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FOREIGN MEDICAL WORKERS ABOUT THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF SOVIET PUBLIC HEALTH

[A Translation]

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The Soviet people and all progressive mankind are celebrating the 42nd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. During the years of the Soviet regime, under the wise leadership of our glorious Communist Party, historical success was achieved in all fields of economics and culture. This refers also to the field of public health.

During the years following the revolution, Soviet medical science and public health progressed to such an extent and acquired such vast experience that they serve as an inspiring example for physicians of the People's Democracies and arouse vast interest on the part of representatives of the medical science of capitalist countries.

Year by year an ever-growing number of scientists and physicians from an ever-growing number of countries come to us for study and advanced training and to become familiar with our achievements and to initiate Soviet experience.

The physicians of the Soviet Union not only warmly welcome their visitors, but more and more frequently they, too, travel to many countries, take part in medical congresses, conventions, conferences, symposia, and acquaint themselves with the organization and state of public health and medicine.

One meets with Soviet physicians in many countries. Carrying out their humane mission, they work in medical institutions of the Chinese People's Republic, the Korean People's Democratic Republic, the Vietnam Democratic Republic, India, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan; they give medical help to the inhabitants, assist in the training of local medical cadres and pass on to them the rich experience of Soviet medicine.

And, no matter where our scientists and physicians happen to be, they become greatly popular with the people because of their unselfish devotion to the noble cause of the protection of people's health.

One of the striking examples of assistance given to peoples in trouble is the trip of a group of Soviet scientists to Pakistan, and their work alongside local physicians in the struggle against smallpox and cholera.

The outbreak of these epidemics had spread over 17 regions of eastern Pakistan with millions of population. Our specialists waged an energetic struggle in the cities of Dacca and Barisal and their suburbs. In the hospital under their supervision 150 patients underwent treatments and almost all of them (with the exception of two) remained alive. The mortality in other hospitals was very high.

The Soviet Union sent to Pakistan free of charge three million doses of smallpox detritus, one thousand liters of cholera bacteriophages, and one thousand liters of anticholera vaccines for the treatment of patients. The positive results of the application of the anticholera bacteriophage in prophylaxis aroused great interest on the part of Pakistan scientists and physicians.

The great work carried out by Soviet specialists was highly esteemed by the government and the public of Pakistan. The inhabitants of the affected areas expressed their deep gratitude to our physicians for the successful elimination of the outbreaks of these grave diseases and for the rescue of many thousands of human lives from certain death.

The USSR was visited lately by dozens of medical delegations from European, American, Asian, and African countries. All our visitors were greatly impressed with the flourishing state of medical science, the high standard of public health, and the truly tremendous concern of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government for the protection of the people's health.

We are pleased that the contact between Soviet and United States scientists and physicians has been increasing lately. Judging by the experience of recent months, the mutual exchange of delegations of scientists from both countries has already proved useful and made it possible for them, on the basis of reciprocity, to become acquainted with the latest achievements in various fields of medicine.

All American scientists and physicians who ^{had} visited the USSR were struck by the achievements in public health and the attention that our country gives to the protection of the people's health. They visited a number of scientific research institutes, clinics and hospitals, new operations performed, and demonstrated their own skill in the use of the excellent Soviet medical apparatus and surgical instruments.

"The things we have seen in the USSR," declared the American scientists, "prove not only your remarkable achievements but they also reveal how little we have been informed about the progress of Soviet medicine and public health."

There is no doubt that the general thaw in the relationship between the USSR and the United States will promote a greater mutual understanding and friendship between physicians of the two countries.

A group of Austrian physicians who had been to the USSR, among them the Director of the Department of Health, Professor L. Breiteneker, visited the Institute of Labor Hygiene, and Occupational Diseases of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, the 1st Moscow Medical Institute, the Institute of Application and Construction of Prostheses, the Polyclinic of Automobile Plant imeni Likhachev, and other institutions.

"Everything we have seen," said Professor Breiteneker, "attests to the high level of development of medical science in the USSR... Russia is one of the most progressive countries of the world in the field of social assistance." Filled with admiration for the achievements of the Soviet State in the field of public health and social security, the Austrian visitors declared that they would endeavour to introduce in their own country much of what they had seen in the USSR.

