the study of Russian in the nationality schools is increased and, in so doing, seeing to it that the peculiarities of the native tongue of the pupils and its closeness to Russian or its remoteness from it is considered.

Academician B. N. Petrov was interested in whether we had developed systems for the study of language limited in extent and in short periods, and he explained that he had in mind the organization of special courses

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under which it would be possible, without being taken from the job, to master the habits of Russian conversational speech. F. P. Filin answered that such courses already exist and, moreover, they are being disseminated increasingly in broadcasts by radio and television as an aid to Russian-language study. But, it goes without saying, these forms of work should be disseminated more widely. Academician B. S. Sokolov called attention to the necessity to inculcate experience in handling the pure Russian literary language, which the extremely imperfect language of certain newspapers and books prevents at times. In answering the question of Academician Ye. M. Zhukov about the contacts of Soviet and foreign Russian-language philologists, the speaker noted that ties here are very strong, despite the known differences in the essence of the problems being solved.

Academician I. K. Beloded indicated in his comments that the Academy of Sciences is responsible for improving knowledge of the Russian language as the language of communication among the nationalities of the peoples of the Soviet Union, a language of international action, and an arm of culture. No little has been done in this regard. Important conferences on scientific theory and scientific practice have been conducted, particularly in the Ukraine. In the Ukraine the Ukrainian language is studied in Russian schools, while Russian is studied in the Ukrainian, Moldavian, Hungarian and Polish schools. We are working with linguist specialists of Belorussia, Moldavia and Carpathia, said the speaker, on methods for improving language teaching in the nationality schools. But of course this work should be expanded. Special attention should be paid to raising the skills of teachers and to improving the training of teacher linguists. Speaking about the training of Russian-language teachers, I. K. Beloded emphasized that an older generation of linguists and Russian language teachers had been obligated to abandon a meritorious interchange. The graduate of a university's philological department or of a department of Russian language and literature of a pedagogical institute should possess a good knowledge of the Russian language, but, unfortunately, this does not always happen. And so, aids both for the pupil and for the teacher-linguist are necessary. It is necessary to have a plan for the production of books on the Russian language, not only at the central publishing houses but also at the publishing houses of the nationality republics. It is necessary to know precisely what we will publish for Armenia, what for Georgia, what for Kazakhstan, what for the Ukraine. Accordingly, the ceilings on paper for the publication of dictionaries and texts should be raised.

Perhaps no other publishing house produces as many dictionaries as ours, said Russkiy Yazyk Publishing House director V. I. Nazarov, but the choice of definitive dictionaries for the nationality republics is extremely limited. Right now a new definitive dictionary of 5,000 words has been created that can be used successfully in the nationality republics, the more so since this dictionary is illustrated. But we have practically an absence of study dictionaries of the Russian language that are addressed to students and pupils for whom Russian is not the native tongue. Soon, for the first time, an illustrated dictionary-study aid for Russian,

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based on 4,000 words, will be produced. In 1978 an All-Union Conference on Publishing-House Workers Who Produce Dictionaries was held, and it was explained at that conference that we have in practice a poorly developed typology for dictionaries and that there is not a single center that is occupied in the methodology of their preparation. This must be corrected. We have undertaken to expand the output of Russian dictionaries. With the help of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Russian-language vocabularies have been prepared that can be used successfully in the republics of the nationalities. (These include, for example, the 4,000 most-used words). The time has come to use electronic-computing technology for the systematic processing of Russian-language glossaries. It is to be recalled that the textbook literature on Russian for foreigners that the publishing house produces costs more, in our opinion, than what is being published for our pupils. We are producing up to 2 million phonograph records and 80,000 cassettes per year--technical resources that foreigners are using successfully to acquire Russian speech. None of us is as yet conducting such work on the teaching of Russian to Soviet citizens on such a wide scale. It is planned to produce in the next few years phrase books, supplemented by cassettes, for the nationality republics that will enable more effective and correct teaching of Russian conversational speech.

Summing up the results of the discussion of the report, Vice-President of the USSR Academy of Sciences Academician P. N. Fedoseyev touched on certain questions that were raised during the discussion.

The first question was that of the study of Russian outside the school or in addition to school instruction. The draft of a resolution that had been presented to the AN SSSR Presidium was aimed primarily at helping the school, but it is necessary to consider also the needs of the adult population. Mention should be made about Russian-language study in pre-school institutions, in earlier childhood. This task should be examined jointly by the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences and the Institute of Psychology of the AN SSSR. What B. N. Petrov said relative to helping the populace to master the Russian conversational language is also extremely important.

