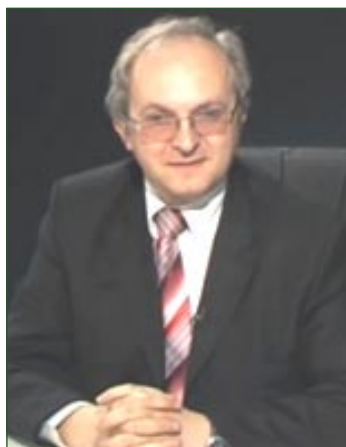


MOLDO-CZECHOSLOVAKIAN RELATIONS IN 1955-1990



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Abstract. *In the period 1955-1990, between Moldova and Czechoslovakia there were the most versatile relationships. They included political, economic, industrial, agricultural, cultural, sports, tourist and other contacts. These ties were mutually beneficial, in view of the fact that Czechoslovakia had more advanced machinery and equipment production, and Moldova advanced much further in the field of agriculture.*

Despite the fact that these ties were managed by Czechoslovak consuls outside the republic, they constantly expanded and included all the new aspects. This publication may contribute to their further investigation.

Keywords: *relation, international, politic, agricultural, commerce*

The international relations of the Moldovan SSR of the postwar period and until the proclamation of independence (1944-1991) are still the *terra incognita* for researchers-historians even in the present days. Scientific articles related to this topic are practically missing, not to mention the monographs. The exceptions are some works of V. Andrușciak¹ in the soviet period, and in the post-soviet one – works of the author that is writing these lines². Anyway both mentioned sources don't reflect the whole "soviet" period (1944-1991). Moreover, the papers related to the Moldova relations with a certain country from the world don't exist until the present days. That is why the documents at the given topic represent a huge layer of information that should be analyzed thoroughly by contemporary scholars. In the given article we are going to reflect the Moldo-Czechoslovakian relations in 1955-1990, and by this, in a certain way, to cover this scientific "black whole". We divided the information that we have according to the thematic directions.

¹ Andrușciak V. Moldova in the Soviet Union collaboration with Socialistic countries. Chisinau, 1981; Idem. Horizons of interrelation of sworn brothers. Chisinau, 1982; Idem. Moldova in the international relations of Soviet Union (1971-1985). Chisinau, 1986; Idem. The Soviet Moldova in the USSR collaboration with released capitalistic countries. Chisinau, 1987. (Андрущак В. Е. Молдавия в сотрудничестве Советского Союза с социалистическими странами. Кишинев, 1981; Idem. Горизонты взаимодействия побратимов. Кишинев, 1982; Idem. Молдавия в международных связях Советского Союза (1971-1985). Кишинев, 1986; Idem. Советская Молдавия в сотрудничестве СССР с освободившимися и капиталистическими странами. Кишинев, 1987).

² Șevcenco R. Relațiile internaționale ale RSS Moldovenești (1945-1955)// Studia Universitatis. Seria Științe Umanistice. Chișinău: CEP USM, 2009, nr.4 (24), pp.40-42; Idem. The Moldavian-Romanian diplomatic relations (1950-1960)// Semiotics' Creativity: Uniflying, Diversites, Differences, Divides. The Third International Conference of ROASS (Iași, 2010, 4-7 noiembrie). Book of Abstracts. Iași, 2010, pp.100-101; Idem. Relațiile internaționale ale RSS Moldovenești (1953-1955)// Studia Universitatis. Seria Științe Umanistice. Chișinău: CEP USM, 2011, nr.4 (44), pp.83-86; Idem. Relațiile moldo-române în perioada sovietică: anul 1956// Studia Universitatis. Seria Științe Umanistice. Chișinău: CEP USM, 2011, nr.10 (50), pp.166-169.

Political Relations of Moldova with Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (CSSR)

According to existent sources there were no relations with political officials from CSSR until 1970. Even the ambassadors of CSSR in the Soviet Union (USSR) had never visited Moldova until that time. The first visit of this kind in the republic was the arrival of CSSR Ambassador in USSR, Ia. Havelka in April 1974. The delegation was composed by the IIIrd secretary of CSSR Embassy in USSR, Ia. Havelka and the correspondent of a Czechoslovak newspaper, A. Bak. The guests were welcomed by the prim-secretary of Central Committee (CC) of the Moldovan Communist Party (MCP), I. Bodiul. The topics of interest of the CSSR ambassador were related to the development of kolkhozes, the forms of managing the kolkhoz-cooperative system, the processes of specializing and focus in agriculture, its transfer to the industrial basis, the creation of Agro-industrial and Scientific Associations of Production, and the activity of Kolkhozes Council. Then, the delegation, accompanied by the vice-president of the Government of republic, G. Dolgoșei, visited a series of livestock objects and complexes of the enterprise “Kolhozjivprom”, studying the activity of territorial sovkhoses-factories³. Taking into account that in that period Moldova had a leading place in agricultural reforms that were taking place within USSR (and not only USSR), this topic represented a major interest for many Czechoslovak guests that were visiting Moldova in the period 1970-1980. According to that time, the guests were informed about the achievements in the science and culture domains, as well as about the history of MSSR formation, the structure of industrial production, the participation of republic in the union division of labor, and the realization of the agricultural policy of CPSU in Moldova⁴.

