



TRIP REPORT OF TURKISH DELEGATION REGARDING SPORTS ORGANIZATION IN SOVIET UNION BELONGING TO YEAR 1933*

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ABSTRACT

The young Republic of Turkey paid attention to physical training system of Soviet Russia with whom she maintained relationship in terms of foreign policy since the years of War of Independence. Delegations were sent to Russia to investigate this system in 1930s. The aim was to establish the strategy to be adopted for physical training issue in Turkey. According to impressions of Turkish delegation, the year 1928 is a kind of revolution in Russia in terms of physical activities. This is due mainly to the declaration of central bureau of the party regarding improper functioning of physical training activities within the boundaries of the state. They expressed that this fact contradicted the party activities. That is why they constituted an investigation committee. The committee initiated its activities in Moscow Institute. The purpose of physical training in Soviet Union was not only sports. As it is inferred from the first five-year physical training plan and practices, educating staff who were capable of teaching, managing and imposing the principles of the party ideally was the basic objective of the physical training. Millions of laborers working in factories and the youth working in all of public institutions and army were tried to be directed towards sports and combined in these activities. Turkish delegations organized trips to Russia with the aim of investigation between years 1934 and 1937. It is clear that these reports had an effect on central structuring of Turkish Sports Institute in 1936 (after its foundation) and the foundation of Village Institutes in 1940. This study deals with physical culture system of Soviet Union in accordance with the impressions of Turkish delegation derived from their trip to Russia between 10th of July and 20th of August in 1933.

Key Words: Body, culture, system, sports, organization

* Bu makale Crosscheck sistemi tarafından taranmış ve bu sistem sonuçlarına göre orijinal bir makale olduğu tespit edilmiştir.

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TÜRK HEYETİNİN, SOVYETLER BİRLİĞİ SPOR TEŞKİLATI HAKKINDA 1933 YILINA AİT SEYAHAT RAPORU

ÖZET

Genç Türkiye Cumhuriyeti, dış politikada Kurtuluş Savaşı yıllarından itibaren dostluğunu sürdürdüğü Sovyet Rusya'nın, beden terbiyesi sistemine ilgi göstermiştir. Bu sistemin incelenmesi amacıyla Rusya'ya 1930'lu yıllarda heyetler gönderilmiş ve buradan elde edilen bilgilerle Türkiye'de beden terbiyesi meselesinde izlenecek yolun belirlenmesi amaçlanmıştır. Türk heyetinin izlenimlerine göre 1928 yılı, Rusya'da beden faaliyetleri bakımından adeta bir devrimdir. Çünkü firkanın merkezi bürosu, devlet hudutları dahilinde beden terbiyesi faaliyetlerinin iyi işlemediğini ve bu durumun firka faaliyetleri ile zıt olduğunu ilan etmiş ve buna mukabil bir tetkik komitesi oluşturulmuştur. Komite işe Moskova Enstitüsü'nden başlamıştır. Sovyetler Birliği'nde beden terbiyesinde amaç, sadece spor yapmak değildi. İlk beş yıllık beden terbiyesi planı ve uygulamalarından anlaşıldığı üzere öğretip, idare edebilecek ve firkanın prensiplerini ideal olarak aşılatabilecek elemanlar yetiştirmek beden terbiyesinin temel amaçları olarak ortaya çıkmaktadır. Fabrikalarda çalışan milyonlarca işçiyi, devlete bağlı tüm kuruluşlarda ve orduda görev alan gençliği spora sevk etmek ve bu faaliyetlerle birleştirmek hedeflenmiştir. Türk heyetleri, 1934 ve 1937 yıllarında da Rusya'ya inceleme amaçlı seyahatler düzenlemiştir. Raporların başta Türk Spor Kurumunun 1936 yılında kurularak merkezi bir yapı oluşturulmasında ve 1940 yılında Köy Enstitülerinin kuruluşunda etkisi olduğu görülmektedir. Bu çalışmada Türk heyetinin 10 Temmuz ila 20 Ağustos 1933 tarihleri arasında Rusya ziyaretindeki izlenimleri doğrultusunda Sovyetler Birliği'nin bedeni kültür sistemi incelenmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Beden, kültür, sistem, spor, teşkilat