At the same time, it must be emphasized that our linguistic institutions should also conduct a theoretical study of the language and develop in an appropriate form and clarify the problems of the relationships of languages, particularly the historico-cultural and psychologico-cultural problems of bilinguality.

It is known that language is a basic core of nationality culture. The study and propagation of the Russian language does not in the slightest infringe upon the nationality language, and, consequently, nationality culture. Therefore, bilinguality, from the social and historico-cultural point of view, is a progressive phenomenon. A correct understanding of the role of bilinguality and the role of Russian as the language of communication among nationalities is one of the basic factors in the successful propagation, study and teaching of Russian. In this connection,

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P. N. Fedoseyev dwelt on the teaching of Russian in higher educational institutions. You know, he said, that in the postwar years the teaching of various special disciplines was converted to the nationality languages in many higher educational institutions of the Union republics. From the historico-cultural point of view, this was, of course, a progressive phenomenon, since it expanded the social function of the national languages and was a sign of their progressiveness. But there is another, society-wide aspect to the question that should not enter into contradiction with the historico-cultural question--the necessity for the all-around training of specialists from the nationality republics, so that they, knowing the language of communication among the nationalities, will be able to work also in other Soviet republics. Therefore, the task is posed of expanding experience in the teaching of special disciplines in Russian in higher educational institutions of the nationality republics. An accounting of the actual activity and the actual requirements here is telling.

We proceed from the fact that, given the present level of development of nationality culture and the nationality language, when it has been given wide social functions, there is no danger of any kind that the teaching of special disciplines in Russian in the higher educational institutions of the nationality republics can infringe to any extent upon the nationality language or the nationality culture. On the contrary, the introduction of the principle of bilinguality and the study and propagation of the language of communication between nationalities, along with the nationality language also serve society-wide purposes and the business of cultural development and the blossoming of each nationality. Along with working out the problems of the Russian language and of methods for teaching it, propaganda of a correct understanding of the principle of bilinguality and of the relationship of the language of communication between nationalities to the nationality languages, based upon the principle of internationalism and the Leninist nationality policy, is very important for linguistic institutions.

It has been said here many times that the main thing, of course, is personnel, especially to teach Russian. In the nationality republics, especially in Central Asia, and especially in rural schools, the teacher of Russian often is poorly trained and he himself has a poor command of the Russian language. Therefore, a number of practical measures is being undertaken--and our institutions should take part in this--to extend assistance in an organizational procedure to create Russian-language pedagogical institutes in the nationality republics, where cadres who know the Russian language well and are able to teach it in the middle school, including schools in rural areas, would be specially trained.

A very important problem is the publication of dictionaries and textbooks. This has its difficulties, which are connected with a lack of paper and the tightness of the printing base. We should express our ideas also on these factors and see what our Nauka Publishing House can do with regard to publishing literature about the Russian language and to helping the Union republics to produce the necessary literature.

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It is planned to hold in Tashkent in May 1979 a large All-Union Conference on Questions of the Functioning of the Russian Language. Its organizing committee is under Academician M. B. Krapchenko. Included in the organizing committee are the USSR Minister of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, the USSR Minister of Education and the ministers of education of all the Union republics. The USSR Academy of Sciences and the republic academies should take a most direct and active participation in the preparations for and the conduct of this conference.

Decision

Having examined the question of further improving the study and teaching of the Russian language and Russian literature in the Union and autonomous republics and the autonomous oblasts and okrugs, the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences considered it necessary to intensify the participation of philological institutes of the AN SSSR and of the Union-republic academies of sciences in executing the measures that are being conducted in this field by the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, the USSR Ministry of Education, the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, and Union-republic ministries and agencies. The USSR Academy of Sciences and the Union-republic academies of sciences now face the task of substantially intensifying work to study the functioning of the Russian language as a means of internationality communication, to improve its teaching in the schools and vuzes of the Union republics, and to improve the teaching of Russian literature.

The Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences has decided to charge the AN SSSR Russian Language Institute, with the cooperation of philological institutes of the Union-republic academies of sciences, with developing a long-range program of scientific research and practical measures on the topic, "The Russian Language as a Means of Communication among the Nationalities," and called for the development therein of the following basic areas:

the theoretical development of problems that are connected with study of the growing role of the Russian language in the nationality republics, an expansion of its social functions in the sphere of public education in an environment of Russian-nationality language bilinguality as an important factor of social progress, and the development and enrichment of the nationality languages of the peoples of the Soviet Union;

research of the processes of the functioning of the Russian language in the republics, taking into account the nationality specifics of each republic;

a study of the real situation of knowledge of the Russian language among the non-Russian populace and the preparation of practical recommendations about raising the level of mastery of Russian where there is Russian-nationality language bilinguality;

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development of the principles of creating new practical works on the Russian language that are intended for use in the nationality republics (contrastive grammars and basic Russian defining dictionaries); and

improvement of the study-methods base for teaching Russian in the nationality republics with a view to improving the methods and principles of teaching and to raising the qualifications of teachers and to expanding technical support for the teaching process.

The AN SSSR Russian Language Institute, moreover, has been charged with constantly coordinating scientific research on problems of the functioning and study of the Russian language with the special subunits that have been created in linguistic institutes of the nationality republics, extending them assistance in scientific methods to increase the effectiveness of scientific developments and of practical recommendations for improving Russian-language teaching in Union-republic schools and vuzes.

The Russian-Language Institute has been given the responsibility for developing recommendations on scientific methods for the preparation of grammatical, syntactic and lexical minima for teaching Russian-language conversation in short courses to groups of various vocational orientations of the adult population of the nationality republics, and for engaging in the preparation and scientific approval of a series of small defining dictionaries that are designed for various groups that are studying the Russian language and are equipped with the necessary information about the norms for sophistication of Russian speech (pronunciation, the syntactic and lexical combinability of words, the elements of inflection, and word-forming).

The Institute of Russian Literature (the Pushkin House) of the AN SSSR and the Institute of World Literature imeni A. M. Gor'kiy of the AN SSSR have been charged with establishing closer collaboration with scientific institutions of the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, the USSR Ministry of Education, and the USSSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, having in mind the systematic participation of USSR Academy of Sciences in the creation of textbooks, study aids and dictionaries and the development of standard Russian-language and Russian-literature study programs for Union-republic schools and vuzes, and with developing and presenting to the AN SSSR Division of Literature and Language by 1 January 1979 a program for the participation of scientists of the division in the publication of a library for the teacher of the Russian language and literature in the nationality school.

The Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences has appealed to the presidia of the Union-republic academies of sciences with a request to again charge the Russian-language sections of philological institutions that have been created to help Union-republic schools and vuzes to develop textbooks and study programs, to improve the training of Russian language teachers, to improve the study process, to call for the preparation of nationality-language-to-Russian and Russian-to-nationality-language defining dictionaries for study purposes in the plans for scientific

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research for the next few years, and also to promote research aimed at creating comparative grammars of the Russian and the nationality languages that will serve as a scientific basis for new Russian-language textbooks and that will consider the specifics of the nationalities.

The Editorial and Publishing Council of the AN SSSR and the Nauka Publishing House have been charged with examining the question of expanding the production of Russian-language dictionaries and scientific-methods literature for the nationality republics, and the AN SSSR Division of Literature and Language and its linguistic institutes have been charged with taking an active part in the preparations for and the conduct of the All-Union Scientific-Theory Conference on Problems of Further Improving Teaching of the Russian Language in Nationality Schools (Tashkent, May 1979).

The Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences has required the journals of the AN SSSR's Division of Literature and Language--IZVESTIYA AN SSSR, SERIYA LITERATURY Y YAZYKA [Herald of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Literature and Language Series], VOPROSY YAZYKOZNANIYA [Questions of Linguistics], RUSSKAYA RECH' [Russian Speech], VOPROSY LITERATURY [Questions of Literature] and RUSSKAYA LITERATURA [Russian Literature]--to regularly publicize questions of study of the Russian language and Russian literature in the nationality republics and of the development of the scientific bases for teaching them.

The AN SSSR Russian Language Institute has proposed to expand the sector for Russian-language study in the nationality republics through specialists in Russian-language philology who have mastered languages of the peoples of the USSR.

It is recommended that Union-republic academies of sciences use more widely the possibilities for raising the qualification of scientists that exist in AN SSSR head institutes--special graduate training and on-the-job training of young specialists.