³ The arrival of Czechoslovakian ambassador at Chisinau // The Soviet Moldova, 1974, April 3 ; Visit of Czechoslovakian ambassador in Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1974, April 4-5. (*Sosirea la Chișinău a ambasadorului Cehoslovaciei // Moldova Socialistă, 1974, 3 aprilie; Vizita în Moldova a ambasadorului Cehoslovaciei // Moldova Socialistă, 1974, 4-5 aprilie*).

⁴ The diplomats from socialistic countries in Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1975, July 17. (*Дипломаты из социалистических стран в Молдавии // Советская Молдавия, 1975, 17 июля*).

At the 7th of April 1978 Moldova was visited by the delegation of Federal Assembly (Parliament) of CSSR headed by its president, the member of the CC Presidium of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party (CCP), A. Indra. The delegation was accompanied by the president of the union Committee for Labor and Social Problems of USSR, V. Lomonosov. The president of the Presidium of Supreme Soviet of the MSSR K. Iliășenko told to guests about the discussion of the project of the new Constitution of 1941, that was in force at that time, about the activity of the Supreme Soviet, its permanent commissions and Local Soviets. This delegation payed special attention to the agricultural experience of Moldova⁵.

At 20-21 February 1979, Moldova was visited by the Minister of foreign affairs of CSSR, member of Central Committee of CCP, B. Hnioupek. In USSR he was invited by his soviet colleague A. Gromâko. The distinguished guests came together with the ambassador of CSSR in USSR, C. Lovetinski, and the ambassador of USSR in CSSR, V. Matkevici. The chairman of the Ministers' Council of Moldova, S. Grossu, underlined in his discourse the role of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA also known as COMECON) in increasing the economic potential of Moldova. The prime-secretary of CC of the MCP, I. Bodiul, described in detail the way of using the new technic, modern technologies, and at the guest request, he told about the development of gardening, cultivation of vegetables, gardening in the republic and its perspectives⁶.

The development of agriculture in Moldova was the object of attention and interest of other representatives of the supreme Czechoslovakian governance:

⁵ The delegation of Federal meeting of CSSR in the republic // The Soviet Moldova, 1978, April 8; Guest from Czechoslovakia get acquainted with Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1978, April 9. (*Делегация Федерального собрания ЧССР в республике // Советская Молдавия, 1978, 8 апреля; Гости из Чехословаки знакомятся с Молдавией // Советская Молдавия, 1978, 9 апреля.*)

⁶ Visit of the Minister of foreign affairs of CSSR in Moldova // Socialistic Moldova, 1979, February 21; Visit of B. Hneupek in Moldova // Socialistic Moldova, 1979, February 22. (*Визит министра иностранных дел ЧССР в Молдавию // Советская Молдавия, 1979, 21 февраля; Пребывание Б.Хнеупека в Молдавии // Советская Молдавия, 1979, 22 февраля.*)

namely – the candidate for Presidium membership within Central Committee of CCP, M. Iakeș, the member of the Presidium of Central Committee of CCP, and the prime secretary of Central Committee of CP of Slovakia, I. Lenart, that visited Moldova on 27-29 May 1979⁷.

Then, after 1979, and until the proclamation of independence of Moldova, the official Moldo-Czechoslovakian relations were maintained through General Consuls of the CSSR from Kiev – Iu. Vargolik, M. Kovacz, Z. Guml, S. Ghinar, that were presented at Chisinau by the CSSR ambassador in USSR, that personally was coming in Moldova on that occasion⁸. The general consuls made visits in Moldova also on the occasion of celebrating the days of CSSR releasing in May 1945, anniversary dates of signing the soviet-Czechoslovak agreement regarding the friendship and collaboration, launching of a big exhibition, etc. They were received by the secretaries of the Central Committee of MCP – for ideology, agriculture or industry⁹.

Interparty Relations of Moldova and Czechoslovakia

The history of the relations between MCP and CCP had begun in January 1962 when in Moldova came a group of responsible officials of Central Committee

⁷ Visit of party leaders of CSSR in Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1979, May 29; Visit is ended // The Soviet Moldova, 1979, May 30. (*Пребывание в Молдавии партийных руководителей ЧССР // Советская Молдавия, 1979, 29 мая; Визит завершен // Советская Молдавия, 1979, 30 мая*).

