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From the Archive Data on Deportations (1941 and 1944)

Annotation

The formation of multi-ethnic structure of Kazakhstan is complex, and in its own way a unique process which happened during in a long historical period. One of the key points of this process is deportations of nations (carried out in the 30-40s of the XX century) “guilty” for the Soviet regime. As it was typical for that time, within a quite short period great masses of people were moved to the Republic from their native lands. It is necessary to mention that besides an official punishment in the form of exile, the deportees faced unforeseen difficulties (absence of vital necessities, which was not even provided by the questionable sentence). Proceeding from the archive documents we can say that the government was at least indifferent to special settlers’ destiny, ignoring the requests of corresponding SovNarComs and not taking necessary measures for the improvement of the situation with deportees (and in some cases – even for saving their lives).

Keywords: Kazakhstan population, multi-ethnic composition, deportations, provision.

It is known that the formation of Kazakhstan’s multi-ethnic structure took place within a long historical period. As far back as in the period of colonization by the Russian Empire the tsarist government promoted migration of peasants to new annexed territories in every possible way and attracted them by empty lands.

In the document from the President’s Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan “Extraction from report of Central Election Commission of USSR “On national minorities servicing and on land relations in Kazakstan” (the republic’s name in that period) it is mentioned that in the period of census (1926-1927) besides the main nationalities (Kazakhs, Karakalpaks, Russians) there were registered about 1 300 000 persons of so-called national minorities (about 20% of the whole Kazakhstan’s population). The structure of national minorities was as follows: Ukrainians – 818 000, Uzbeks – 210 000, Taranchins (Uighurs) – 51 000, Tatars –

78 000, Germans – 46 000, Kurama – 15 000, Turkmens – 9 000, Tajiks – 8 000, Dunghans – 7 000 and some other nationalities – Jews, Kyrgyz, Belorussians, Mordvins, Moldavians, Estonians, Latvians, Bulgarians, etc. In this document they pointed out the main peculiarity of national minorities' settlement at the Republic's territory – their disunity and mixture with the main population and between each other.

According to this document, homogenous groups of national minorities were not found. The authors of the document mentioned this fact on purpose, as because of these factors (and due to the lack of financing) the authorities could not increase the number of administrative units (soviets and volosts) for national minorities. And in the 1926-1927 due to some economical upsurge and satisfaction the needs of national minorities, Central Executive Committee of Kazakhstan started enlarging national homogenous soviets and volosts.

We can see the results of this activity on German population figures (for example). On October 1, 1926 there were 20 soviets (in auls, kishlaks, villages, settlements) in the republic, and on the October 1, 1927 – already 42 [1, pp. 20-21].

Another period of considerable multi-ethnicity rise in Kazakhstan's history is deportations of nations declared by the regime "guilty". This period played a special role in the formation of Kazakhstan's multi-ethnicity. Hundreds of thousands people of these nationalities were deported to Kazakhstan.

Even at the present time researchers give various reasons for these actions. Besides traditional opinions there are also some extraordinary ones. Possibly, this subject needs much more detailed investigation, and there will be found some new facts and materials.

But the official reasons for deportations were always good. For example, the Letter of Instruction of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) to the republic's party bodies dated on October 4, 1941 [1 p. 102], signed by the Secretary of Central Committee of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) N. Skvortsov. According to this document, Soviet authorities found out that among the Germans of the Volga River basin there were thousands of enemy agents and spies. By the signal from Germany they were ready to make explosions in the German Republic of the Volga River basin and neighboring regions. In order to prevent the bloodshed and diversions, the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR issued a Decree "On resettlement of Germans living in the Volga River basin" of August 26, 1941. It was stated: - "... None of the Germans living in the Volga River basin informed Soviet authorities about the presence of such a great amount of agents and spies, consequently the German population of the Volga River basin districts is concealing among themselves enemies of Soviet people and Soviet authority...". Further in this document they said that in case of their activity, and bloodshed, the government will have to apply punitive measures against the whole German population of the Volga River basin,

according to the war law. Thus, mass deportations of population were presented as compelled and performed “in order to avoid undesirable occurrences and prevent a serious bloodshed” [1 p. 102-103]. For example, according to the Decree of GKO of October 8, 1941 # 744 CC “On resettlement of Germans from Georgian, Azerbaijani and Armenian SSR”, it was planned to deport to Kazakhstan 23 580, 22 741 and 212 persons correspondingly [1, p. 167].