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AVICENNA PHILOSOPHY ANALYZED IN RELATION TO SUFISM

Dushanbe IZVESTIYA AKADEMII NAUK TADZHIKSKOY SSR OTDELENIYE OBSHCHESTVENNYKH NAUK in Russian No 2, 1979 signed to press 16 May 79 pp 59-66

[Article by K. Olimov: "Ibn-Sina [Avicenna] and Sufism"]

[Text] Defining the relationship between Avicenna and Sufism is important not only for investigation of the world outlook of the thinker himself but also because it helps in gaining a more profound understanding of the interaction and reciprocal influence at work in the various schools and trends in the history of the philosophy of the countries of the Near and Middle East.

This question has been the subject of debates among various scholars, both west European, foreign eastern, and Soviet. The subject is discussed mainly in connection with the reputedly lost book "Khikmat-ul-Mashrikiya" ("The Philosophy of the East") of Avicenna.

In the opinion of L. Gardet, "Khikmat-ul-Mashrikiya" was written in the spirit of a mixture of Pythagorism, Platonism and Neo-Platonism rather than Aristotelianism. According to Gardet, Avicenna wrote this book in this spirit because both Pythagorism and Platonism originated in the East! Moreover, Gardet observes that thereafter Avicenna exhibited a learning toward a distinctive rationalistic Sufism (Irfoni Akli).²

S. Pines thinks that "Khikmat-ul-Mashrikiya" differs from the Aristotelian philosophy and consequently Avicenna, perhaps moving away from peripateticism, is seeking a new path for his own philosophy.³ A.M. Bogoutdinov, supporting A. Guashon, writes: "In reality, Abu Ali Sino, particularly in the last years of his life, was not satisfied with the theories of Aristotle; he wanted to find his own mode of thinking and for this purpose he tried first of all to establish his own new system of logic."⁴

According to A. Korben, "Khikmat-ul-Mashrikiya" is not just a geographic name. For Avicenna and Sukhravardi, he writes, the "East" is used in the

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sense of the world of abstract and reasonable substance, the world of light, and movement "upward" means separation from the material and sensual world. It is from this that Henri Korben derives his recognition of the link between Avicenna and the Sufistic philosophy.

Khoben, following Massin'on, asserts that in the creative work of Avicenna Sufism was transformed into a distinctive "naturalistic Sufism." Developing this idea further, Gardet writes that "naturalistic Sufism" loosened the roots in the philosophy of Avicenna and consequently, if one ignores this, one cannot grasp all the aspects of Avicenna's world views.⁵

Guashon rejects entirely any relationship between Avicenna and Sufism.⁶ Said Nurullo Takvo, on the other hand, believes that Avicenna was an active practitioner of Sufism.⁷ B. Furzonfar states that the treatises "Khay ibn Yakzan" and "Ptitsa," which discuss combining human reason and active reason, are not specifically applicable to Sufism. However, in his opinion, in "Trakiata o Lyubvi [Treatise on Love]" and "Kniga Ukazaniy i Nastaleny [Book of Directives and Precepts]" Avicenna delineates the problems of Sufism in splendid fashion. At the same time, Furzonfar emphasizes the fact that Avicenna led the kind of life which is in general not characteristic of ascetics.⁸ Said Hussein Nasr, while regarding Avicenna as the greatest representative of the peripatetic school, observes at the same time that his views to a certain extent also include the essence of the philosophy of Sufism.⁹

We are attempting to cast light on this subject on the basis of an analysis of Avicenna's book "Ukazaniya i Nastavleniya" and his treatises "O Lyubvi," "Khay ibn Yakzan" ("Zhivoy, Syn Bodrstvuyushchego") and "Ptitsa" because it is in these works that the thinker touches upon the problems of Sufism. This analysis will help to provide a more telling indication of the nature of the great thinker's attitude toward Sufism. In addition, defining the attitude of various practitioners of Sufism toward Avicenna and his legacy also had definite historical and philosophical importance.

A number of Avicenna's works examine the basic problems which occupy a special place in the philosophy of Sufism.

The book "Ukazaniya i Nastavleniya" and the treatises "Khay ibn Yakzan," "O Lyubvi," "Ptitsa" and "Salamon i Absal" focused attention on the questions which are particularly important for understanding Avicenna's relation to Sufism.

An analysis of Avicenna on the basis of the works of the Sufist representatives and publicists themselves is characterized by the fact that it is addressed in great part to a rationalistic explanation of the theory and aims of Sufism and to a philosophic corroboration of the potential for intuitive knowledge.