⁸ Visit in Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1982, December 9; Visit of the Czechoslovakian diplomat // The Soviet Moldova, 1990, March 15; The reception of CSSR consul // The Soviet Moldova, 1990, October 19. (*Визит в Молдавию // Советская Молдавия, 1982, 9 декабря; Визит чехословацкого дипломата // Советская Молдавия, 1990, 15 марта; Прием консула ЧСФР // Советская Молдова, 1990, 19 октября*).

⁹ Visit in the republic, 1983, March 1; Visit is ended // The Soviet Moldova, 1983, March 2; Consecrated to anniversary // The Soviet Moldova, 1983, December 8; Visit of the General Consul of CSSR // The Soviet Moldova, 1983, December 10; Visit of the CSSR General Cosul // The Soviet Moldova, 1984, November 22; The discussions took place, 1985, May 7. (*Визит в республику // Советская Молдавия, 1983, 1 марта; Визит завершен // Советская Молдавия, 1983, 2 марта; Годовщине посвящается // Советская Молдавия, 1983, 8 декабря; Пребывание генконсула ЧССР // Советская Молдавия, 1983, 10 декабря; Пребывание генконсула ЧССР // Советская Молдавия, 1984, 22 ноября; Au avut loc convorbiri // Moldova Socialistă, 1985, 7 mai*).

of CCP. Besides studying the production in kolkhozes, the guests were interested in the experience of party working in Moldova. With this purpose, they visited enterprises and scientific institutions¹⁰.

In 1971-1986 the workers of administration of Central Committee of CCP, students of the Academy of Social Sciences (ASS) under the Central Committee of CPSU in Moldova and CCP officials made 5 visits. For example, in February 1972, in Moldova came a group of responsible workers of CCP: M. Grușcoviț (chief of the cultural section of Central Committee of CCP), I. Gaman (deputy chief of the economic section of Central Committee of CCP), F. Tesarj (prim-secretary of the party Regional Committee Gradeț-Kralove), G. Șlapka (prim-secretary of the party regional Committee Bratislava), Ia. Muha (prim-vice minister of the light industry of CSSR). Besides the history of MCP that was permanently described in these cases, during the visits of enterprises, party city Committees of Chisinau and Tiraspol, the guests were informed about the management by the party bodies of the process of socialist competition, problems of planning the party labor, party admission, control on the execution of taken decisions, working experience regarding the increase of the industrial production efficiency, selecting, placement and training of party staff, community and household organizations, activities of the organizations of cultural enlightening in villages¹¹.

During other visits in Moldova, the party workers of Central Committee of CCP were studying the plans of social development of some farms, forms of international education (March 1973), evolution of economy, science and culture

¹⁰ Arrival of a delegation of Czechoslovakian party workers // The Soviet Moldova, 1962, January 19. (*Sosirea la Chișinău a unei delegații a lucrătorilor de partid din Cehoslovacia // Moldova Socialistă, 1962, 19 ianuarie*).

¹¹ Moldovan Guests – responsible workers of CC of CCP // The Soviet Moldova, 1972, February 29; Visit of party workers of Czechoslovakia continue // The Soviet Moldova, 1972, March 3; Visit of the CCP responsible workers ended // The Soviet Moldova, 1972, March 10. (*Гости Молдавии – ответственные работники ЦК КПЧ // Советская Молдавия, 1972, 29 февраля; Визит партийных работников Чехословакии продолжается // Советская Молдавия, 1972, 3 марта; Визит ответственных работников КПЧ завершен // Советская Молдавия, 1972, 10 марта*).

of the republic, its perspectives¹². During the visit from November 1976, the guests paid a special attention to the issues of ideological assurance of plans and obligations of the workers' collectives, regarding the development of the internal party democracy, criticism and self-criticism (following the example of the Orhei district), the implementation of the socialistic rituals and traditions (following the Kotovsk district, nowadays Hâncești), the system of training the staff for agricultural sector¹³. During the journeys of ASS students from CSSR in Chisinau (May 1986), the party management of social policy, the increase of citizens welfare and the stimulation of technical-scientific progress were emphasized¹⁴.

In June 1987, in Moldova the delegation of Czechoslovakian People Party came. The guests were interested in the activity of Soviets, the preparations to local elections in republic¹⁵.

