

Activity Of The Commission For Aid To The Hungry Population Evacuated To Turkestan

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Abstract: This article describes the evacuation of the starving population of the famine-stricken regions of Russia to the Turkestan ASSR in the 1920s and their accommodation, food, clothing and other supplies. It also discusses the assistance provided by the state to the starving evacuated to our country and the kindness shown by the generous Turkestan population to the resettled peoples, as well as the reasons and processes of the Soviet government's evacuation of the starving to Turkestan based on archival materials and scientific literature, and provides an objective solution.

Key words: famine, starving refugees, commission for helping the starving, famine-stricken regions, evacuation, generosity, clothing, food, shelter.

Introduction

In the central provinces of Russia (Volga, Southern Urals, Don), Ukraine and Kazakhstan, famine left its terrible consequences in 1921-1923. Since it was impossible to eliminate the scale and consequences of the disaster that befell these regions by the power of one state alone, the RSFSR involved all its constituent republics in this process. Therefore, Turkestan, which had not yet recovered from the whirlpool of economic difficulties, was also involved in solving the problems associated with the famine. As a result, on the instructions of the Soviet authorities, thousands of starving people from the Volga and Sub-Ural regions of Russia, where the famine occurred, were evacuated with their families to the Turkestan ASSR. In addition, thousands of hungry refugees began to enter cities such as Tashkent, Samarkand, Skobelev (Ferghana) by various means [1]. Their provision was entrusted to the local population.

Research Methods

The government and working people of Turkestan took an active part in providing assistance to the representatives of the population evacuated from the affected areas and those who came as refugees. Not only the Turkestan Hungry Relief Commission, but also domestic economic and food organizations and educational institutions were involved in providing assistance to the population of Volga and Sub-Ural regions of Russia, where the famine occurred. In order to be active in helping and accepting the hungry, meetings were organized in all places, and it was agreed to give food, collect money, and organize donations to the people in the famine areas and those coming to the country [2].

Results And Discussions

By order of the Soviet government, the evacuation of the starving people from the Volga and Sub-Ural regions of Russia to Turkestan began in July 1921. Therefore, the Soviet government assigned a number of tasks to the regional leadership to accept the starving. According to archival sources, the registration of those evacuated to Turkestan on the instructions of the Bolsheviks began in August 1921, and the reception of the starving people was carried out by the Commission for Aid to the Starving People under the Turkestan Central Executive Committee [3]. In Turkestan, the Commission for Aid to the Starving People also carried out work such as registering representatives of the population arriving in the region from the famine-stricken provinces of Russia at reception points near the railway station, and determining the nationality, sex, age, and specialization of the arrivals, as well as their fitness for work. According to archival documents, the leadership of the Turkestan government, based on the economic, socio-political situation of the country, had determined measures to relocate 10,000 hungry people evacuated from the Volga and Trans-Ural regions of Russia to Ferghana, Ettisuv, and other regions by the end of 1921 [4]. However, the Bolshevik government, based on the situation in the famine regions of Russia, tried to relocate and relocate even more hungry people to Turkestan.

The Soviet government, at all costs, sought to quickly send the hungry people from the famine provinces to other fertile regions. The leadership of the RSFSR sent telegrams to the leaders of the republics to which the hungry people were to be relocated, stating that urgent decisions should be made on accepting

the evacuees. Based on such telegrams, on September 19, 1921, the Economic Council of the Turkestan Soviet Socialist Republic adopted a new resolution on the reception of evacuees from the Volga and Trans-Ural regions of Russia:

- The Central Executive Committee of the Turkestan Soviet Socialist Republic shall be tasked with determining the number, national composition, and able-bodied persons to be sent from the famine-stricken regions;
- In order to determine the exact number of those arriving in Turkestan, it shall be envisaged to open registration points in the cities of Samara, Orenburg, Astrakhan, and Krasnovodsk;
- The plan for the placement of those being evacuated to Turkestan in the relevant cities and regions shall be approved;
- The placement of those arriving from the famine-stricken regions shall be envisaged according to their national composition. It shall be determined that Russians shall be settled mainly in villages where Russians live, and Tatars, Bashkirs, Kazakhs, and other Muslims in villages and auls where the indigenous population is concentrated;
- Those coming from famine-stricken areas should be accommodated in schools, boarding houses and residential homes;
- The Turkestan Central Executive Committee and ICS should be determined to take into account that a large part of those evacuated from the Center to the region will be Muslims, since the majority of the local population speaks Turkic and practices Islam [5].