Avicenna does not argue against Sufism; on the contrary, he is in sympathy with its tenets. Moreover, in his works Avicenna defends Sufism against

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the attacks of those who denigrated its representatives. The following statement of his bears witness to this: "The ideas encompassed by this science (i.e. Sufism) appear ludicrous to the ignorant fool but to the scholar they are instructive. He who hears about this (i.e. mystical cognition) but entertains hatred toward it is condemned in spirit and is unworthy in respect to it."¹⁰

When we examine Avicenna's relation to Sufism we believe it necessary to keep in mind first, the use of Sufistic terminology in his works and second, the explanation in fact of the doctrines of Sufism and the interpretation of them.

This point of view can also best explain the thinker's attitude toward Sufism and its theoretical tenets. On the other hand, a comparative study of the the philosophy of Sufism and peripateticism provides valuable material for an explanation of the peripatetic philosophy's influence on the theory of Sufism and vica versa.

In a number of his works pertaining to Sufism Avicenna employs Sufistic terminology. He also uses such terms most frequently encountered among Sufistic thinkers as stage (daradzha), station (makam), dedication (riyezat), truth (khak), knowledge (marifat), and others. Avicenna's treatises make extensive use of allegories and favorite modes of expression of veiled ideas and aims for the Sufists. "Khay ibn Yakzan," "Salamon i Absal" and "Ptitsa," written with artistic brilliance, are rich in symbols and all the subjects they treat are allegorical.

"Abu Ali Sino was not a Sufist but, like many other progressive thinkers of the Tadjik nation, employed Sufistic terminology to cloak his humanistic and anticlerical ideas because this was the only way he could defend himself against the persecution of the fanatical scholastics of Islam."¹¹

Avicenna sets forth a favorable characterization of the Sufists (orif) in the book "Ukazaniya i Natavleniya." He writes that the knowledgeable people (orifon) have stages and conditions which are peculiar to them and are not found in other people. They want to free themselves from mundane corporeal commitments and to fix their eyes on the divine and spiritual world.

In delineating the basic aims of Sufism Avicenna emphasizes the point that its requirements are fulfilled not so that God may reward the Sufist after death, as the representatives of any official religion usually conceive this; he [the Sufist] tries to cleanse his soul. Gradually, as a result of the purification, the soul perceives the luster of the active mind, joins with it, and becomes holy.¹²

The Sufist theorists set up definite stages for "perfecting" of Sufism for purposes of achievement of the ultimate aim--the blending with truth as divine intelligence. In essence, these stages comprise the following: repentance (tavba), patience (sabr), giving thanks to God (shukr), fear of

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God (khavf), hope for salvation (ridzha), hope (tavakkul), and love of God (mukhabbat). The traveller who makes his way along the path to truth gradually traverses these stages and can achieve the desired goal.

The stages indicated by Avicenna for the traveler in search of truth differ somewhat from the above stages although from a practical standpoint they do not differ. He points to just three stages. The first is devotion. In this stage the Sufist must feel that he can embark on the path to truth, not be afraid of any difficulties that may arise, and be convinced of the correctness of the path he has chosen.

The second stage in asceticism and exercise of the spirit for purposes of development of the capacity to reject mundane commitments.

The third stage is time. After the Sufist has traversed the two stages indicated above, the divine light will become clear for him. In Sufistic terminology this moment is designated by the word "vakt" (time). Thereafter, the momentary appearance of the holy light as a result of dedication and "cleansing of the soul" is transformed for the Sufist into an enduring radiance.

In going through these stages the Sufist achieves such a state that when he looks upon any object of the material world, it illuminates him and he forgets all the cares of the terrestrial sphere.

The thing that chiefly attracts Avicenna's attention in Sufism, in our opinion, is its moral norms. For example, in "Ukazaniya i Nastavleniya" Avicenna describes the following moral characteristics of Sufism: "The Sufist is courageous. He does not fear death. He is generous and magnanimous. He is far removed from untruth. He forgives others. He possesses a great soul as compared to other people, and, finally, man's evil cannot lead him astray. He is not envious. His thoughts are always focused on truth."¹³

This perhaps explains Avicenna's favorable attitude toward Sufism. Of course, if we consider the circumstance that in the earlier medieval oppression of the workers by the feudal rulers, especially the Gaznevidskiy ones, that they reached the limit of their endurance, and that the representatives of Sufism took a stand against tyranny and repression, then Avicenna's attitude toward the Sufists becomes clear.