In this connection there was issued a decree of SovNarCom KazSSR and TsK KP(b)K of the October 13, 1941. It was planned that deported population from Transcaucasia will be settled by oblasts (regions) as follows:

Alma-Atinskaya oblast – 5000 people;
Akmolinskaya oblast – 5000 people;
East Kazakhstan oblast – 2000 people;
Dzhambulskaya oblast – 5000 people;
Karagandinskaya oblast – 5000 people;
Kustanayskaya oblast – 5000 people;
Pavlodarskaya oblast – 5000 people;
North Kazakhstan oblast – 5000 people;
Semipalatinskaya oblast – 5000 people;
South Kazakhstan oblast – 5000 people;

We can make an opinion about the planned preparatory measures on acceptance and housing of deported population as per the unofficial internal report “Information on needs in house building and provision of facilities for settlers” dated on “no earlier than October 2”. (in the archive it was marked out that this document is not official, as it has only one of the legal force requisites – the executor’s initial). In this document it is said that according to the Decree of August 28, 1941 the State Committee of Defense issued the following plan for moving Germans to Kazakh SSR:

6 of September, 1941 – 163 600 people;
21 of September, 1941 – 142 000 people;
22 of September, 1941 – 110 000 people;
Total – 415 600 people [1, p. 105].

On the 2 of October, 1941 there were deported 132 610 people to the republic. The deported Germans were moved to existing kolkhozes and sovkhoses, and also the authorities organized some new kolkhozes. 12 oblasts of Kazakhstan participated in this process (only West Kazakhstan and Guriev oblasts were excluded). It was planned to build about 100 000 houses for Germans. At that time kolkhozes and sovkhoses had 7 266 unoccupied houses which were purchased, repaired and built specially for planned settlers but not used because of the non-arrival.

According to the regulations on acceptance and arrangement of Germans settlers, it was planned to distribute cattle for their personal use. This operation was commissioned to the People's Commissariat (NarComat) of Sovkhozes and the People's Commissariat of Meat and Milk Industry (NarComMyasoMolProm) of USSR.

But it is necessary to mention one important remark: at that moment Kazakhstan's NarComats did not get any instructions from Soviet Union's NarComats. Their requests were not answered at that moment. The issue of financing for economic arrangement (dwelling houses construction, exchange operations on grain fodder, cattle, etc.) was also not under solution [1, pp. 101-102].

The letter of South-Kazakhstan ObCom of TsK(b)K to Secretary of TsKP(b)K Skvortsov, where they say about the distressful situation concerning deported Germans, because the absolute majority of them arrived without corresponding documents confirming the passing of production means and food to the state. The settlers had just acceptance statements (given for the whole their property – houses, cattle, bread, trolleys, etc.) signed by representatives of district land department or district's authorities. And these documents were formalized carelessly; most of them had no seals. The receipts from procurement bodies were practically missing. Correspondingly, the local authorities had not right to distribute anything by these documents [1, p. 108-109].

More detailed information helping to understand the situation clearly, we can get from an official correspondence of NarComs (People's Commissariats). For example in the letter of People's Commissar of Forest Industry of Kazakh SSR Kh. Bayuzakov to Vice-Chairman of SovNarCom D.A. Kunaev, dated by October 12, 1944. In this letter he says that in March 381 deported families arrived from the North Caucasus (1246 people, among them 517 people are able-bodied). In the period: March – October 10, 1944 the number of departed people is 720/226 families.

The new specpereselentsy (special settlers) were accommodated in barracks which were not divided into apartments. These barracks were not divided into apartments, because in 1-2 months it was planned to move them to new sectors of saxaul gathering. On October 10, of 29 barracks 25 were reorganized into "apartment type" barracks, other 2 were planned to reorganize by the November 1, and the rest 2 will be used as dormitories.

The author of letter mentioned that in the conditions of Koskuduk settlement it is impossible to observe sanitary rules, as the construction of permanent dwelling houses could not be arranged. Therefore the living conditions of special settlers were worst than at any other works. Food issues were very problematic, especially for family members, as only bread was prescribed for them.

In spite of this, it was decided to “attach” 539 people to public catering in March and April, 419 in May, 310 in June, 260 in July, 230 in August, 170 in September and October. Besides, according to this document, children who lost their parents were not taken care of. So 32 children were fed by lumbering office.

