From the History of International Cooperation of Uzbekistan

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Abstract: The author in this scientific article examines and analyzes the history of international cooperation of the Uzbek SSR during the reign of Sharaf Rashidov, as well as issues such as the export of machinery and equipment, the cost of products sent by Uzbekistan to the foreign market.

In 1956, on the initiative of Indian writers, a meeting of Asian writers was held in Delhi. Among its participants were representatives of the USSR, China, Japan, Ceylon, North Korea, Burma and other countries. This meeting gave birth to the idea of creating a writers’ movement in Asia and Africa.

Key words: international activities, cultural processes, foreign delegations, scientific relations, meeting of writers, progressive writers, socialism, propaganda.

Introduction

The study of the experience of the international activities of the Uzbek SSR in the 60s - 80s of the 20th century, when the republic was led by Sharaf Rashidov and Tashkent became one of the cultural centers of Asia, today arouses some interest. Although, being a union republic, the Uzbek SSR was not an independent subject of international relations and acted within the framework of Soviet foreign policy and its ideological paradigm, certain successes of the republic in the economy and cultural development were of interest to the countries of Asia and Africa that had freed themselves from colonialism. The Soviet leadership understood the importance of promoting the successes of the union republics for spreading the idea of socialism in the countries of the East.

MAIN PART

Back in the years of the Second World War, in order to expand international relations and strengthen cooperation between the USSR and other countries and, taking into account the increased need of the union republics in establishing direct relations with foreign states, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on February 1, 1944, adopted a law “On granting the union republics powers in the field of foreign relations and the transformation of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs from the all-Union to the Union-Republican People's Commissariat in this regard” [1. 7-8]. In September 1944, the session of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR considered and unanimously approved this law, and also adopted the «Law on the formation of the Union-Republican People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs - People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the Uzbek SSR» [2. 28-29].

In the post-war years, some of the party leaders began to strive to reorganize the system of governing the country, to weaken super-centralization, which suppressed the independence of government bodies, including in the union republics. However, all attempts in this area ran counter to the logic of the Cold War, which began after the end of the Second World War, and to Stalin's imperial ambitions. The country has tightened the centralization of power. All important decisions, as before, were made in a narrow circle of the leader's close associates.
Under these conditions, in 1950, Sharaf Rashidov was elected to the post of Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR. This status provided for the participation of Sh. Rashidov at official receptions of foreign delegations and travel to foreign countries as part of the Soviet delegation, that is, active participation in the international activities of the Soviet state. Under Sh. Rashidov, Uzbekistan became the most active participant in the process of international cooperation with the countries of the East, Tashkent annually received guests from all over the world and turned into one of the centers of international political and cultural processes in Asia.

Today, disputes about whether the union republics of the USSR had international legal personality are still ongoing. Some researchers note that formally and nominally, the union republics did not have independence in international relations and all the powers presented were only declarative. In the opinion of others, the existing precedent for the participation of sovereign union republics in international life was embodied both in theory and in practice. The latter argue that in numerous international conferences on the preparation of interstate treaties in which they participated, not only all-Union, but also republican interests were achieved, in particular, in terms of strengthening positions in the international arena, as well as expanding their political, economic, cultural and other spheres [3, 76].

In fact, the republics had no practical opportunity to establish direct ties with foreign states. But the Soviet leadership to the end tried to preserve the semblance of equality of the Soviet republics, and the leaders of these republics participated in meetings and negotiations with foreign delegations. Sh. Rashidov, being the chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR and Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, also took part in these negotiations. Especially after Stalin's death, the new leadership of the USSR assigned Uzbekistan a special role in its eastern policy. This was facilitated by the economic successes of the republic.

So, for the period from 1948 to 1963, the cost of products sent by Uzbekistan to the foreign market increased more than 7 times. It is especially important to emphasize a very positive trend in the export of goods from the republic - a continuous increase in the share of industrial products. Suffice it to say that over 12 years (from 1951 to 1962), the export of machinery and equipment from Uzbekistan has increased more than 10 times. Cotton pickers, tractors, cotton seeders and cultivators, complex equipment for cotton ginning plants, equipment for the chemical industry, roving frames and spinning machines, diesel engines, excavators, pumps, compressors, cable products, refrigerators, condensers, radio tubes, video equipment, spare parts for steam locomotives and diesel locomotives - this is just an incomplete list of the republic's industrial products exported [4, 38-39].

The geography of Uzbekistan's exports is expanding every year. In 1958, our republic exported its products to 32 countries of the world, in 1959 - to 42, in 1960 - to 49, in 1961 - to 52, in 1962 - to 58 states of four continents of the globe, including 18 countries Europe, 23 - Asia, 10 - Africa, 7 - America [4, 40].

Since the second half of the 50s of the twentieth century, Uzbekistan has been demonstrating its industrial and agricultural products at international exhibitions. So, in 1959 at an industrial exhibition in Moscow and at the Zagreb world industrial exhibition, in 1960 at an exhibition in Bucharest, the can-distilling roving frame RPT-192 - 2, manufactured by Tashtekstilmash factories, received special approval.

Uzbek porcelain, wines, selected varieties of fruits, melons and vegetables were demonstrated with great success at exhibitions in Leipzig, Erfurt, Plovdiv, Budapest, Warsaw, Zagreb.

Uzbekistan's participation in international exhibitions has borne tangible results. In 1965, compared with 1964, the republic received eight times more orders from abroad for cotton pickers, for tractors of cotton modification - three and a half times, for seeders - three times, for transformer substations - three and a half times, for electric bridge cranes - one and a half times.
During the Cold War, Sharaf Rashidov became the spokesman for the Soviet anti-imperialist program, a key partner in negotiations with the leaders of the third world countries and the propagandist of Uzbekistan as a modern and free model of political, economic, social and cultural development for the countries that gained independence after the collapse of the colonial system.