We believe that it was precisely because of the free-thinking spirit of Sufism and the opposition of its representatives to the inequities of the time that these conditions could not, of course, meet with the approval of the progressive thinkers, particularly Avicenna.

Another subject which is common to the philosophy of Avicenna and to Sufism is the subject of love.

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Avicenna's "Traktat o Lyubvi" bears witness to the fact that Avicenna's conception of love is close to that of the thinkers of Sufism. For example, the well-known Sufistic figure Mansur Khalladzhi wrote:

The aim of all the world is love

The whole world is the body and the soul is love.

The subject of love occupies a very important place in the philosophy of Sufism. The love of the lover for the object of his love (i.e. God) is the moving force in the self-perfection of the individual who seeks the absolute reality. For the Sufists love is a mystical force which sets itself against reason and ultimately becomes an instrument of insight into reality.

In "Traktata o Lyubovi" Avicenna asserts that all matter strives for perfection but perfection can only be attained through the instrumentality of love. Every object possesses love; the only difference is in the degree of perfection of the object. In some entities love is a natural element and is found in the lowest degree; in others it exists to a higher degree.

Avicenna writes that "all existing beings (governed by high principle) possess a natural craving and an innate love. It necessarily follows from this that in these beings love is their *raison d'etre*."¹⁴

According to the Sufist thinkers, an enduring love must lead to the unity of the object of the love (God) and the subject (man). This unity is the loftiest aim and the highest form of beauty. Hence, for the Sufist thinkers it is the most honorable and noblest state of man; it defines the meaning of his life and leads him to his final goal. For example, Sanoi, celebrating divine love, wrote:

For the man love is a crown

It is better than all the other pursuits.¹⁵

Speaking of the object and subject of love, Avicenna declares that the object of love is the greatest good and the most perfect form of love is the love of the greatest good for itself because other subjects' love for it cannot be complete "for it is the greatest blessing. And the loftiest subject of love is identical with the loftiest object of love and indeed with the loftiest and holiest essence of the Most High because the good loves the good by merging with it through the process of finding it and understanding it."¹⁶

Avicenna does not limit love to just the relation between man and an absolute being; he by no means rejects love between other individuals and phenomena. However, he believes that this love is less perfect when compared with the love of absolute good. Every lower stage in the hierarchy of objects imitates a higher stage and the striving for perfection is characteristic of all the lower forms.

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Avicenna's conception of love does not assign a dominant role to the passionate exultation which is characteristic of the extremist Sufists. Predominant in it is a rationalistic and philosophical exposition of the subject under discussion, unlike the works of the Sufist thinkers, whose primary orientation is directed to influencing the feelings of the reader and speaker (for example, Ansori, Aynulkuzot, Dzhalloliddin Rumi and others). Nonetheless, Avicenna approves of this central idea of Sufism as a philosophy in unity with an absolute being. He declares in his writing that "all the existing objects love the absolute good inherent in love and what the absolute good represents to them but they perceive its manifestation in different ways and they link up with it in different ways. The final step in harmonizing with it is the perception of its manifestation in its true nature, i.e. the most perfect of the possible ways--and this is what the Sufists designate as unity."¹⁷

In respect to cognizance of an absolute being Avicenna's views in "Traktat o Lyubvi" are contiguous to the views of the Sufist thinkers, especially Sanoi, Attorum and Rumi. In his poem "Khadikat-ul-Khakika" Sanoi explains that truth becomes known when it itself wishes that it be known and hence its essential nature is perceived through itself.

Man himself cannot know it (truth) through himself

Its substance becomes known through itself.¹⁸

Avicenna says in his writing: "If absolute good did not reveal itself, nothing would be obtained from it; if nothing was obtained from it, then there would be nothing real."¹⁹

In another treatise of his, "Salamon i Absal," Avicenna sets forth in allegorical form the difficulties which beset man in his efforts to attain correct knowledge and the freedom of his spirit from various evils. The plot of the story is this: Salamon and Absal are two brothers who live in friendship, are devoted to each other, and are characterized by moral purity and benevolence. However, Salamon's wife, who appears as a symbol of evil and depravity, while married to her husband, wants to enjoy the love of his brother. But Absal tries his best to avoid her. However, through various deceits Salamon's wife achieves her aim. Ultimately justice triumphs and the symbol of evil--Salamon's wife--is cruelly punished.