Provision with clothes, footwear and bedclothes was also “intolerable”. Lumbering office had to distribute clothes among special settlers uniform (100 000 Roubles cost) free of charge, because the salaries of special settlers were low (max. 250 Roubles per month). Correspondingly, they made about up to 1000 sets of warm uniform, 325 pairs of felt boots; and 250 leather pieces were under finishing, so it was planned to produce 1500-2000 pairs of work boots for the coming winter. It was covering 60-70% of needs for Koskuduk lumbering office, and only for 2-3 months. An especially urgent issue was the provision of dependants with clothes and bedclothes.

Medical service for settlers was insufficient. As it was mentioned in the letter, there was 1 doctor and 1 medical assistant for the whole Koskuduk, so it was impossible to cure all the workers. As the climate of Kuskuduk is severe and living conditions, medical service were bad, the rate death rate among the settlers was very high. At that Kh. Bayuzakov mentioned that deaths mainly occurred among Chechen settlers (150 persons of 196 died totally). Ill settlers were almost doomed, as the author of letter mentioned that their local measures were mainly useless until the necessary action by higher authorities are taken.

We can also see from tables shown in report of D. Rodin (Director of Department for Economical Organization of Special Settlers and Evacuated Population at SovNarCom of KazSSR), appendix 2 for ordered and actually received timber for 9 months of 1944.

Name of (oblast) region	Timber in Cub. Meters		%	Comments
	Ordered	Received		
Alma-Atinskaya	3820	815	24,2	
Akmolinskaya	1800	None	-	
Aktyubinskaya	2040	618	30,0	
East Kazakhstan	2340	None	-	
Dzhambulskaya	10120	150	1,3	
Karagandinskaya	7380	61	0,8	
Kyzyl-Ordinskaya	6250	None	-	

Kokchetauskaya	1220	None	-	
Kustanayskaya	2800	1640	58,9	
Pavlodarskaya	600	None	-	
North Kazakhstan	2580	700	27,1	
Semipalatinskaya	2200	1940	88,2	
Taldy- Kurganskaya	6020	166	2,7	
South Kazakhstan	5500	300	5,5	
TOTAL	54 940	6 390	11,8	

This document is very informative. As seen from this table, even the main needs of settlers were satisfied insufficiently.

Other data can be seen from report of D. Rodin (Director of Department for Economical Organization of Special Settlers and Evacuated Population at SovNarCom of KazSSR) to Secretary of TsK KP(b)K Shayakhmetov Zh. dated on October 19, 1944.

It is known that for the special settlers' issues, there was a Direction # 18597 providing the following construction materials in *any circumstances*:

Timber – 10 000 Cub. Meters;

Glass – 25 000 Square Meters;

Cast iron – 700 Tones;

Nails – 40 Tones;

Cotton clothes – 400 000 Meters;

Wool – 100 Tones.

In reality the delivery was just the following:

Nails – 40 Tones;

Cast iron – 700 Tones;

Besides, 400 000 Meters of cotton clothes were shipped and were on the way at that time.

They asked People’s Commissar for State Control of Soviet Union (comrade Popov), State plan of Soviet Union (comrade Voznesenskiy), Council of People Commissars (comrades Kossygin and Mikoyan), and People’s Commissariat for Communication Lines (comrade L.M. Kaganovich) to take measures against supplying People’s Commissariats.

But the construction materials were not shipped yet according to the document’s date. Because of timber absence, and especially glass, the construction works for special settlers’ dwelling were interrupted. Before that they built 8593 houses and reconstructed 20506 empty houses, but as there was no glass for windows, 29 000 special settlers’ families could not move in. Over 20 000 able-bodied special settlers who worked in warm weather, could not work in October because of no clothes, footwear, and residence. In the documents it was said that the situation was threatening. *Many telegrams to Moscow asking for taking measures and speeding the shipment up were not answered.*

Of course, it is excessively to mention that during such great operations family members were losing each other. As per the reference note from Anissiomov, Human Resources Instructor at TsK KP(b) of Kazakhstan to Secretary of TsK KP(b) of Kazakhstan comrade Zh. Shayakhmetov “Situation with economic arrangement of special settlers from North Caucasus on September 20, 1944” dated on September 23, 1944, the number of deported families from North Caucasus was 111763. It was 839 less than on July 10 due to realized measures on family reunion (information on September 10, 1944).