International scientific contacts grew. So, by the 60s of the last century, Uzbekistan possessed a powerful scientific potential: first of all, this related to the natural science and scientific-technical sphere.

Fifteen research institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR successfully cooperated with scientific institutions of foreign countries, which developed 27 topics and problems together with foreign colleagues. These were institutes - the chemistry of plant things, nuclear physics, mathematics, physics and technology, electronics, cybernetics, etc. [6. 288]

The most developed forms of foreign relations of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan were: 1) bilateral and multilateral cooperation with foreign teams; 2) joint development of urgent problems of a complex nature; 3) participation in international forums; 4) performance of Uzbek scientists with lectures and reports abroad; 5) training of foreign scientists at the institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR and scientific trips of Uzbek scientists abroad; 6) publication of translations of scientific works of Uzbek specialists abroad and vice versa; 7) exchange of scientific information on ongoing research, photocopies of ancient manuscripts, etc. [7. 12]

If in the 60s the international scientific and technical relations of Uzbekistan were still mostly of an episodic nature, then in the 70s and 80s there is already a steady trend towards the transition of such cooperation in the field of technology, science and technology to a planned basis, to the principles of specialization, complexity and coordination.

At the same time, it should be noted that the ideologization of the entire system of economic and cultural relations, the class approach to international cooperation have revealed numerous negative consequences in the development of scientific thought in the republic. Orientation only towards the countries of the socialist community, the barriers of the «cold war», which divided the scientists of the world along ideological lines, had an effect on the fact that the Soviet state, in its composition and the Uzbek SSR, in general civilized terms, in a number of important spheres and directions appeared as if in the past technological era, and the countries of the West have switched to another - the era of high technologies, fundamentally new ties between science and production, new forms of life support for people, right down to everyday life.

During the leadership of Sh. Rashidov, Uzbekistan played an important role in strengthening peace and solidarity in the countries of Asia and Africa. Tashkent has become a traditional meeting place for writers and other creative workers from Asia and Africa. It was in Tashkent that a number of declarations of Asian and African countries were adopted, defending their freedom, independence and sovereignty.

In 1956, on the initiative of Indian writers, a meeting of Asian writers was held in Delhi. Among its participants were representatives of the USSR, China, Japan, Ceylon, North Korea, Burma and other countries. This meeting gave birth to the idea of creating a writers' movement in Asia and Africa.

At the suggestion of Soviet writers, it was decided to hold the first conference of writers from two continents in Uzbekistan. It took place in the fall of 1958 in Tashkent. Sh. Rashidov as a writer and politician took an active part in organizing this conference.

Opening the conference, Chairman of the Asian-African Preparatory Committee Sh.R. Rashidov said: «In our hands, dear friends, inexhaustible strength, because we represent here the peoples of two great continents - Asia and Africa - with a population of over one and a half billion...
people, that is, about two-thirds of humanity. The strength of our writers' conference is that in its arsenal there is a mighty winged word that knows no barriers, penetrates like a ray of the sun into the hearts and minds of people, helping them live and create, fight and win!" [2. 48].

The Tashkent conference, in which 204 writers from 37 countries of Asia and Africa, as well as numerous guests from 13 countries of Europe and America took part, laid the foundation for the organizational creative cohesion of the forces of progressive writers of two continents, discussed the main problems of the development of literature, the role of cultural figures in the struggle for the progress of mankind, national independence, for world peace. The work of the conference was imbued with the spirit of peace, friendship and cooperation. It was then that the popular expression appeared: "the spirit of Tashkent» [2. 49].

The first Tashkent conference was of great importance in strengthening the relationship between the literatures of the countries of Asia and Africa. For the Uzbek reader, the Tashkent conference served in the full sense of the words as a discovery of literary Asia and Africa. Our publishing houses have translated many works of famous writers from many countries into Uzbek and Russian. The conference also contributed to the increased interest in our literature in countries of two continents.

In September 1968, writers from 46 countries of Asia, Africa, Europe, America and Australia again come to Tashkent for the "Literature and the Modern World" symposium, which was timed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the first conference of Asian and African writers.

At the end of May 1968, filmmakers from 49 countries of Asia and Africa gathered in Tashkent for the first Tashkent International Film Festival. In 1974, filmmakers from Latin America took part as guests, and since 1976 the film festival has officially become a show of cinematography from Asia, Africa and Latin America and was held until 1988.

CONCLUSION

Today, in the conditions of independent development, Uzbekistan is an equal member of the world community and conducts its foreign policy based on its national interests and relies on its rich historical experience, including the Soviet period. This historical experience today attracts the attention of politicians and public figures of many countries of the world. The republic has a great opportunity to again become one of the cultural centers for the countries of the East. In this regard, Uzbekistan, especially in recent years, has been making efforts to restore its historical status. For example, at the conference "Cinematography of Uzbekistan: Past, Present, Future" held in Tashkent in December 2020, the resumption of the legendary Tashkent International Film Festival of Asia, Africa and Latin America was announced. At one time, the film festival was held once every two years from 1968 to 1988. In 1982, 90 countries of the world, as well as representatives of Palestine Liberation Organizations, Chilean patriotic forces, the UN and UNESCO, took part in the film festival, the last during the life of Sh. Rashidov. The resumption of the festival means that our capital is once again becoming the venue for a global event.

References