In this story Avicenna wants primarily to depict the difficulties which confront man on the path to knowledge of absolute truth. To attain truth, according to Avicenna, man must free himself from evil designs and thoughts and from the commitments of terrestrial life. In their motifs, devices and aims Avicenna's stories "Khay ibn Yakzan" and "Ptitsa" are closely related to some of the Sufist works.

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In the first of these stories the old man Khay, in carrying out the tasks of a tutor, leads his students through many stages of knowledge. He elucidates the paths and the obstacles which face the travelers. One of the obstacles is entailed in the terrestrial and material phenomena which impede the attainment of correct knowledge. And at the summit is the eternally young tsar who illuminates the path for all the seekers. He is not unlike the sun and it is blinding to look upon him. But he shows his beauty and his greatness. Here we see a certain device which is widely used by the Sufists--likening God to the sun:

Na shabam, na shabparastam, ki khadisi khab guyam

Chu gulomi oftobam, khama z-oftob guyam

I am not night and I am not a worshipper of night
for telling the story about dreams

(No) I am not a slave of the sun nor say: Everything
from the sun.

(Dzhaloliddin Rumi)

Or: Chunbishi nur sun nur buvad,

Nur z-oftob kay dur buvad

The ray makes its way toward the ray

How can it separate from the sun?

(Sanoi)

However, Avicenna's stories are pervaded by the spirit of rationalism more than by mysticism. In "Khay ibn Yakzan" Avicenna describes the structure of the physical and spiritual worlds and the paths of knowledge of these worlds through internal and external feelings.

In "Ptitsa," another philosophical tale, the thinker also emphasizes the point that the man who has become free of deficiencies and has enhanced his character with reason and knowledge becomes not unlike an angel and gains his "true" identity. In the allegorical form of birds which have fallen into the hunter's net, Avicenna portrays the spirits of people who are held captive by the body. While there is still even one thread at the birds' feet, they cannot gain complete freedom. They can only be freed by a wise mentor who leads them to the wise tsar.

The words of Avicenna and the historical-biographical information about him indicate that he was not a member of any Sufist order and moreover did not consider himself a Sufist. This is indisputable. However, as a

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distinguished scientific and freedom-loving thinker he could not be indifferent to the ideological, political and aesthetic trends of his time. Although he himself was not a member of any Sufist school, he had friends among the followers of Sufism. Evidence of this is found in his meetings with well-known Sufists, such as the poets of his time Shelkh Abusaid Abulkhayr Maykhani and Abulhasan Kharakoni and also in "Traktat o Lyubvi," the work by Avicenna himself, which is about a certain Abdullokh, a Sufist attorney. (Some researchers believe that this Abdullokh was a student of Avicenna).

These ideas of Avicenna, as delineated in his works "Ukazaniya i Nastavleniya," "Traktat o Lyubvi" and "Salamon i Absal," indicate that the thinker was not indifferent to the theoretical and ethical principles of the philosophy of Sufism. He apparently felt a close kinship with the questions which were in some degree common to the philosophy of eastern peripateticism and Sufism and specifically the theory emanating from it, the theory of love and prophecy, although the interpretations of them were not the same in peripateticism and Sufism.

However, despite all this, Avicenna was not concerned with justifying mysticism. He always tried to explain everything from the standpoint of science. A. M. Bogoutdinov observes: "Even in the parts of his work "Ishorot" where Abu Ali Sina seems to be approaching Sufism, we still see in him not an apology for mysticism, and not a paean to ecstasy but an attempt at scientific analysis of the relevant psychic circumstances."²⁰

The works of Avicenna had a definite influence on the Sufist thinkers. Such well-known and highly artistic poems as "Sayr-ul-ibod ial Ma'od" ("Puteshestviye Rabov (Boga) k Mestu Vozvrata") by Abulmadzhdhi Sanoi; "Mantik-ut-Tayr" ("Beseda Ptits") by Faridaddin Attor; "Salamon i Absal" by Abdurrahman Dzhami; and "Lisonut-Tayr" ("Yazyk Ptits") by Alisher Navoi are to a certain extent reminiscent of the content of Avicenna's treatises. Ye. E. Bertel's remarked on the similarity in content between Avicenna's "Khay ibn Yakzana" and Sanoi's "Sayr-ul-ibod ial Maod" and Dante Alighieri's "Divine Comedy."²¹

In its devices, symbols and content "Sayr-ibn-ibod" is indeed very reminiscent of "Khay ibn Yakzana." Where the tutor in Avicenna's treatise tells of the difficulties and ways to overcome them in order to achieve freedom of the soul, Sanoi, in poetry, describes how the tutor will guide the student in his "journey." Acting as guide in Sanoi's poem is Reason, the instrumentality employed by man to free himself from the various commitments of the earthly life and heavenly realms.