Introduction

The first report of Turkish delegation regarding sports organization of Soviet Union belongs to year 1933. Cevdet Kerim, Head of Administrative Board of Istanbul Province of Republican People's Party (RPP), and Mr. Vildan Aşir, sports expert teacher of Board of Education, went to Russia on 10th of July in 1933 upon the order from the party accompanied by sports delegation of Community Centers. They completed their trip and returned to Turkey on 20th of August.¹ The report covering the investigations of the delegation during 40 days of Russia trip is especially important due to its details. The reports dealt with all the organizations and systems in Soviet Union about physical training in detail.² The second report sent to RPP universal secretariat covers Russia trip conducted by football, wrestle, and sea delegations, again escorted by Mr. Cevdet Kerim, between 26th of July and 1st of September in 1934. This report can be regarded as the annex of the report dated as 1933. As a matter of the fact, the purpose of the trip dated as 1934

¹ Prime Ministry Republican Archive (B.C.A.), 490.01/1105.36.1,11.09.1933.

² B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 10.09.1934.

Turkish Studies

International Periodical For the Languages, Literature and History of Turkish or Turkic
Volume 8/8 Summer 2013



was to compensate the lacks of the investigation conducted previous year. RPP Tekirdağ representative Rahmi Apak made a trip to Russia in 1937. He stated his impressions of Soviet Sports Council Headquarters in a detailed report he sent on 10th of August in 1937 to Headquarters of Republican People's Party. However, this report is not so in detail since it covers the impressions of Apak for only half an hour.

1. Physical Training Organization and Activities in Soviet Russia

The report starts with an emphasis on the importance given to sports in Soviet Russia, though it is a young state, as a governmental and divisional issue. The report covers 17 separate sections including camps, institutes, organizations and child training³. The first section deals with physical training in Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The reports provides particular emphasis on the importance given to sports, taking into account the positive effects of physical training in other fields, under the name of "Communist Manners" with the purpose of educating qualified staff in future regimes:

"...After the entrance into this principal system, formed in order to change the clay of whole youth in a grand country, physical training and sports ...are neither luxury nor... literature... all the systems serving for physical training were made a whole isolating them from all the probable malign elements. And this whole was presented to the use of youth after being presented as single system. All of these are not objectives but means of progress..."⁴

Accordingly, the purpose of physical culture in Soviet Union was not only to provide a healthy entertainment, profitable spare time activities and major records for young people. Obtaining the power to make good productions, training the body to overcome the difficulties of technical life, preparing it for the defense of the country, creating a youth union utilizing the various means of body culture, breeding citizens with strong characters and healthy individuals were sacred aims which were esteemed above anything else. In order to create these aims, the government undertook the issues in relation to body culture as well.⁵

G.T.Os were the leading initiators of Soviet Russia's sports system to attain the objected aims. Initially, extremely influential propaganda activities were held. The government determined who would join G.T.O competitions and distribute these papers to each organization and business group. The winner wore the medallion with his red flag medallion. There were notices in the stadiums, schools and theatres saying "Are you ready for the mission and defense?" and "Enroll in G.T.O examinations."⁶

When tzarism was broke down, nearly 30 thousand sportsmen were descended to Soviet regime. The studies yielded to bright results at the end of 1930s. Soviet institutions holding a large mass of youth and compulsory physical training activities are two of the leading efforts yielding positive results in a short period of time and measures taken. Apart from these, powerful propaganda activities and Young Communists Institution are influential as well. Stadium issues were dealt with more privacy. That is because stadiums were used to be built for entertainment and relaxation. Thus, stadiums in each district were prescribed for simple games that can be played by anyone. Besides, these stadiums had staff capable of making propaganda for sports, doctors, teachers as well as radio and music players. There were physical training schools, physical training technical institutions, short-term courses and camps for extending teaching staff. As for encouragement of sportsmen, they were provided with cheap transportation, free entrance to

³ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 61-62.

⁴ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 63.

⁵ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 64.

⁶ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 68.

matches for good sportsmen, opportunity to attend exercises during working hours, exhibition with good staff in public places and socialist competition among sportsmen.⁷

The largest share among organizations holding sportsmen belonged to laborer union. The second one belonged to collective farms (colhoz) while the third one belonged to production cooperatives. Laborers working in various places were the last in the list. There were 759 thousand laborer sportsmen throughout the country in 1929. This number increased up to 4.7000.000 thousand in 1932.⁸ 110836 roubles were spent in total for all these activities between years 1928-1932. The share in the public budget for sports in 1928 was 19965 thousand roubles while this amount reached 145461 million roubles in 1932.⁹ In parallel with the share allocated for sports in the budget, the number of sports centers and areas in Soviet Union witnessed tremendous increases as well in years. When we consider five years between 1928-1932, it is seen that the state paid special attention to the construction of stadiums, areas and halls.¹⁰