During the recent cholera epidemic in Thailand the Soviet Union sent to that country bacteriophages and anti-cholera vaccines. The friendly act of our people has deeply

stirred the inhabitants of the affected Thailand areas. The Thailand physician Erbna, who visited the USSR, told us about it. On behalf of his people he expressed deep gratitude to the Soviet physicians and to our government for the assistance given them. "The prompt dispatch of vaccines and bacteriophages at the very onset of the epidemic was a truly tremendous help to our people and saved thousands of lives in my country, since we had had no anticholera preparations at the time."

A physician from Bangkok was surprised by the achievements of Soviet medicine. He saw with his own eyes that in Soviet enterprises there was enormous concern for the health of workers, who have at their disposal all the achievements of modern science. During a trip to Georgia the visitor saw how much money the Soviet Union spends for the development of health resorts. "The fact," said Dr. Erbna, "that every year hundreds of thousands of workers receive treatment and relax in the health resorts of the USSR is the greatest achievement of the Soviet regime."

The Director General of the Health Department of Iran, Dr. Faris, has been most of all interested in the state of public health in the Soviet republics of Central Asia, particularly in Uzbekistan. His request was satisfied. He became thoroughly acquainted with the general organization of the protection of people's health; visited a textile combine in Tashkent where he observed the work of health centers; talked to workers of the medicosanitary section; and visited the excellently equipped polyclinical department with its large number of medical offices, its infirmary, etc.

"I had not expected to see such rapid development of public health in this once backward and enslaved region, particularly in its rural areas," said the visitor, "I have been also gratified by the information that the outstanding scientist Avicenna is highly honored in Tashkent." It happens that it is in Uzbekistan that for the first time in history and with the active participation of medical scientists the works of the founders of Central Asian medicine were translated into the Russian and Uzbek languages.

In the visitors' opinion, the achievements of Uzbek physicians can be explained by the utmost closeness of the organs of public health to the people. In many capitalist countries the medical institutions are up-to-date organizations, but they are almost inaccessible to various strata of the people.

The Iranian public health worker declared that our country has reasons to be proud of the achievements attained during the years of the Soviet regime.

In friendly Indonesia great efforts are being made towards the development of public health. The Indonesian physicians who have heard much about the achievements of Soviet medicine naturally strive to get better acquainted with it, and travel more and more often to the USSR. Such a trip was made recently by Dr. Adzhidarmo. It turned out to be quite fruitful.

This is what the visitor said before leaving for his country: "I have become greatly interested in the organization of Soviet public health. I am surprised at the progress achieved by the USSR in this field, especially by the fact that the Soviet people receive organized medical help that is assured by an adequate number of physicians and medical personnel as well as by the availability of all necessary medical apparatus and instruments."

"It is well known that our country is still very young, and naturally there are still many shortcomings in the field of public health. But we work persistently and hope that, with the assistance of the Soviet Union, we shall be able to achieve great success... I hope that everything I have seen and studied in the field of Soviet public health will be useful to our country, Indonesia."

Many foreign visitors have also been to our i.e. Ukrainian Republic lately. Kiev was visited by physicians and scientists from the United Arab Republic, Greece, Ceylon, Liberia, India, and from many People's Democracies of Europe and Asia.

The visitors, especially those from capitalist and dependent countries, on their first trip to the Ukraine, had been struck by the achievements in the field of public health. They were informed that only a few decades ago, before the Great October Socialist Revolution, there were only three children's consultation offices in the Ukraine, and that there were none at all for women, whereas at the present time, there are over 2,600 institutions of this kind. Before the revolution there were almost no rural maternity hospitals on the Republic's territory, but at present their number exceeds 7,500. Over 95 percent of all pregnant women in villages give birth in hospitals.

After becoming acquainted with a number of scientific institutions in Kiev, the Egyptian physician M. Shoi'b expressed, on behalf of the visitors, their deep gratitude for the opportunity to study more intimately the structure and the scientific subjects of scientific institutes, and the organization of medical-and-prophylactic institutions in the city as well as in rural areas, where they saw inaction rayon and district hospitals, a fel'dsher station, and also a kol-khoz maternity hospital.

Our country was visited by a delegation of eminent medical specialists from far-away Argentina. Professor O. Marottoli made a speech about his experience in treating paralysis of the upper extremities; Professor Slullitel' gave a lecture on "Tumors of the Bones"; Professor O. Kames read a report on the treatment of peptic ulcers after gastroenterostomy and resection of the stomach.

The Argentine scientists became acquainted with the aims and activities of the Academy of Medical Sciences and with the work of a number of medical institutions. They showed great interest in the research in the field of transplantation of organs of animals.