The Union Relations between Moldova and CSSR

The union leaders from Czechoslovakia made some visits in the period 1969-1977. The delegation headed by the chief of the Section of Central Council of CSSR Unions, M. Skrijicil that came in Moldova in October 1969 was interested in the unions' role in organizing socialist competition in enterprises and institutions. As example for them served the Garment Factory of Tiraspol and one of sovkhoses (state farms) of Tiraspol district (nowadays Slobozia). In May 1975 in Moldova the train "Drujba" (Friendship) came being organized by the CSSR unions. The guests were studying the life of peasants and kolkhoz

¹² Guests from Czechoslovakia // The Soviet Moldova, 1973, February 27; One week in Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1973, March 6. (*Гости из Чехословакии // Советская Молдавия, 1973, 27 февраля; О săptămână în Moldova // Moldova Socialistă, 1973, 6 martie*).

¹³ CCP party workers in Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1976, November 16. (*Партийные работники ЧССР в Молдавии // Советская Молдавия, 1976, 16 ноября*).

¹⁴ Discussion in CC of MCP // The Soviet Moldova, 1986, May 15. (*Беседа в ЦК КПМ // Советская Молдавия, 1986, 15 мая*).

¹⁵ Guests of Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1987, June 6. (*Oaspeți ai Moldovei // Moldova Socialistă, 1987, 6 iunie*).

workers from Moldova, the role of unions in the propagandistic activity related to the accomplishment of approved plans¹⁶. In June 1977, in Moldova there was a delegation of medical workers union from CSSR that was studying the organization of medical services providing in cities, enterprises, kolkhozes, as well as the activity of union bodies for the improvement of social and cultural conditions, the living level of the medical staff. The guests found interesting the experience of organizing the provision of medical services directly to enterprises, for example – the hospital of the Garment factory of Tiraspol¹⁷.

Scientific Relations between Moldova and Czechoslovakia

As example of such relations, we can consider the collective mutual research, as well as the individual ones. But, lacking space, we present just some cases. For example, the Moldovan physicist V. Langhe in 1960 years was carrying out successfully research in the domain of semi-conducting combinations together with colleagues from Czechoslovakia. He visited CSSR many times with scientific purposes¹⁸. The Czechoslovakian enterprises were exporting in Moldova equipment for chemists and biochemists. This equipment was bought by the institutions of higher education from Moldova¹⁹. In May 1981 at Chisinau, a Moldovan-Czechoslovakian symposium on gastroenterology issues took place. The guests from Czechoslovakia told about the new elaborations in this

¹⁶ Czechoslovakian Guests in Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1975, May 30. (*Чехословацкие гости в Молдавии // Советская Молдавия, 1975, 30 мая*).

¹⁷ Union delegation of CSSR in Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1977, June 10. (*Профсоюзная делегация ЧССР в Молдавии // Советская Молдавия, 1977, 10 июня*).

¹⁸ Collaboration of Czechoslovakian and Moldovan physicists // The Soviet Moldova, 1964, September 17. (*Сотрудничество физиков Чехословакии и Молдавии // Советская Молдавия, 1964, 17 сентября*).

¹⁹ The exhibition of Czechoslovakian laboratory equipment // The Soviet Moldova, 1969, September 3; All exhibits of the Czechoslovakian exhibition remain in Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1969, September 12. (*Expoziția de instalații de laborator cehoslovace // Moldova Socialistă, 1969, 3 septembrie; Все экспонаты чехословацкой выставки остаются в Кишиневе // Советская Молдавия, 1969, 12 сентября*).

field²⁰. The Delegation of Central Council of technical-scientific Societies of CSSR that visited Moldova in June 1984 had studied the experience of primary organizations of similar societies in Moldova²¹.

Relations within CMEA

Different discussions and meetings of the commissions and specialists of CMEA played an important role in the international relations of Moldova in the period 1969-1985. The range of discussed problems was wide: construction, statistics, house chemistry, machine construction, automatized systems of management, electro-energetics, elaboration of new species of vegetables, storage of easily destroyable products, oncology, material-technical assurance and other issues²². The participants were elaborating the recommendations, getting acquainted with working experience in the respective domain in Moldova, visiting for documentation some enterprises of the republic. Solving some problems in Moldova was highly appreciated by foreign guests. For example, the Czechoslovakian delegation that came in Chisinau on the occasion of the 19th meeting of permanent commission of CMEA in order to coordinate

²⁰ The international Symposium at Chisinau // The Soviet Moldova, 1981, May 28; The international symposium closed // The Soviet Moldova, 1981, May 30. (*Международный симпозиум в Кишиневе // Советская Молдавия, 1981, 28 мая; Simpozionul internațional și-a încheiat lucrările // Moldova Socialistă, 1981, 30 mai*).

²¹ In the interests of friendship and collaboration // The Soviet Moldova, 1984, June 9. (*В интересах дружбы и сотрудничества // Советская Молдавия, 1984, 9 июня*).

