

Y.V.ANDROPOV IN THE ESTONIAN SSR
(26 - 28 December 1973)

- Sources: 1) Articles in Rahva Haal, Tallinn, by ETA /Estonian Telegraph Agency/
- a) "Seltsimees J.V.Andropov Eesti NSVs" /Comrade Y.V.Andropov in the Estonian SSR/
 - b) "Teadmiseks pidulikust koosolekust osavõtjatele" /For the Knowledge of Those Participating at the Festive Meeting/. Both articles on 27 December, p.1.
 - c) "Noukogude rahvaste soprus on meie voitude ammendamatu allikas" /The Friendship of Soviet Peoples is the Unexhaustible Source of Our Victories/ 28 Dec p.1-2.
 - d) "Seltsimees J.V.Andropov meie vabariigis" /Comrade Y.V.Andropov in Our Republic/ 28 December, p.3.
 - e) "Seltsimees J.V.Andropov lahkus Tallinnast" /Comrade Y.V.Andropov left Tallinn/ 29 December, p.1.
- 2) Same articles in Noorte Haal and Sovetskaya Estoniya, Tallinn, by same source, ETA, at same dates, on same pages.
- 3) "Andropov Speech on Awarding Friendship Order to Estonia",
USSR National Affairs, III. 2 Jan 74, pp R1-R9.

Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, member of the CPSU CC, also the Chairman of the State Security Committee at the Council of Ministers of the USSR, arrived in Tallinn by train on 26 December in order to present the Order of Friendship of Peoples awarded to the Estonian SSR and the Order of Lenin awarded to the City of Tallinn. The presentation was made at the specially called joint meeting of the CPEST CC, the Supreme Soviet of Estonian SSR and different other functionaries and representatives of workers and of the military.

Andropov said in his speech at this meeting among others:

... the apologists of the bourgeoisie were wrong when asserting that the bolsheviks would not be capable of solving the nationality problems.... The most correct and complete solution of the extremely complex nationality question could be found only in the course of the solution of the class tasks of the socialist revolution.

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... The two decades of bourgeois rule /in Estonia/ were a gloomy period of political reaction and suffering for the working people... But the Estonian people manifested what it wanted - Soviet Estonia voluntarily joined the fraternal family of soviet republics. This insured for the Estonian people the defense of their national interests and the successful resolution of fundamental sociopolitical problems.* In its turn, the entry of the young Baltic republics into the structure of the Soviet Union increased the strength and possibilities of the Soviet state.

... Only under socialism have the true opportunities of the Estonian working people opened up..... Every ten days today the republic /Estonian SSR/ produces more manufactured output than was produced in the entire year of 1940. In agriculture three times fewer people are working than in 1940, but the output is 1.5 times larger...

Andropov cited the names of some outstanding workers, among them some singers and writers.** He said that the process of approximation of national cultures by no means leads to their uniformity, "as different bourgeois 'sovietologues' are vainly trying to assert in the West." ... Our socialist culture develops as multinational, and at the same time it is profoundly international in its main contents...

Then he turned to the shortcomings, "because some of the negative indexes of the economy of the republic, mildly speaking, arouse perplexity:" ***

- 26 enterprises have not fulfilled the target of growth of labor productivity;

Analyst's comments: *: In blunt language this means the extermination or deportation to Siberia of more than ten percent of leading personalities of all branches of nation's life.

** In "USSR National Affairs" of 2 Jan 74 page R4 and R5 some names are misspelled, missing or different of those mentioned in the newspapers. The newspapers give: Alfred Valdov, Aksel Pärtel /Pertel/, Ruppert Kaik /Kayk/, Zinaida Agafonova, Friedrich /Fridrikh/ Tamm, Oskar Kõis /Kyays/, Toomas /Tomas/ Soosaluste, Georg Ots, Tiit Kuusik /Tiyt Kuuzik/, Juhan /Yukhan/ Smuul, August Jakobson /Yakobson/ and Egon Rannet.

*** Andropov did not say "to put it bluntly" as translated in the "USSR National Affairs" page R5. He said "softly speaking". In Russian use this means that the situation about which he was to speak is much worse than only "arousing perplexity" or puzzlement.

- the nonproductive expenditure of working time is still great in a number of enterprises;
- only 63 percent of the plan for putting of the fixed capital into operation was fulfilled by December;
- in the building industry one-third of the annual plan for commissioning of housing falls into the very last month of the year, causing rush which reflects on the quality of construction.

About the foreign policy course of the 24th Party Congress, - the consolidation of peace, Andropov said that it is a matter of creating the most favorable conditions for communist construction in the own country and for the development of the struggle for socialism and progress throughout the world. The strategy has yielded real and tangible fruits.

