

The Policy of the Soviet Authorities in the Field of Physical Education in Uzbekistan SSR

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Abstract: The Soviet authorities were concerned about the sports societies that were created in the Turkestan ASSR until 1917 and continued their activities even after that. The reason is that these societies could be an obstacle to the spread of "red" sports ideas among the population. For this purpose, the Soviet authorities began to set restrictions on the activities of these societies.

In short, the Soviet government aimed to use the national population as military soldiers in the Uzbekistan SSR through the field of physical education, mainly for the defense of the Motherland (in fact, the defense of Russia).

Key words: Soviet power, physical education, Homeland defense, ability to work, General Military Education Department, Council of Physical Education, "The Militia army" journal, sports societies.

The essence of the policy of the Soviet authorities in the field of sports in the Turkestan ASSR. After the Soviet authorities formed the Turkestan ASSR on April 30, 1918, they aimed to install their chief ideas in the field of physical education², as well as in all existing spheres in the area. The main goal was to encourage indigenous people to work and to ensure that they were active in military actions, to ensure that, from the first days of their activity, the Bolsheviks clearly defined the strengthening of the health of the working class and peasant youth as an important factor³. At the beginning of such insidious affairs, the "leader" of the Bolsheviks - V.I.Lenin stood, and during his career he focused his great attention on increasing the physical strength necessary to strengthen the health of young people, to work in them and to protect the motherland (in fact, the state of Soviet Russia was under the protection of Russia)⁴, and "defined the goals and objectives of "socialist physical education"⁵. Also, V.I.Lenin signs the Charter "on the protection of the health of children and adolescents of the Soviet republics"⁶ on September 15, 1921. It clearly emphasizes the importance and need for the widespread use of physical education - in improving the health of the growing generation and, through this, their ability to work, and in training them as brave soldiers for the defense of the motherland. The Soviet authorities - in order to strengthen the defense, aimed at providing the Red Army with more soldiers (from among the national population) - through the field of physical education, therefore, it was very enviable to put the management of this field in the hands of others⁷.

The emergence of organizational structures for physical education in the Turkestan ASSR. In April 1918 - June 1919, a "Sports Council" was formed⁸ on July 19, 1919, on the site of the "Sports Commission" under the People's Commissariat of enlightenment, which operated in the Turkestan ASSR. The main tasks of the previous commission were to check and review the state of affairs in the

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⁴ Физическая культура и спорт в СССР.– Москва: "Физкультура и Спорт", 1967. – Р.7.

⁵ Socialistic physical education - a type of physical education that considers the main factor in increasing the ability of people to work, strengthening their health

⁶ National Archives of Uzbekistan P-736 fund, 1 -inventory, 78-case, 1-page.

⁷ National Archives of Uzbekistan P-736 fund, 1 -inventory, 78-case, 1-page back side.

⁸ National Archives of Uzbekistan P-34 fund, 1-inventory, 272-case, 20-page.



field of physical education in places, which was scarce for the development of the field. Therefore, a council was formed in this area and – strengthening, accelerating work on physical education, its tasks were established.

The field of physical education and sports was headed by the General Military Education Department⁹ from mid-1920 (1918 was first established in Moscow). From this time, the implementation of physical education and sports into life and its organizational management – general military education – was entrusted. All sports organizations in the Turkestan ASSR began to be taken into account by General Military Education¹⁰ and control over their activities was carried out. The movement to decide the Soviet physical education of the General Military Education in the Turkestan ASSR was in fact - directed against military intervention and national-liberation movements, and Red Army soldiers from the male population of the Turkestan ASSR were bred and used as a base for the defense of the country. The organization providing the Soviet army with the necessary number of soldiers - on the territory of the Turkestan ASSR by the Directorate of General Military Education – will host the first Olympics of Central Asia. The Soviet authorities were very interested in holding large-scale competitions. The reason was that 50,000 fans watched the Olympics directly, while the number of participants was 3,000. Once this race is over, a “equestrian race” will be held at the end of October. The all military educational Inspectorate Department of the RSFSR Turkestan front sent an official letter to the Horse farming Directorate of the Turkestan ASSR on December 3, 1920 on the result of this competition¹¹. This was, in fact, a letter of reply to a few days earlier letter of appeal from the Horse farming administration of the Turkestan ASSR. In his address, the chairman of the board had requested that prize money be allocated in order to encourage his assistants and ordinary employees who showed enthusiasm in the successful conduct of the “equestrian competition” of October this year. In the response letter, let alone the award of prize money, but rather, with the aim of charging money, the administration would send its own estimate of the results of this competition, through which it would find a trifle and charge a fine. The Soviet authorities involved many representatives of the national population, “physical education training”, and actually used them as army soldiers against the National-Liberation Movement. The reason for the entry of the national population into the struggle for their compatriots was that the Soviet authorities tried to show the participants of the national-liberation movement as “enemies” to the people in various unacceptable ways. As a result of this, in the military actions of the General Military Education Department – Toji A'loev, Karatosh Yusupov, A.Goziev, U.Asadov¹² were active participants, being the first instructors of the General Military Education Directorate¹³. At the beginning of 1921, the Central Council¹⁴ of physical education of the Turkestan front will be established under this administration. The purpose of this was to install the work on physical education in a centralized system – that is, to install his socialistic ideas only by the higher organization (Soviet power), giving assignments and obligations to lower organizations.