Faridaddin Attor's poem "Beseda Ptits" and Alisher Navoi's imitative poem "Yazyk Ptits" have important differences but their basic idea is similar to Avicenna's treatise "Ptitsa." Although these poems never indicate directly that they were written in imitation of Avicenna, nevertheless the

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similarity of their content is evidence that his literary and philosophic treatises had a definite influence on the writing of these poems.

Avicenna's influence is not limited to this. Actually his philosophic works also had a definite influence on the evolution of the world views of a number of Sufist thinkers.

Thus, after becoming acquainted with Avicenna's work "Azkhaviya" ("Osbescheniye"), Aynulkuzat Khamadoni (a Sufist thinker of the 12th century), who considered himself a pupil of Abukhomid Gazali and Akhmad Gazali, in explaining the existence of an afterlife, rewards and punishment after death, etc., goes over to the position of Avicenna.

Apropos of the attitude of the Sufist thinkers toward Avicenna, we would point out that many of them, through acknowledging the great talent and outstanding scholarship of Avicenna, nevertheless were critical of his rationalistic philosophy.²²

This attitude is conspicuous in the poems of Sanoi, Attor, Khokoni, Dzhami and others. The fact is many of the Sufist thinkers preached an irrational conception of absolute truth (God) and hence their doctrine was at variance with Greek philosophy, or rather peripateticism, which in the East was in a certain sense synonymous with atheism and materialism. And since Avicenna was a true successor to and defender of the philosophy of Aristotle, the representatives of Sufism rejected his teachings. Especially after Abukhomid Gazali pronounced his verdict against "the heretical and antireligious" character of the legacy of Farabi, Avicenna and their schools, the unfavorable attitude toward them became almost habitual for the Mutallim and a number of Sufist thinkers.

FOOTNOTES

1. Footnote given in Islamic calligraphy. Also: "Said Khuseyn Nasr."
2. Ibid p. 245.
3. Boltayev, M. N. "Akidakhon Falsafii Abuali ibni Sino." Dushanbe, 1969, no 62.
4. Bogoutdinov, A.M. "Outline of the History of Tadzhik Philosophy." Stalinabad, 1961, p 321.
5. "Said Khuseyn Nasr," p 250.
6. Ibid, p 52.
7. Footnote given in Islamic calligraphy.

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8. Footnote given is Islamic calligraphy.
9. "Said Khuseyn Nasr," p 256.
10. Footnote given is Islamic calligraphy. Also: "Ishorot."
11. "Ibn-Sina. Danish-name." Foreword by A. M. Bogoutdinov. Stalinabad, 1961, p 45.
12. "Ishorot," p 248.
13. Ibid, p 256.
14. Quoted from the book by Serebrayakov, S. B. "Traktat Ibn Siny (Avitsenny) o Lyubvi." Tbilisi, 1976, p 48.
15. Footnote given in Islamic calligraphy. Also: Abdulmadzhi Sanoi.
16. Quoted from the book by Serebryakov, S. B. "Ukaz. Soch.," p 67.
17. Ibid, p 64.
18. Abulmadzhi Sanoi, p 62.
19. Quoted from the book by Serebryakov, S. B. "Ukaz. Sochi," p 67.
20. "Ibn-Sina. Danish-name," p 45.
21. Bertel's, Ye. E. "Avitsenna i Persidskaya Literatura [Avicenna and Persian Literature]" "News of AS USSR. Social Sciences Division," 1938, No 1-2, p 80.
22. See: Radzhabov, M. "Abdurakhmon Dzhami and Tadzhik Philosophy of the 11th Century." Dushanbe, 1968, p 33; Olimov, K. "The Ideology of Sanoi," Dushanbe, 1973, pp 55-56; Mukhamedkhodzhayev, A. "The Ideology of Fariddadin Attor." Dushanbe, 1974, p 19; Rzakuli-Zade, S. D. "The Social, Political and Philosophic Views of Khagani Shervani." Baku, 1962.

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