Settlement process can be seen from these tables:

	July 10	August 10	September 10
In kolkhozes	64,9	61,1	61,5
In sovkhoses	9,7	10,5	10,9
In industry	25,4	28,4	27,6

(In thousands)

Percentage of special settlers’ families accepted to kolkhozes

July 10	August 10	September 10
72,5	91,9	91,4

Generally the situation did not change for the better. It is proved by the information in the subsequent documents. For example, in his reference note the

Director of Department for economical organization of special settlers and evacuated population at SovNarCom of KazSSR D. Rodin to Chairman of Soviet of People's Commissars of KazSSR comrade Undassynov "On economical arrangement of special settlers and necessary assistance" dated on December 10, 1944.

According to the reports from regions, on November 20, 1944 there were 107 947 families (439 406 people) in the republic distributed in the economy branches.

In kolkhozes – 64 775 families

(among them 61533 families were accepted to kolkhozes);

In sovkhoses – 12 636 families;

In industrial enterprises and organizations – 30536 families;

The dwelling houses were built for 91 022 families;

11 745 houses were built anew;

24 612 empty houses were reconstructed;

18 285 houses were repaired.

In this document the author said that in the course of these works the republican Soviet of the People's Commissariats and Central Committee of Kazakhstan's Communist Party made some decisions. For realization of these decisions in the regions some authorized persons were sent from the above-named organizations. Besides, there were sent many telegrams to regional authorities asking to take measures on economic arrangements for settlers.

However, many of regional authorities did not fulfill those instructions. In the document they said that it was resulted in threatening situation with settlers' housing. It was reported about 16 925 families who were living in dwellings unsuitable for winter conditions (in the whole republic). Especially bad was the situation in Akmolinskaya oblast (4 000 families), East Kazakhstan (3 500), Karagandinskaya (4 000), South Kazakhstan (4 000) and Kokchetavskaya (1 300). The conclusion was so that no authorities solved the problems of settlers' housing.

Furthermore, even the instructions on warm clothes and footwear provision failed.

For example, in Kokchetavskaya oblast they even did not approve the distribution plan and did not make felt boots of the processed wool.

Among all the oblasts only Pavlodarskaya, North Kazakhstan, Alma-Atinskaya, South Kazakhstan and Kustanayskaya processed leather and sheepskins for clothes and footwear.

In the rest of the regions the footwear and clothes were not produced though there was an urgent need.

There is a list of construction materials for settlers:

Timber – 6,5 thousand Cubic Meters

Nails – 32 Tones

Glass – 3337 Square Meters.

It was absolutely insufficient. So because of the absence of timber and especially glass, starting October the construction of houses was suspended in the republic. 11 475 houses built anew and 24 612 reconstructed houses had no windows, so special settlers' families who had occupied these houses before had to leave them and settle more closely in the houses.

Again, a great number of telegrams to Moscow asking for shipment of materials were not answered. So the situation was the same: in the document the author told about unavailability of houses, the absence of firewood, clothes and footwear. As the author said the situation with work clothes was threatening. Over 20 000 physically healthy settlers who could work only in warm weather were not able to work now.

There were about 150 000 dystrophic people. In the reference note it was said that if they are not provided with food products (bread), *they will die out (the daily death rate among special settlers in the republic was about 300 people).*

As we see from the documents data, the punishment for “guilty” nations was not limited only by an exile. Besides the official sentence they faced with many awful problems. Authorities did not observe even their lawful rights. According to the archive documents we may conclude that the above-mentioned living conditions were common for special settlers. Since some part of deportation materials is still in secret, the history of nations' exile is still waiting for its reconsideration.

The formation of Kazakhstan's multi-ethnic structure is a complex problem requiring a comprehensive research on the present historical stage. It has many aspects and some of them were not studied properly yet. Many historical processes effected on this issue. Hopefully, in the framework of the present day research projects it will become known better.

Резюме

В статье описываются обстоятельства одного из процессов, повлиявших на формирование полиэтнического состава населения Республики Казахстан – депортации народов (на основе данных за 1941 и 1944 гг.). Основное

внимание уделено угрожающему положению с хозяйственным обустройством спецпереселенцев.

Summary

In this article the author described circumstances of one of the process which effected to formation of Kazakhstan's multi-ethnic composition – deportation of nations (based on data for 1941 and 1944). The main attention is given to threatening situation with economic arrangement of special settlers.

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