²² Ex.: The CMEA activity // The Soviet Moldova, 1972, September 13; The meeting of CMEA section at Chisinau // The Soviet Moldova, 1973, May 31; Today on the agenda – tractors' construction // The Soviet Moldova, 1973, June 6; The meeting of the specialist of socialistic countries // The Soviet Moldova, 1974, November 27; Fruitful collaboration // The Soviet Moldova, 1974, December 1; Courses of economic integration // The Soviet Moldova, 1975, May 21; Fruitful collaboration // The Soviet Moldova, 1975, May 25. (*Например: СЭВ за работой // Советская Молдавия, 1972, 13 сентября; Заседание секции СЭВ в Кишиневе // Советская Молдавия, 1973, 31 мая; В повестке дня – тракторостроение // Советская Молдавия, 1973, 6 июня; Встреча специалистов социалистических стран // Советская Молдавия, 1974, 27 ноября; Плодотворное сотрудничество // Советская Молдавия, 1974, 1 декабря; Курсы экономической интеграции // Советская Молдавия, 1975, 21 мая; Плодотворное сотрудничество // Советская Молдавия, 1975, 25 мая*).

the scientific and technical issues in 1970 was excited about the development level of machine building and food industry in Moldova²³.

Moldo-Czechoslovakian Commercial-Industrial Relations

The Moldo-Czechoslovakian commercial relations were founded in 1954, when the company “Koospol” from CSSR had bought for sale Moldovan wines in huge quantity. The CSSR became the first country that began the import of wines from Moldova²⁴. The industrial relations appeared later. If in the second half of the 1950 years we can mention only some visits of the specialists from Moldova and Czechoslovakia – in the field of leather processing, glass producing, extracting building materials. The 1960 years were marked by the intensification of Moldo-Czechoslovakian relations in different fields of industry and commerce which strengthened in the 1970 years. For example, Moldova imported goods from Czechoslovakia in building area, as well as machinery – tractors, buses, machines for producing tights. At the same time, Czechoslovakia bought wines tobacco and furniture in huge quantity from Moldova²⁵. In 1978, the Czechoslovakian delegation headed by the prim-vice minister of commerce F.

²³ The meeting of CMEA commission at Chisinau // The Soviet Moldova, 1970, June 4; the CMEA activity // The Soviet Moldova, 1970, June 5; The meeting of permanent commission of CMEA // The Soviet Moldova, 1970, June 6; “Congratulations with great success and achievements!” // The Soviet Moldova, 1970, June 9. (*Заседание комиссии СЭВ в Кишиневе // Советская Молдавия, 1970, 4 июня; СЭВ за работой // Советская Молдавия, 1970, 5 июня; Заседание постоянной комиссии СЭВ // Советская Молдавия, 1970, 6 июня; «Поздравляем вас с большими успехами!» // Советская Молдавия, 1970, 9 июня*).

²⁴ Wine for Czechoslovakia // The Soviet Moldova, December 10. (*Вино для Чехословакии // Советская Молдавия, 1968, 10 декабря*).

²⁵ Ex.: From Czechoslovakian friends // The Soviet Moldova, 1964, January 24; Czechoslovakian equipment – the best in Europe // The Soviet Moldova, 1966, May 28; Wine for Czechoslovakia // The Soviet Moldova, 1968, December 10; For the companies from all continents // The Soviet Moldova, 1969, November 21; Equipment of Czechoslovakian label // The Soviet Moldova, 1973, April 26. (*Например: От друзей из Чехословакии // Советская Молдавия, 1964, 24 января; Чешские автоматы – лучшие в Европе // Советская Молдавия, 1964, 26 августа; Turneul auto al mașinilor cehoslovace // Moldova Socialistă, 1966, 28 mai; Вино для Чехословакии // Советская Молдавия, 1968, 10 декабря; Фирмам всех континентов // Советская Молдавия, 1969, 21 ноября; Автоматы чехословацкой марки // Советская Молдавия, 1973, 26 апреля*).

Rujicika had insisted on essential widening of commercial exchange, agricultural product exporting from Moldova and industrial products from Czechoslovakia and signing the respective contracts²⁶.

In the 1973-1983 period, CSSR had organized several times at VDNKh of the MSSR exhibitions of its goods – glass (2 times), materials for foundry, agricultural technique, dental tools and diagnostic materials. In October 1980, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of CSSR, I. Nagr, had opened at VDNKh of MSSR the Days of Czechoslovakian economy and technique. At the same time, the Moldovan side at the exhibitions from Brno in 1973 and 1980 had presented furniture and different qualitative food products from Moldova²⁷.