According to Professor Erkole's statement, the acquaintance with the problems studied in scientific research institutes and medical institutions, as well as the acquaintance with public health workers, helped the visitors to "work out a clear idea of Soviet medicine. We shall tell our colleagues in far-away Argentina about the great work that is being done in the Soviet Union." Professor O. Marottoli mentioned the warm attitude not only of physicians but of the entire Soviet people towards the visitors. "Everything we have seen in your country deeply stirred and interested us. We hope that our delegation's visit will mark the beginning of a lively exchange of experiences between the physicians of our countries."

Naturally, a particularly close and ever-growing friendship exists between the medical and public health workers of the US'R and the People's Democracies. The scientific ties of Soviet and Chinese physicians have been growing stronger. "We shall always gratefully remember the great Soviet people who constantly extend us brotherly unselfish assistance and inspire us," declared the Health Minister of the KNR /Chinese People's Republic/, Li Te-ch'uan. "The Chinese people will never forget the assistance which Soviet physicians extend to our public health."

The solidarity and cooperation of Chinese and Soviet medical workers have been growing steadily stronger. It is difficult to name a single scientific conference or medical convention in the USSR in which Chinese scientists have not taken part. Soviet specialists have been frequent visitors of the KNR, also. Pharmacologists of both countries have studied native means of treating hypertension, nephritis, and diabetes. There are many Chinese students in Soviet medical institutes; not a few Chinese physicians are taking advanced training courses in the USSR and many have defended or are preparing to defend dissertations for academic medical degrees.

The mutual visits of physicians, the creative cooperation and exchange of experiences -- all this is striking evidence of the brotherly friendship, the monolithic solidarity, and the collaboration of the two great nations.

Polish hygienists who had come for an exchange of experiences were cordially received in the Soviet Union.

"One arrives at the truth through comparison," said A. Levandovska, "and so we visited the sanitary-epidemiological stations and the Institutes of Moscow; we have been observing things and asking questions, and making comparisons in order to take advantage of all that has been achieved."

The Polish physicians were interested in many problems. They sought detailed information about food blocks ["pishcheblyki"] in hospitals, about the organization of the nutrition of workers in various professions, and about methods of combating food poisoning. They were interested also in problems of malaria, parasitology, and helminthology. The Polish visitors received exhaustive answers to all their questions. Soviet scientists and physicians treated them most cordially and shared with them their knowledge, their experience, and their plans for the future.

"We were received most cordially everywhere. No time or effort were spared to show us everything and inform us about everything," declared the Polish visitors. "All our meetings with the Soviet colleagues were full of warmth and a sincere desire to share experiences and knowledge and to strengthen friendly relations."

The visit of our Polish friends to the USSR has contributed to the further consolidation of the friendship of the physicians of both countries.

The Minister of Health of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, P. Kolarov, who had visited the USSR, also expressed his very high opinion of the achievements of Soviet medicine. He pointed out that in recent times Bulgarian physicians met in their own country a number of famous Soviet scientists who rendered them great assistance by their advice and experience. For example, O.P. Kolchankova, corresponding member of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, "gave valuable help to specialists of the food industry. Professor A.K. Corchakov demonstrated to our physicians the tremendous achievements of Soviet surgery." The Bulgarian ophthalmologists had joyfully welcomed Professor N.M. Pavlov who shared with them his knowledge and experience. Professor A.I. Kargamanov pleased our phthisiologists and microbiologists with his lectures. To all these comrades," said P. Kolarov, "our heartfelt gratitude."

According to the repeated declarations of the Bulgarian physicians, the Soviet experience in the field of public health has been their guiding star and an inspiring example for the young Bulgarian public health in its development along the socialist path.

Considerable progress has been achieved by the physicians of the Korean's Democratic Republic. Through their spokesman, Minister of Health Li Ben Nana, they stated that they owed their achievements to the unselfish material and technical assistance and moral support of the Soviet people and to the workers of all socialist countries. The Korean physicians who visited the USSR became acquainted with the work of many medical institutions. Soviet physicians sent their Korean friends modern medical equipment, among other things, the G01-S0-400 apparatus for electrosarcosis and so forth.

Soviet scientists in the KDR headed by Professor V.D. Timakov, gave direct help in the devising of a perspective plan for the development of the Republic's medical science, a plan which, if successfully carried out, will lead to even greater development of Korean public health and to improvement of the health of workers of the Korean People's Democratic Republic.

Similar friendly and close relations exist between the medical workers of our country and those of the GDR (German Democratic Republic), Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and all the People's Democracies, which are successfully building a new life and a socialist society.