Activities of the journal “The Militia army”. The Directorate of General Military Education begins to carry out intensive military actions and defense from 1921. In January 1921, the “Central Council of Physical Education” is established on the Turkestan front under the jurisdiction of this department. A little later, that is, from February 1921, in order to promote the ideas of the administration – in Tashkent, the journal “The Militia army” begins to be published in Russian. It quotes: “the Department of General Education and its employees – no matter how difficult and laborious, carry out the process of bringing to life the goals and ideas of the Soviet army¹⁵.” As can be seen from these lines, the main goal of publishing this magazine is to campaign the ideas and goals of the Soviet Army, as well as the

⁹ Мамбетов Б.Ж. Традиции физической культуры и спорта Каракалпакстана и проблемы возрождений, XX-й век. Дисс... канд. ист. наук. – Нукус, 2007. – P.67-68.

¹⁰ Шоломицкий Ю.С. Физическая культура и спорт в Советской Средней Азии и сопредельных странах Востока. Автореф.дисс. докт. пед.наук. –Ташкент,1972. –P.24.

¹¹ National Archives of Uzbekistan, P-184 fund, 1-inventory, 15-case, 92-page.

¹² Xo'jayev F. Jismoniy tarbiya tarixi. – Toshkent: “Iqtisod-Moliya”, 2010. P.11.

¹³ Instructor - an employee who conducts training in physical education and military training.

¹⁴ National Archives of Uzbekistan P-34 fund, 1-inventory, 721-case, 11-page.

¹⁵ National Archives of Uzbekistan P-17 fund, 1-inventory, 1073-case, 35-page.



General Military Education Department, which performs its functions in the territory of the Turkestan ASSR. In the conference resolution of the Military Revolutionary Council of the RSFSR of January 29, the Directorate of General Military Education – entrusted with the task of military training of the call ages and preparing the country for the transition to the militia system¹⁶. The journal “The Militia army”, on the other hand, played the role of a propaganda source in this task. In the decision of the above conference, it is noted that “another important aspect of replenishing the military units of the Red Army from the indigenous population is that it makes it possible to identify representatives of oppressed working nationalities classically¹⁷.” It can be seen from this that the Soviet authorities initially mobilized the indigenous people of the Turkestan ASSR for the Red Army, but later, when registering for military mobilization, they also began to determine their class classification by age. It is also noted at the meeting that the service members of the General Military Education Department should be “very careful within the framework of the indigenous people” in successfully spreading the militia system among the indigenous people in the Turkestan ASSR and involving them in Soviet construction¹⁸. As noted above, the young class classification of the indigenous population within the Red Army was determined, according to which a large share was made up of young people. To this, the Soviet authorities assessed: “we can clearly say that for centuries domestic and religious “prejudices” have been widespread mainly among the strong and older, a situation that does not allow us to recruit them into the army of the red militia system. Young people make up a large part of the Red Army military. This is because religious “prejudices” have not yet absorbed into their minds. In order for the Soviet authorities to carry out its military objectives, several tasks were carried out by the head of the General Military Education Directorate A. Izrailev set out: “our first task is to enlist these indigenous people in the army, to establish a structure close to them and able to understand each one. To do this, we must prepare our cadres from the national population in a very short time. When their instructors (teachers) and commanders are representatives of the indigenous people we have prepared, only then can we penetrate deeply between the masses of the Muslim population through their native language. Again, I repeat, we can achieve our goal only by entering among the indigenous people and learning their language, their customs. Our second task is precisely to recruit young people into the militia army. The way to accomplish this important task is to intensively carry out preparatory work up to the call ages. The third next task is to strengthen the military reserve parts. When our main forces are involved in issues related to the circle of indigenous peoples, we need to establish a replacement – the Communist Part. This part serves as a military school and becomes a seat for soldiers who are exhausted and tired¹⁹”. After that, it is known to everyone that the Soviet authorities tried to fulfill these tasks in an “insidious” way. Turkestan ASSR all – military education department, another activity Department of its own, this is the Department of registration of adolescents-youth up to the call ages and conducting military-preparatory training among them, according to the state of January 25, 1921, a total of 16,667 people (1569 in Sirdarya region, 8,444 in Semireche region, 454 in Kaspiyorti region, 465 in Fergana region, 3,556 in Samarkand region, 2,171 in Tashkent uezd) have went²⁰.