Physical training issue in Soviet Union was initially dealt with culturally. Therefore, Education Commissariat was responsible of spreading physical culture and appropriate implementation in all of the institutions and schools bound to itself. The duty of Public Health Commissariat was to ensure maintenance of physical culture under healthy conditions and control over the hospitals, health and rest houses as well as sanatoriums. Labor Commissariat was responsible of increasing productivity of laborers, feeding and spreading to all organizations while light industry institutions were responsible of preparing sports materials. Also, land, naval and air forces were supporting these activities. As a result of total support for sports, sportive organizations were formed within the army, manufacturing organizations, colhozes and all organizations. Activities of all these organizations were under the responsibility of a single center, named "Supreme Soviet of Physical Training", which was affiliated with central executive committee.¹¹

In all of the Republics affiliated to Soviet Union, there is a supreme soviet of physical training in addition to central executive committee, regional supreme soviet of physical training in addition to regional central executive committee and district (rayon)¹² supreme soviet of physical training in addition to district executive committees. These soviets were governmental powers administrating and controlling sports and body issues. All organizations were obliged to act according to the orders of regions they were bound to. According to numbers of 1932, works of central physical soviets and their branches affiliated to Supreme Soviet of Physical Training are shown in Table 1.¹³

⁷ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 64.

⁸ The number of laborers affiliated to laborer unions between years 1929-1932 (the numbers refers to thousand): 427 in 1929, 720 in 1930, 1500 in 1931, 3000 in 1932. Colhozes: 105 in 1929, 105 in 130, 645 in 1931, 650 in 1932. Production cooperatives: 27 in 1929, 50 in 1930, 55 in 1931, 93 in 1932. Laborers working in various fields: 200 in 1929, 225 in 1930, 600 in 1931 and 947 in 1932. B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 65.

⁹ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 66.

¹⁰ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 65.

¹¹ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 66-67.

¹² A raion (also rayon) is a type of administrative unit of several post-Soviet countries (such as part of an oblast). he term, which is from French "*rayon*" (meaning "honeycomb, department"), describes both a type of a subnational entity and a division of a city, and is commonly translated in English as "district". The term "raion" also can be used simply as a second degree of administrative division without anything to do with ethnicity or nationality. A raion is a standardized administrative entity across most of the Soviet Union and is usually a subdivision two steps below the national level. However, in smaller countries, it could be the primary level of administrative division (Administrative divisions of Armenia, Administrative divisions of Azerbaijan). After the fall of the Soviet Union, some of its former republics dropped *raion* from their use (Armenia). <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raion>

¹³ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 66-67.

Turkish Studies

International Periodical For the Languages, Literature and History of Turkish or Turkic
Volume 8/8 Summer 2013



Table 1: Central physical soviets in republics and republican branches affiliated to Supreme Soviet of Physical Training in 1932

Republics Soviet	Provincial and Regional Soviet	Department Soviet
Belarus	-	75
Ukraine	8	374
Russia	26	1849
Republic of Caucasia	3	148
Uzbekistan	-	71
Turkmenistan	-	35
Tajikistan	-	39

In the section analyzing sports organization of Soviet Union of the report, it was stated that there was a “Supreme Council of Physical Training” under the control of central executive committee with the participation of all physical culture soviet members. Supreme Council was administrating physical activities as a kind of presidio¹⁴ with a president and 80 members. The actual physical culture activities were being administrated by the president and two secretaries comprised of public bureau of secretariat. There were eight specialization branches under the governance of public secretariat as well as organizations named as public organization brach, technical and methodological committee, personnel, plan, function for children, international affairs, chess and public branches.¹⁵

Specialization and administration bureaus were subjected to a secondary branch in order to prevent any distruption. Each issue was dealt with only in its own branch. Public organization branch was responsible of carrying out affairs regarding village, higher schools, transportation, press, incentive and propaganda. Technical and methodological branch was divided into two. One was named as “technical investigation” carrying out specialization investigations and recording the progress as well as preparing new directives and the other was named as “department of activities” administrating specialization branches.¹⁶ Department for activities is similar to the one of Turkish Training Union. Like sports federations of Turkish Training Union, it has specialization branches and divisions such as heavy athletics¹⁷, light athletics, central sports center with branches for all sportive games, tennis, winter sports¹⁸ and referee councils¹⁹. There were branches of this central bureau in each province and anywhere sports is practiced.²⁰ There was a division for determining the staff to carry out the works throughout the country. This branch consisted of four divisions which were schools of supreme physical training, mass staff, accountancy, program department dealing with working shift plans. This branch would prepare its plans and allocations, receive the confirmation of Supreme Soviet of physical training and control their implementation. Planning branch was also responsible of implementing working shift plans and adding extra shifts when necessary. After the conduction of necessary regulations, these plans, materials and instruments

¹⁴ Supreme Institution of Soviet Presidency.