Relations in the Agricultural Domain

In this field, there was a convenient exchange for both sides. Czechoslovakia was exporting in Moldova since 1960 irrigation equipment, inclusively respective stations, machines of collecting different agricultural crops, equipment for soil analysis, and selection, combine-harvester for collecting maize and sun-flower etc. Simultaneously, the specialists from Czechoslovakia were studying in Moldova the planning process in the agriculture domain with usage of the electronic computing machines, the experience of specializing and focusing in agriculture and other agricultural branches (cattle and plants/vegetables breeding etc.), the principles of organizing the inter-kolkhozes complexes and agro-industrial associations. In the process of elaborating the Law regarding the land in CSSR,

²⁶ Guests of the republic // The Soviet Moldova, 1978, June 9. (*Гости республики // Советская Молдавия, 1978, 9 июня*).

²⁷ Ex.: Sorokin N. Moldova – exhibitor of “Interlitmash-73” exhibition // The Soviet Moldova, 1973, September 8; Moldovan furniture at the international exhibitions // The Soviet Moldova, 1973, November 27; The days of Czechoslovakian economy and technique // The Soviet Moldova, 1980, October 16; Impressive achievements of brother country // The Soviet Moldova, 1980, October 25; “Немапол” is showing // The Soviet Moldova, 1983, May 25. (*Например: Сорокин Н. Молдавия – экспонент выставки «Интерлитмаш-73» // Советская Молдавия, 1973, 8 сентября; Mobila moldovenească la expozițiile internaționale // Moldova Socialistă, 1973, 27 noiembrie; Zilele economiei și tehnicii cehoslovace în Moldova // Moldova Socialistă, 1980, 16 octombrie; Впечатляющие успехи братской страны // Советская Молдавия, 1980, 25 октября; Показывает «Хемапол» // Советская Молдавия, 1983, 25 мая*).

they examined the Moldovan legislation. Accordingly, the administration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of CSSR visited Moldova for many times. Together with CSSR, Moldova elaborated the technology of cultivating plum and apricot trees by using complex mechanization²⁸.

Relations in the Culture Domain

The history of Moldo-Czechoslovakian relation in this field in the postwar period began in 1955, when Chisinau was visited by the conductor B. Bakala and soloist A. Plötek of Czechoslovakian Philharmonic. They performed the works of B. Smetana, A. Dvorjak, L. van Beethoven and of other composers²⁹. It is worth to mention that the concerts of performers from Czechoslovakia were dominating in the cultural relations between Moldova and CSSR until the middle of 1960 years. Only once then (in 1962) the ensemble “Fluieraș” had a trip within Czechoslovakia with concerts. From 1967 the relations of our countries in this domain reached a new qualitative level. At the same time with Czechoslovakian musicians tours in MSSR, in August 1967, a group of journalists from different countries from all around the world came (CSSR was presented by M. Verner) in Moldova to study the lifestyle and situation in the republic. Such visits of foreign and Czechoslovakian journalists were taking place quite often (1976, 1978-1979, 1983 etc.) contributing to the process of knowing Moldova beyond the republic borders. In 1972, the Czechoslovakian television had presented an ample reportage about Moldova, and in Prague, an exhibition consecrated to Moldovan republic was organized. In Moldova and CSSR some exhibitions and month consecrated to our countries were organized. In 1981, the Chisinau

²⁸ Ex.: Czechoslovakian irrigation technique in Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1968, May 17; Guests of the republic // The Soviet Moldova, 1977, December 14; Dubovik A., Uliatovskii V. Moldova in the URSS collaboration // The Soviet Moldova, 1983, October 12. (Например: Чехословацкая оросительная техника в Молдавии // Советская Молдавия, 1968, 17 мая; Оасpeți ai republicii // Moldova Socialistă, 1977, 14 decembrie; Дубовик А., Улятовский В. Молдавия в международном сотрудничестве СССР // Советская Молдавия, 1983, 12 октября).

²⁹ Șevcenco R. International relations of the Moldovan SSR. (Șevcenco R. Relațiile internaționale ale RSS Moldovenești (1953-1955)...., p.85.)

section of the Society of Soviet-Czechoslovakian friendship was funded, headed by the minister of improvements and aquatic household, V. Olexici. In November 1984, it was changed into Moldovan Section of the given society headed by M. Bondarenko.³⁰

Moldovan Tourism in CSSR

It started in August 1956, when in CSSR a group of tourists from Moldova went (36 persons). They were in CSSR for 12 days. The host country offered the best hotels and restaurants. They were traveling through Czechoslovakia in comfortable buses. They visited historical and cultural places of Prague city, inclusively the New Prague, Pioneers House, Technical Museum, National Gallery, Medieval Castles. They visited the factory of shoes “Sazavan”, the factories of beer of Plzen, the factories of ceramics and winery. They had a journey on Vltava river, got acquainted with Brno, Karlovy Vary, with life style of workers’ family. After that the tourists from Moldova were visiting mainly Prague, Brno, Karlovy Vary, Marianske-Lazne. In Moldova, the Bureau of tourism abroad was responsible for tourism propaganda in CSSR, and from Czechoslovakian side – the Bureau of trips “Cedok”. The last had organized in the second half of 1970-1980 years a series of exhibitions related to Czechoslovakia³¹.