Changes made in the structures on Physical Education in the Turkestan ASSR. In January 1923, the Turkestan Regional Council for Physical Education and the Turkestan Regional Provisional bureau²¹ under the Turkestan front General Military Education Directorate are established. It was determined that the bureau would carry out work on physical education, and the main reason for its establishment was the fact that there was no organization in this area, except for the Central Council of Physical Education. It was stipulated that the bureau would rely on the following principles:

- In the structure of the Turkestan regional provisional Bureau, of course, active workers from members of the Communist Party for physical education, as well as those who do not have a party

¹⁶ National Archives of Uzbekistan P-17 fund, 1-inventory, 1073-case, 43-page.

¹⁷ “The Militia army” journal (Tashkent, Turkestan ASSR). 1921. №2. 1-6стр.

¹⁸ National Archives of Uzbekistan P-17 fund, 1-inventory, 1073-case, 44-page

¹⁹ “The Militia army” journal, 1921. №2. 3-page.

²⁰ National Archives of Uzbekistan P-17 fund, 1-inventory, 1073-case, 52-page back side.

²¹ National Archives of Uzbekistan P-735 fund, 1-inventory, 992-case, 16- page straight and back side.



for physical education, no defects loyal labourers, appoint those who are able to campaign the ideas of red sports organizations and perform tasks;

- The activities of the provisional Bureau of Turkestan Territory will not be suspended until the Call of the territory Congress. If the location is liquidated, transfer its full-fledged organizational management to the Regional divisions of red sports organizations in the same area;
- To spread red sports cells on physical education among workers in the territory of the national population by organizing a group of active workers of interest - on the instructions of the provisional Bureau.

In doing so, it was recommended to use trade union clubs, all-military educational sports clubs and Red Army assistance. It is clear from these principles that, first of all, the structure of the bureau was compiled only from those who were sympathetic to the implementation of Soviet ideas. In addition, it determines that if the activities of the bureau are terminated for some reason, its management will be assigned to the “red” sports organization in the same area, through which it aims not to put the management in the field of physical education to the other organizations. They also used the national population, national applicants who wanted to be part of the bureau – as propaganda-campaigners in the Turkestan ASSR.

Soviet power in the field of physical education immersed in many sports societies founded before the October Revolution that was completely different from Soviet ideology, the reason was that these societies could be an obstacle to the widespread of Soviet ideology. Therefore, it tried to impose various restrictions to these societies²². In particular, other sports societies were deprived of state supplies, the property contained in them was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Department of General Education. It was also established that sports societies other than the bureau only operate with the consent of the TKSEK (Council of physical education of the Turkestan region) and the central organization (Moscow) and are allowed to participate in competitions and exhibition performances (parade).

On June 27, 1923, the “Council of physical education of the Turkestan region” was established by the Presidium of the Turkestan ASSR²³. Formerly under the jurisdiction of the General Military Education Directorate of the Turkestan front, the Soviet of physical education has now been transferred to the Central Executive Committee of Turkestan ASSR. The reason for such an amendment was that the national-liberation movements in the Turkestan region were greatly suppressed by the Soviet authorities, until then the need for a General Military Education-owned Turkestan regional Physical Education Council, which was performing a defensive function, had diminished. For this reason, it is now under the jurisdiction Central Executive Committee of Turkestan ASSR. However, although the Board of physical education was transferred to the Central Executive Committee of the Turkestan ASSR, its main task was to spread the policy and ideology of the Soviet state in the field of physical education on a large scale among the national population.

In conclusion, the Soviet authorities in the Turkestan ASSR, firstly, began to install communistic ideas in the field of sports, and secondly, by conducting an attempt to militarize physical education, they planned to enrich the reserves of military-soldiers resisting national-liberation movements in the Turkestan region, as well as in other areas under Soviet power, and thirdly, in order to further, tried to predict the strength of his place in the field of physical education by imposing many restrictions on sports societies, completely different from the ideas of communistic sport.

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²² National Archives of Uzbekistan P-17 fund, 1-inventory, 992-case, 17-page.

²³ National Archives of Uzbekistan P-17 fund, 1-inventory, 992-case, 117-page.



3. National Archives of Uzbekistan P-736 fund, 1 -inventory, 78-case; P-34 fund, 1-inventory, 272-case; P-184 fund, 1-inventory, 15-case; P-17 fund, 1-inventory, 1073-case; P-735 fund, 1-inventory, 992-case; P-17 fund, 1-inventory, 992-case.
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