



Measures to Stabilize National Policy and Relations in Uzbekistan (On the Example of 1989-1997)

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Annotation: The article examines the consequences of Soviet national policy in Uzbekistan in the late 80s and 90s of the XX century and measures to eliminate them. It also analyzes the measures taken by the Uzbek government to stabilize national relations, the essence of the new national policy in various aspects.

Key words; national relations, new national policy, interethnic harmony, equality, national identity, sector of interethnic relations, Republican Center for Interethnic Culture.

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From the first days of independence, measures were taken to stabilize the socio-political situation in the republic by improving interethnic relations [1]. It was based not only on the understanding of national identity, the formation of feelings of national pride, preservation of the language, culture and traditions of nations, but also on the principle of achieving the common unity of all nations in the country.

The government of the republic has pursued a policy of protecting not only Uzbeks, but also other peoples of our country. In particular, it adopted and submitted to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR a Declaration on the Aid to the Return of a Number of Displaced Peoples to Their Homeland during the War Years. The fact that such a document, which was of great political and historical significance at the time, was originally adopted only in Uzbekistan, also testified to the fact that the national policy of the government of the republic fully takes into account the interests of other peoples [2].

Changes in the field of national relations in our country began to be noticeable in the second half of 1989. In particular, on November 24, 1989, the XVIII Plenum of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan adopted a resolution on the establishment of the Department of Interethnic Relations and the Commission on Interethnic Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan [3]. The formation of such a republic-wide commission has begun to play an important role in solving the problems that have accumulated over the years in the field of national relations.

The new national policy developed by the new leadership of Uzbekistan was radically different in content and form from the former Soviet national policy pursued in our republic for many years.

First, the new national policy was based on universally recognized human rights provisions and equality of citizens and all peoples living in Uzbekistan before the law.

Second, the new national policy was based on the interdependence of nationalism and inter-ethnicity. It should pay more attention to the national interests of all peoples and at the same time protect universal values, given the rapprochement of nations that are flourishing around the world, which should be a priority in the field of interethnic relations.

Third, in the development of this new national policy, great attention was paid to the diversity of national relations, its integral connection with other areas. Therefore, one of the main rules is to achieve a high level of well-being of citizens living in the country, regardless of nationality, religion, faith and social status, comprehensive protection: social, legal and economic [4].

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the creation of a legal framework for the equality of citizens of Uzbekistan [5] played an important role in strengthening interethnic harmony in Uzbekistan. In particular, the adoption of the Law "On the State Language" on October 21, 1989 became the main legal basis for the development of the Uzbek language, increasing the status of the Uzbek language in public life, which was reduced to a secondary status during the Soviet era. Article 1 of this law states that "the Republic of Uzbekistan shall develop the Uzbek language by all means and ensure its application in all spheres of political, social, economic and cultural life" [6].

The law on the new language provided for the development of not only the Uzbek language, but also the national languages of other nations in the republic. In particular, the law provides for the free functioning of the languages of all nationalities and ethnic groups living in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the creation of appropriate conditions for their development and respect [7].

The adoption of the law on the state language also played an important role in solving other problems related to national languages. In particular, according to Article 13 of the law, the Republic of Uzbekistan was guaranteed access to general secondary education not only in Uzbek, but also in Russian, Karakalpak, Tajik, Kyrgyz, Turkmen and other languages of the republic. Gradual implementation of the law is also planned, including the decision that Articles 4, 7, 8 of the law will be implemented for 8 years, Articles 5 and 24 for 3 years, and Article 16 from the 1991-1992 academic year. was shown. Article 22 is set to enter into force in 1991. The remaining articles came into force on the day the law was passed.

Attention was also paid to the education of children of minorities living in the country. In particular, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR set the task of expanding the level of teaching in Tajik, Kazakh, Turkmen and Kyrgyz in secondary schools from the 1989-1990 academic year. . In these years, measures have been taken to meet the cultural needs of different nationalities and ethnic groups living in Uzbekistan. In Uzbekistan, 259 schools teach in Tajik, 491 in Kazakh, 52 in Turkmen, 40 in Kyrgyz, 12 in Greek and 7 in Korean.

It is important that economic and social development in each region of the country is accompanied by factors based on the national identity of nations and peoples. For this purpose, in the second half of 1989, the regional central laboratory for the study of the sector of interethnic relations and social processes was established under the ideological department of the Fergana regional party committee. The main task of the interethnic sector was identified as a new approach to national policy in the region and the development of general directions for improving interethnic relations. In general, the interethnic relations sector and the research center focused on the factors that negatively affect national relations in the region, including the impact of the state of production in the region on the social sphere, the solution of the problem of human resources in ethnic relations, ethnic and religious factors in national relations. developed practical guidelines for the case [11]. All such practical work has ensured the prevention of negative developments in the field of national relations in our country and the creation of a friendly atmosphere in interethnic relations.