³⁰ Foreign journalists at Chisinau // The Soviet Moldova, 1967, August 26; First visit in Chisinau // The Soviet Moldova, 1967, August 27; “Here there are wonderful people” // The Soviet Moldova, 1967, August 29; For the strength of friendship of Moldovan and Czechoslovakian workers // The Soviet Moldova, 1981, June 13; visit of the general consul of CSSR // The Soviet Moldova, 1984, November 22. (*Зарубежные журналисты в Кишиневе // Советская Молдавия, 1967, 26 августа; Первое знакомство с Кишиневом // Советская Молдавия, 1967, 27 августа; "Aici trăiește un popor minunat" // Moldova Socialistă, 1967, 29 august; Дружбе крепнуть // Советская Молдавия, 1981, 13 июня; Пребывание генконсула ЧССР // Советская Молдавия, 1984, 22 ноября*).

³¹ Touristic journey of Moldovan workers in Czechoslovakia // The Soviet Moldova, 1956, July 8; Czechoslovakia invites friends // The Soviet Moldova, 1985, September 5. (*Туристские поездки трудящихся Молдавии в Чехословакию // Советская Молдавия, 1956, 8 июля; Чехословакия приглашает друзей // Советская Молдавия, 1985, 5 сентября*).

Youth Relations of Moldova and CSSR

In the 1960-1970 period, the relations between countries were realized by means of students exchange, by doing their educational training to each other places. Besides, in the period 1967-1969, some students and youth delegations from CSSR visited USSR and Moldova particularly, where they had got acquainted with the republic. In July 1970, Moldova was visited by a group of district committees of the Union of Socialist Youth of CSSR, studying different issues of practical activity of Moldovan Komsomol³².

Sportive Relations

We would like to present some examples. At May 31, 1959, the football club “Moldova” (Chisinau) hosted the team “Dinamo” (Prague) and won with the score – 3:0. At October 10, 1965 an international motocross took place at Chisinau. One of its winners in the category of 500 decimeters motorcycles was the Czechoslovakian I. Grejebecek. In March 1967, the European games of athletics took place in Prague (in covered spaces). The double champion among women, at relay race, was the Chisinau citizen V. Maslovskaia-Bolșova. In August 1968, a match between the artists of Czechoslovakian theatre “Prague” and football veterans of Moldova took place at Chisinau. The Moldovan professionals wan with the score 5:2³³.

³² From Prague to Chisinau, from Chisinau to Prague // The Soviet Moldova, 1966, august 3; The guests of Moldovan students // The Soviet Moldova, 1967, August 4; The guests of Moldovan youth // The Soviet Moldova, 1970, July 12; Guests from Czechoslovakia, 1980, July 28. (*Из Праги в Кишинев, из Кишинева в Прагу // Советская Молдавия, 1966, 3 августа; Гости молдавских студентов // Советская Молдавия, 1967, 4 августа; Oaspeții tineretului moldovenesc // Moldova Socialistă, 1970, 12 iulie; Oaspeți din Cehoslovacia // Moldova Socialistă, 1970, 28 iulie*).

³³ Vlaicu M. An amazing victory of the team “Moldova” // The Soviet Moldova, 1959, June 2; Condraskin I., Sevcenco V. Unusual premiere of Paris circus // The Soviet Moldova, 1968, September 11. (*Vlaicu M. O biruință frumoasă a echipei "Moldova" // Moldova Socialistă, 1959, 2 iunie; Кондрашкин И., Шевченко В. Необычная премьера пражского цирка // Советская Молдавия, 1968, 11 сентября*).

Relations of Different Organizations of Moldova and CSSR

Besides the above mentioned, Moldova was visited by the representations of feminine organizations from Czechoslovakia (1961, 1969), the collaborators of Red Cross from CSSR (1965), the delegation of General Prosecutor's Office of CSSR headed by the General Prosecutor of Czechoslovakia Ia. Feeș, the representatives of federal directions of statistics and prices of CSSR (1978, 1980), the delegation of forest and aquatic household of CSSR headed by the minister V. Marghetin (1980). All these visitors had studied the situations in the given related branches from the Moldovan colleagues and made exchange of experience³⁴.

Other International Relations of Moldova and CSSR

In the list of other contacts are included the international courses of World Health Organization, that several times took place in the period 1970-1980 in Moldova, as well as different public lectures of philosophy, symposia on apiculture, conferences on linguistics, physics, buildings, obstetrics, sociology, viticulture, computing technique and a series of other scientific disciplines³⁵.