... The turn in the international relations from military confrontation to a relaxation of tension is the result of change of balance of power in favor of socialism...

... Never before has the foreign policy of the Soviet Union been so effective or has produced such splendid results within so short a period... Comrade Brezhnev's visits to the socialist countries, the United States, West Germany and France have played a major role in this.

... The prime international duty of the party is to consolidate the positions of world socialism, the unity of socialist states, the friendship and all-round collaboration between them...

... Problems and issues are being now solved /in the international politics/ on which in the past it was found impossible to make any practical advance.

... The course of development of international events reaffirms the fact that "our party has worked out the current and the only true course under the present circumstances."

...But we do not close our eyes to the dangerous, aggressive actions of the aggressive circles of imperialists in the West.

...In the Near East "our community is in favor of the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Arab lands which they occupied in 1967..."

... In Indochina the Saigon authorities are sabotaging the fulfillment of Paris agreement. Therefore the patriotic fighters are giving a rebuff to Saigon's armed provocations.... The Soviet people angrily condemns the crimes of the reaction in Chile...

Andropov warns that easing of international tension does not bring cessation of the class struggle in the international arena. ... The imperialism is attempting to step up the "ideological penetration" into the socialist countries, including the Soviet Union.... The rabble* of the national emigree groups has been given some rather significant role in those plans.

;;: We resolutely reject ... all attempts to utilize contacts with the West if these contradict our soviet laws and traditions.

... The present Chinese leadership's activity is clearly linked with the efforts of imperialist reaction... The Soviet Union presses for normalization of the relations between the Soviet and the Chinese peoples.

... The mainstream of international development is today not determined by the West's military-industrial complexes or the intrigues of Maoism, but by the forces of peace and progress, and by the forces of socialism... The peace offensive of the Soviet Union and of the other socialist countries is developing successfully. The strength of our foreign policy... meets the vital interests of the Soviet people and of the working people of all countries... In the struggle against imperialism and for lasting peace and security we work together with the fraternal

* The words "upper echelons" have been used in the "USSR National Affairs" instead of "rabble", the true meaning of the word used by Andropov - "otrebnye".

communist and workers parties and with all those who are fighting for national liberty and national progress...

At the end of the speech Andropov read the decrees by which the decorations - Order of Friendship of Peoples and Order of Lenin, were awarded to the Estonian SSR and to the City of Tallinn correspondingly.

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The first to answer Andropov's speech was J.G. Kabin /Kebin/, the First Secretary of the CC CPESU. He thanked for the high decoration. He was further full of thanks to the CPSU and the other states of the Soviet Union for the help everyone had given to the Estonian SSR, helping the latter to reach today's high achievements. Even natural gas and bread had been furnished to Estonia by other soviet republics...

About the relations of the Estonians with other soviet peoples he said:
"Dense cooperation in all spheres of ^{communal} life, common work for the benefit of communism and intensive communications have brought along the developing rapprochement of peoples of the USSR, favoring the development of common communist traits of culture, moral and mode of life. All this corresponds entirely also to the Estonian people. The today's spiritual visage, culture, moral and mode of life of the Estonian people is not being determined by the narrowly national traditions, but /is being determined/ by the revolutionary traditions common to the entire soviet people, the revolutionary traditions of the builders of communism, the soviet mode of life, the norms of the communist moral and ethics."

He mentioned that there is no plant or factory in Estonian SSR with workers but of one nationality.

Brezhnev's name was mentioned many times, [like Stalin's name was mentioned during the era of the "personality cult"]. Kabin thanked Andropov and asked the latter to convey the thanks of the Estonian people to the Politbureau of the CPSU CC and to

Brezhnev personally.*

On behalf of the city of Tallinn thanked the member of the Bureau of Central Committee of the Estonian Communist Party and the first secretary of party committee of Tallinn N.O.Juhanson /Yuganson/. Further speeches were made by the representatives of the following groups: A.G.Pärtel for the working class; T.Sooaluste for the agricultural workers; K.Rebane, the president of the Academy of Sciences, for the scientific workers; Navy Captain first grade S.Smirnov for the Tallinn garrison; M.G.Leosk, the first secretary of the Voeru rayon committee of Leninist League of Communist Youth, for the youth. V.Klauson, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, read the greeting letter to be sent to the three top party and state establishments in Moscow. A.Vader, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, made the closing speech.

* Analyst's comment: No personal thanks or greetings were sent to Podgorny who had signed the decrees by which the decorations were awarded, nor to Kosygin.