From the first days of independence, in order to meet the spiritual needs of people of different nationalities living in the territory of the republic, newspapers and magazines were published in many languages, as well as television and radio broadcasts. In particular, before independence, only 2 channels operated on national television, a total of 13.1 hours of broadcasting, while in the first years of independence, the total volume of airtime of 4 channels (51.3 hours) and regional television (17.0 hours) was 68.3 hours. did. The volume of broadcasting in Russian increased by 4.4 times, and the volume of broadcasting in other languages increased by 30 times. The number of languages in which television programs are broadcasted has also increased, with the Uzbek Television and Radio Company regularly broadcasting in 10 languages (Uzbek, Karakalpak, Russian, Kazakh, Tajik and Crimean Tatar, Kyrgyz, Uyghur, Bashkir, Tatar).

In the first years of independence, more than 6,000 newspapers were published at the national, regional and district levels. At the national and regional levels, 166 magazines were published, of which 43 were in Uzbek, 7 in Russian, 4 in Karakalpak and 1 in Tajik. 111 (66.9%) magazines were published in a mixture of Uzbek, Karakalpak, Russian, Tajik, Kyrgyz, Kazakh, Turkish and English [13].

The establishment of inter-ethnic relations, which were complicated on the eve of independence, without discrimination of the interests of any nation, was one of the important factors in the successful solution of the problem. That is why the establishment of a number of national and cultural centers and societies that serve the spiritual needs in order not to discriminate against the interests of people of different nationalities living in the territory of our republic has become important. The establishment of national-cultural centers in Uzbekistan has opened a wide way for the development of national traditions, cultures and other peculiarities of non-indigenous peoples.

In 1989, the Republican Center for International Culture was established under the Ministry of Culture. It has 12 cultural centers, including Kazakh, Korean, Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Tajik. The main tasks of the national-cultural centers are: 1) restoration of language, cultural traditions and customs of each nation, revitalization of relations with the historical homeland, opening a wide way for the expression of national feelings; 2) to consider independent Uzbekistan as a real Motherland and to serve it with gratitude and devotion; 3) Living together with the motherland, studying its culture, history and language, living in friendship, cooperation and harmony with the nation, which is called an independent state [15].

On January 13, 1992, in order to coordinate the activities of national cultural centers, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan decided to transform the Republican Interethnic Cultural Center into the Republican International Cultural Center [16]. The resolution also states that the center is an independent institution that coordinates the activities of national cultural centers and assists government agencies and public organizations in studying the cultural needs of different nationalities living in Uzbekistan.

The main purpose and task of the Republican International Cultural Center is to harmonize national relations in the country, to provide practical and methodological assistance in meeting and developing the national spiritual needs of different nationalities and peoples living in our country and strengthening interethnic harmony and solidarity [17].

In general, during the years of independence, the number of national and cultural centers has increased from year to year. In particular, in 1989, there were 12 national and cultural centers in the country [18], and by 1995 their number was more than 80 [19].

For the first time in Uzbekistan, a Korean cultural and educational center has been established. About 200,000 Koreans live in the country. This center was the first step in the study of the Korean language, the restoration of the unique culture, literature and art of the Korean people. The purpose

of the cultural center is not only to restore the traditions of the Korean people, but also to acquaint them more closely with the richness of culture of Uzbek, Russian and other peoples. Departments of the Korean National Cultural Center were also active. In particular, the Fergana Regional Cultural Center was established on June 30, 1989, and the courses organized by the center on learning the Korean language in the cities of Fergana and Kokand were particularly effective. By 1995, more than 200 Koreans had learned to read and write in their native languages in these courses.

The Turkish National Cultural Center, established in 1997, also contributes to the strengthening of friendly relations between nations. Today, more than 40,000 Turkish diasporas live in Uzbekistan.

It should be noted that all national cultural centers consider Uzbekistan as their homeland, taking into account the goals and aspirations of their representatives. Such a conclusion can also be seen from the results of sociological research. 55.7% of respondents consider Uzbekistan as their homeland, and 40.5% as a country of birth and upbringing.

Thus, the new national policy developed by the Government of Uzbekistan has served as an important factor of social and political stability in our society since the early days of independence. Necessary opportunities have been created for the protection of the rights and freedoms, legitimate interests of people of different nationalities, education, acquisition of professions according to their interests and abilities, preservation and development of cultures, customs and traditions. As a result, the broad and free participation of all nationalities in public administration, economic, social and cultural processes is guaranteed.

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