The Perception of 1968 "Prague Spring" in CSSR and its Suppression in Moldova

From the first steps of the new prime-secretary of CC of CCP A. Dubcek the "order protectors/defenders" in Moldova suspected something. Several months before the invasion of Soviet army in CSSR, at the VIIIth plenary session of CC of MCP (8 May 1968) participants express the concern of created situation, the

³⁴ Women from Czechoslovakia in Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1969, September 10; A delegation of prosecution workers from CSSR in Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1975, August 8. (*Femei din Cehoslovacia în oșpeție în Moldova // Moldova Socialistă, 1969, 10 septembrie; O delegație a lucrătorilor procuraturii din RS Cehoslovacă în Moldova // Moldova Socialistă, 1975, 8 august*).

³⁵ Ex.: International courses of doctors in Moldova // The Soviet Moldova, 1972, November 21; The meeting of machine and equipment builders from socialistic countries // The Soviet Moldova, 1986, November 30. (*Haпyмep: Cypcypи интeрнaцiонaлe aлe мeдuцuлop uн Mолдoвa // Moldova Socialistă, 1972, 21 noiembrie; Sesia constructorilor de mașini și aparate din țările socialiste // Moldova Socialistă, 1986, 30 noiembrie*).

actions of “contra-revolutionary elements” were criticized and they express the willing to “offer help to the working people” in CSSR³⁶.

Trying to have influence on the Czechoslovakian students mood that came on basis of student exchange program in Moldova, the Secretary of Central Committee of the MCP at 9 July 1968 tasked the administration of institutions of higher education, that were hosting the students from CSSE (State University, the Pedagogical, Agricultural Institutes, Sovkhozes – colleagues from Tiraspol and Țaul) and their party organizations to “assure a high level of organizing-party working” between them³⁷. At 19th July 1968 a common meeting of the Chisinau and republican parties took place, being consecrated namely to the CSSR situation. The speaker, prime-secretary of Central Committee, I. Bodiul, in detail described, in the Soviet opinion, the CSSR situation after the resignation of the prime secretary of Central Committee of CCP, A. Novotnâi, in January 1968. According to him, shortly after that, the mass-media services got out of control. A quick change of staff had begun. All these led to the strengthening of “contra-revolutionaries” position, the requests to dissolve the Committee of State Security and political organs, and the reestablishment of private property. Even the own program had appeared – “2000 of words” that was providing the break of the alliance with USSR and socialist countries. Within CCP began an “internal fight”, its administration gave way to right forces etc.³⁸.

In the days of invasion of the armies of socialist countries in CSSR, the minister of telecommunications, V. Russu, received the order to create a battalion of telecommunications. Despite of the lack of experience, he rapidly formed it, and on August 23, he sent it to restore the telecommunications in CSSR. V. Russu also had the task to block the access of newspapers from Czechoslovakia and Romania that were describing the real situation in CSSR, but, he misunderstood

³⁶ The Archive of Societal-Political Organizations of the Republic of Moldova (further ASPO RM) (*Архив Общественно-Политических Организаций Республики Молдова (далее АОПО РМ). Ф.51. Оп.29. Д.1. Л.18.*)

³⁷ ASPO RM. (*АОПО РМ*) Ф.51.Оп.29. Д.64. Л.23-24.

³⁸ ASPO RM. (*АОПО РМ*) Ф.51.Оп.29. Д.92. Л.5-6, 8-9.

what was asked, and the Romanian newspapers were continuing to come to the Moldovan subscribers until 26 August. For this mistake he was prevented very strictly³⁹. Commenting the situation, the rector of the Polytechnic Institution of Chisinau S. Rădăuțan called for “focusing the attention” on the youth education, to reveal wider the lies of western propaganda that very often was leaving behind the soviet one⁴⁰. The district committees of MCP in an excessive rhythm were adopting decisions with unanimous conviction of “contra-revolutionary” forces and they sustained the suppressing of “antisocialist incursions”⁴¹.

Thus, we can ascertain that in the period 1955-1990, between Moldova and CSSR there were very different relations. They included political, economic, industrial, agricultural, cultural, sport, touristic and other relations. These relations were mutual, because in CSSR the technique and equipment production were more developed, but Moldova plunged deeply in agriculture domain. Despite of the fact that these relations from CSSR side were managed by a consul that was outside the republic borders, they permanently were widening and included new aspects. This article could contribute to farther research.

³⁹ ASPO RM. (АОПО РМ) Ф.51.Оп.29. Д.49. Л.13-15, 41; Д.97. Л.104.

⁴⁰ ASPO RM. (АОПО РМ) Ф.51.Оп.29. Д.131. Л.37-38.

⁴¹ ASPO RM. (АОПО РМ) Ф.51.Оп.30. Д.111. Л.56-57, 59, 62-64, 89-90.