¹⁵The date 9.4.1934 and expression “read” were printed on the document. **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933,69.

¹⁶ Public Organizarion was responsible of higher education institutions however, physical training schools were not included into the field of this organization. **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933,69.

¹⁷ Including wrestle, cannonball and boxing.

¹⁸ Skiing, skidding, ice sailing, engine sleigh and etc.

¹⁹ It was the bureau dealing with the affairs of referees. It had duties like educating referees, assigning them to competitions and outlining their missions.

²⁰ **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933,70.

Turkish Studies

International Periodical For the Languages, Literature and History of Turkish or Turkic
Volume 8/8 Summer 2013



were used to be delivered to stadiums, halls and etc. for physical culture as well as accountancy, statistics and financial authorities.²¹

Fifth article in the organization section of the report was about children. Physical development of children was important in Soviet Union. Physical development of children was bound to Supreme Soviet of physical training. This center created the branch for function for children and carried out its duties via this branch. In order to have educated children, a bureau was created via branch of function with children under the control of education commissariat which was again affiliated with Supreme Soviet of physical training. In order to incentivize children aging between 12-18, a medallion was created on which "attention" was marked. One had to be both good sportsmen and students in order to get this medallion.²² Another branch for the education of children in Soviet Russia was "Pioneer". The report states that "Young Communists Union", which was the second phase after "Pioneer" for children, was one of the most important organizations in Russia. The union was following the steps below in order to reach its aim: "Children at the age for school are included in "October Organization" and they are educated there until they become ten years old. They spend the years from 10 to 16 in Pioneer Organization. Later, these individuals become a member of Young Communists Organization (Komsomol). Pioneer Organization educate children about craftsmanship, principles of political training, party discipline, protection of health, self-denial, bodily power and ability as well as preparation for military service which cannot be learnt in schools. Besides, there were also clubs and camps for children. Allocation of playgrounds in camps was the responsibility of Department of Children Affairs while the financial burden belonged to government."²³

Department of International Affairs with press department and republics included in Soviet Union had common works with "Voks" which was establishing international cultural connections. Soviet Russia paid particular attention to chess. The report states that it was compulsory to have private chess rooms and chess teachers in all of the camps, parks and etc. The activities of chess department were being conducted via four channels which were tournament department for organizing competitions, referee bureau for educating referees, bureau for organizing chess courses and press department. Lastly, sports organization had a Public Branch transferring affairs to administration, accountancy and other branches.²⁴

The report also mentioned a great deal about sports activities of ministries in Soviet Union. There was a physical training and sports inspectorship within Ministry of National Defense in order to organize general affairs and deal with compulsory issues in an order. There was also an inspectorship within agriculture commissariat in order to control compulsory activities to be carried out within colхозes and communes. There was a similar inspectorship within Ministry of Public Works in order to organize operations for construction of sports area. Besides, there was supreme council of physical education in order to organize physical and cultural activities of 45 unions which were affiliated with congress of union. This entire structuring was bound to Supreme Soviet of Physical Training (SSPT).²⁵

Laborer committees having the trust of the party were formed within the factories and laborers were bounded to the party through this formation. Laborer committee had a bureau administrating sports affairs with five branches. This committee used to hold a meeting once in a

²¹ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933,70-71.

²² B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933,71.

²³ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933,72-73.

²⁴ The Russians called the branch to which other miscellaneous affairs were transferred as "Public Chancellery". B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 73-74.

²⁵ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 75.

Turkish Studies

International Periodical For the Languages, Literature and History of Turkish or Turkic
Volume 8/8 Summer 2013



year and elect the sports affairs to be dealt with.²⁶ Inspectorship and unions within laborer commissariat were bound to each other. There was not a separate sports organization within heavy and light industries and wooden industry commissariat. These commissariat undertook the cash burden of the organizations to be held there. They used to send the money directly to the use of congress of unions.²⁷ Dinamo, which was regarded as the most powerful club from all aspects in Soviet Union thanks to both the number of its members and stadiums, was also affiliated with S.S.P.T at first hand. Sports affairs were being conducted by cooperatives and public work authorities within the cooperatives.²⁸

Considering the first five-year plan regarding physical affairs and their implementations, it is seen that a great deal was achieved as it was indicated by the numbers between years 1929 and 1932. The number of teachers having higher education diploma in Soviet Russia was 390 in 1929 while this number increased up to 1500 in 1932.²⁹ This is also similar for the educational organizations.

