

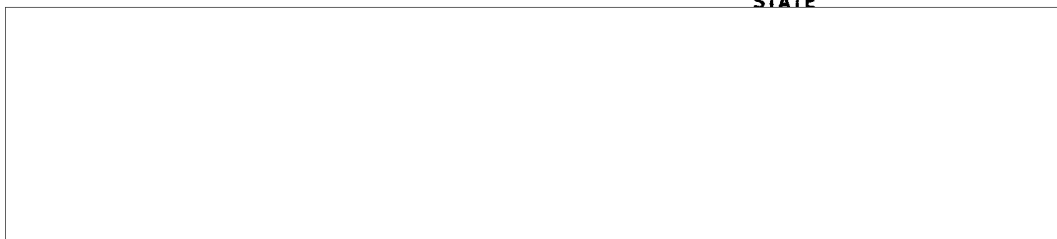
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 TAGS: PGOV, OREP, SCUL, UR
 SUBJECT: CODEL PELL: PELL/SARBANES MEETING WITH MINISTER
 OF EDUCATION PROKOFIEV IN MOSCOW

1. IN GREETING HIS GUESTS, MINISTER OF EDUCATION MIKHAIL PROKOFIEV SPOKE OF THE SMALL SIZE OF HIS MINISTRY, WHICH SHARED THE FIELD WITH THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND SPECIALIZED EDUCATION AND ALSO WITH THE STATE COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, WHEREAS IN THE UNITED STATES ALL DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WITH EDUCATION ARE COMBINED IN ONE DEPARTMENT--A SITUATION WHICH PROKOFIEV SEEMED TO ENVY. THOUGH THERE ARE THREE BUREAUCRACIES IN THE SOVIET UNION, THE MINISTER CONTINUED, THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAS ONLY 300 EMPLOYEES IN MOSCOW.

2. IN ANSWER TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, PROKOFIEV SAID THAT THE LENGTH OF SCHOOLING IS EITHER TEN OR ELEVEN YEARS, DEPENDING ON WHETHER RUSSIAN IS STUDIED AS A SECOND LANGUAGE. THUS, THERE IS AN EXTRA YEAR OF STUDY IN THE BALTIC REPUBLICS, AS AN EXAMPLE. CONTINUING, HE SAID THAT THE BEGINNING SCHOOL AGE WILL DROP FROM SEVEN TO SIX; STUDENTS WORK THREE YEARS WITH THE SAME TEACHER BEFORE BEGINNING TO ATTEND CLASSES WITH DIFFERENT TEACHERS WHO SPECIALIZE; MATH IS COMPULSORY IN ALL 10 YEARS, AS IS STUDY OF THE MOTHER TONGUE AND LITERATURE; PHYSICS STUDY BEGINS IN THE FIFTH GRADE, AND NATURAL SCIENCE IN THE FOURTH; THE LENGTH OF STUDY OF GENERAL GEOGRAPHY VARIES FROM REPUBLIC TO REPUBLIC AND EVEN WITHIN REPUBLICS, BUT ECONOMIC AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY IS STUDIED FOR FOUR YEARS; HISTORY BEGINS IN THE FOURTH GRADE AND IS TAUGHT SEQUENTIALLY, BEGINNING WITH ANCIENT; THERE IS INCREASED OPPORTUNITY BEGINNING WITH THE EIGHTH GRADE TO DRAW FROM ELECTIVES; A SECOND LANGUAGE (OTHER THAN RUSSIAN WHERE IT IS NOT THE MOTHER TONGUE) IS TAKEN BEGINNING WITH THE FOURTH YEAR.

3. IN ANSWER TO FURTHER QUESTIONS ON LANGUAGE STUDY, PROKOFIEV SAID THAT 70 PERCENT TAKE ENGLISH OR GERMAN, WHICH ARE NOW STUDIED ABOUT EQUALLY, WHEREAS ONLY A

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FEW YEARS AGO, GERMAN WAS THE MOST POPULAR LANGUAGE. FRENCH IS TAKEN BY 20 PERCENT, WITH THE OTHER TEN PERCENT TAKING PRIMARILY ARABIC, TURKISH AND SPANISH, WITH SPECIAL BOARDING SCHOOLS OFFERING CHINESE, "A VERY DIFFICULT LANGUAGE." IN ADDITION TO, AND AT AN EARLIER DATE THAN, STUDY OF ONE'S MOTHER TONGUE, THERE IS COMPULSORY STUDY OF RUSSIAN, BEGINNING NO LATER THAN IN THE SECOND GRADE--DEPENDING ON THE REPUBLIC--AND SOMETIMES AS EARLY AS IN KINDERGARTEN. THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL ALSO VARIES CONSIDERABLY FROM REPUBLIC TO REPUBLIC. AT TASHKENT U., FOR EXAMPLE, SOME COURSES ARE IN RUSSIAN, SOME IN UZBEK, SOME IN BOTH LANGUAGES.

4. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM MRS. SARBANES, MINISTER PROKOFIEV SAID THAT 70 PERCENT OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE WOMEN. PERFORMANCE IS EVALUATED BY A COMMISSION CONSISTING OF HALF TEACHERS AND HALF BUREAUCRATS. SALARIES ARE BASED ON AN 18-HOUR WEEK, AND ALL TEACHERS WITH THE SAME LENGTH OF SERVICE AND THE SAME DESIGNATION OF RESPONSIBILITY GET THE SAME SALARY. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT SOME SUBJECTS REQUIRE MORE CHECKING OF HOMEWORK AND VARIOUS PAPERS BY STUDENTS, AND THOSE WHO TEACH THESE SUBJECTS RECEIVE AN EXTRA AMOUNT. THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER CLASS IS 40, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 29. CLASSES ARE OF 45 MINUTE DURATION, WITH VARYING BREAKS BETWEEN. PHYSICAL EDUCATION IS COMPULSORY, SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK--AT LEAST TWICE--AND A RICH VARIETY OF SPECIAL CLUBS, ARTS AND HOBBY CLUBS IS AVAILABLE IN ALL SCHOOLS.

ZIMMERMANN
END OF MESSAGE

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