The total number of people evacuated to the region was 113,337 [6]. Based on the study of archival documents, it can be said that on September 1, 1921, according to the instructions of the Center, the People's Commissariat of Food of the Turkestan ASSR and the People's Commissariat of For this reason, at a meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR on October 22, 1921, the process of evacuating the hungry from the famine areas to Turkestan was discussed, and a new additional instruction was given to the Turkestan NKVD to take into its care those who could not be evacuated from the famine areas of Russia "on the basis of providing them with food" [7]. However, before this instruction was given, 30 thousand hungry people had been evacuated from the Samara province to fertile areas, in particular to the Turkestan ASSR, by October 1, 1921 [8]. Changes associated with the increase in the number of evacuees prompted the Turkestan NKVD and the NKVD to take additional measures, to eliminate the problems of providing the hungry with food and clothing. At the same time, by the end of 1921 and the beginning of 1922, it became very difficult to accept the influx of hungry people in the places and to provide them with food. For this reason, in January 1922, the Orenburg Provincial Committee for the Protection of the People's Commissariat of the Turkestan Although thousands of hungry people were provided with food at these points every day, due to the large number of hungry people evacuated to the country, the points could not cover all the hungry. Nevertheless, the "Feeding Points" spent 44,646 rubles per day, or about 1 million 339 thousand rubles per month, helping to provide food to the hungry [12]. In addition, special beds were also set up at some "Feeding Points" for hungry people evacuated from the Volga and Ural regions of Russia. For example, special beds for the hungry were built in the cities of Andizhan, Margilan, Osh, Kokand, and Skobelev. The hungry were also provided with food and clothing in the beds.

According to archival data, special instructions were developed at the local "Feeding Points" to ensure that the food provided to the population suffering from hunger from the Volga and Ural provinces of Russia was nutritious and affordable. For example, according to such instructions, the hungry were given food once a day in the morning and evening, boiled tea or water, about 60-65 grams of bread, and hot food. Also, each hungry person was provided with 200 grams of bread, 130 grams of meat, 16 grams of onions and carrots, rice, mung beans, and corn per day [13]. It was also determined that the types of food provided would be prepared alternately depending on the existing diseases of the hungry population. However, the lack of sufficient funds from the Center and the lack of food supplies caused the problems of the "Feeding Points" not being provided with enough products. For example, in 1922, the "very small amount of funds allocated by the Soviet government to feed the hungry evacuated to Ferghana and the lack of some food products, and the fact that some feeding stations were only provided with flour or corn" caused problems for the regional government leaders in providing food for the hungry. Therefore, some "feeding stations" provided the hungry with two meals a day, while others provided only one meal a day. Even at the end of 1922, as the

situation became more difficult, some stations provided 1 pound of dry bread per person, but no hot food. Because of the famine in the country, there was nothing else to eat at the "feeding stations". Nevertheless, 11,849 hungry residents brought from the Volga region were provided with food assistance.

The hungry evacuated from the Volga and Ural regions were also provided with clothing by the regional hunger relief commission. All regional hunger relief commissions in the Turkestan ASSR participated in the collection of this clothing. These commissions carried out measures to donate food and clothing to the hungry who came from the Volga and Ural regions. Local people, however, did not ignore such measures, but showed their humanity and donated as much as they could. The center, however, did not take into account the economic capabilities of the region and made many demands on the leaders of the region in organizing assistance to the hungry... Therefore, based on the instructions and demands sent from Russia, regular collection of donations and "aid weeks" were held in Turkestan. On August 16-19, 1922, the Ferghana regional hunger relief commission collected a lot of money and clothing within the framework of such a donation week. The people of the region donated 8 million 120 thousand soums in cash, 70 pounds of food, and 40 arshins of textile products, i.e. clothes, blankets, sheets, etc. to the Russian famine victims [14].

There were also problems and difficulties in the activities of the Soviet and party bodies, as well as the famine relief commissions under the Turkestan National Committee, which were engaged in assisting the famine victims evacuated from the famine-stricken regions of Russia. Due to the haste of the center, the party and Soviet bodies, and the famine relief commissions in the regions were unable to establish proper communication with each other during the process of receiving the famine victims evacuated to the region, distributing them to the places, determining their number, and separately accounting for those who arrived as refugees. Nevertheless, the solution of problems such as feeding, clothing and sheltering those evacuated to the country was determined in accordance with a special instruction developed in 1922, under the leadership of the chairman of the Central Commission for Assistance to the Hungry under the Turkestan Central Committee, M. Brett, and with the support of all Soviet organizations and executive committees in the country. At the same time, this instruction stated that various measures would be taken to collect and increase the funds spent on the accommodation and provision of the hungry evacuated to Turkestan, including the allocation of land to Turkestan farmers so that they could grow more food products and that the farmers would give the crops they grew on this land to supply the hungry who came from Russia, in return for which the farmers would be exempted from the food tax.

Conclusion

In short, the evacuation process caused great difficulties for Turkestan. Because the population of Turkestan had just emerged from the whirlpool of famine (1917-1919) and was eliminating its consequences. However, the Center did not pay serious attention to this and evacuated thousands of hungry people from the provinces of Russia where famine occurred to the country. As a result, the economic situation of the country went out of control. In these conditions, the Turkestan ASSR had to feed and clothe not only its own population, but also the hungry people who arrived as evacuees. The people of the country, who were in a helpless situation, showed examples of kindness, generosity and tolerance to the hungry people evacuated to Turkestan.

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