2. Institutes

According to numbers given in the report, there were 25 organizations in Russia for educational affairs in 1933. Four of these were educating experts with higher education diploma while the rest 21 organizations were called “Teknikum” which were providing rather practical and simple education. The Turkish delegation could only make investigations in Lezgraft³⁰, giving higher education, Higher Physical Training, and institutes for detailed technical investigations for Higher Physical Training.

Table 2: Implementations of the First Five-Year Program in Terms of Educational Organizations

Years	Educational Organization	Number	The Number of Students Enrolled	The Number of Educated Experts
1929	Teknikum	6	-	-
	Higher School	2	246	178
1930	Teknikum	8	495	-
	Higher School	2	467	265
1931	Teknikum	13	1593	234
	Higher School	4	839	327
1932	Teknikum	21	1292	350
	Higher	4	1250	213

²⁶ These five branches are as follows: administrative bureau administrating physical training activities between work shifts, organization and plan bureau, methodology and technique bureau (volleyball, basketball, football, tennis, light and heavy athletics), propaganda and monetary affairs bureau. **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 76.

²⁷ **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 76.

²⁸ **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 77.

²⁹ The number of secondary teachers with diploma was 325 in 1929, 650 in 1930, 844 in 1931 and 1484 in 1932. The number of primary degree teachers with diploma was 4909 in 1929 and 9631 in 1932. **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 79.

³⁰ This organization was named after a revolutionary doctor who dealt with children and training affairs during the reign of Tzar Nikola. Lezgraft named the students of his courses as Lezgraft children and he died in 1914. The children he educated wanted to maintain his heritage after his death but October Revolution prevented this. **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 81.

Turkish Studies

International Periodical For the Languages, Literature and History of Turkish or Turkic
Volume 8/8 Summer 2013



School

“Lezgraft Institute for Physical Training”, which was founded in Leningrat in 1920 was one of the those affiliated to Supreme Soviet of Physical Training. The number of students to be enrolled in the organization was used to be determined by Supreme Soviet of Physical Training each year. Healthy young people graduated from high schools were allowed to apply for the organization. However, at times when applications exceeded the quota spared for the organization, an exam was used to be held. The education was free in Lezgraft, however, all the other expenses were used to be met by students. Students were receiving the salary paid by the government via an institution called “stipendium” in order to meet their needs. Students were divided into groups with a master selected by their schools for certain issues. Master student was the representative of his friends. There was also another student committee selected by the school dealing with propaganda and party affairs. There was a separate library in the school containing books about communist regime apart from the ones providing vocational information. Besides, it was also possible to read all kinds of French, British and German sports newspapers and publications.³¹ The duration for education became four years in the institute after a decision made in 1932³². The first year was for general education. In later years, students were directed to three faculties according to the branches they choose (“methodists” educating experts for schools, “industrial experts” educating experts for factories and those who would work at the head of militia troops). There was a patient gymnastics and orthopedia branch within the institute which had been recently founded then. Educational affairs of the school were being administrated by council of teachers under the presidency of the school manager. According to the numbers in 1933, there were 15 professors, 37 associate professors, 60 assistants and 12 trainers in the school.³³

The report stated that Moscow Institute of Higher Physical Training was the most advanced education center in Soviet Union. Construction of the building was completed in 1765. The institute was re-opened in 1918 in order enable doctors to receive education to be specialists after the October Revolution. After the works of investigation committee formed by the party, Moscow Institute was reformed and the authority was given to Institute Manager Doctor Frumin and his assistant Çerniyak. After the system is established, the courses of the institute were divided into three (theoretical [physiology, anatomy, biology etc.], training and bodily affairs).³⁴ The period of study was four years in the faculty. Experts to work in unions and factories, high schools and higher education schools and as army members and in the field of physical training were being educated there.³⁵ It was not enough to be a graduate of high school to enroll that faculty. Student candidates had to take a serious exam. Especially health exam was similar to the one conducted while selecting staff for air forces in terms of meticulousness.³⁶

There were two organizations in Harkof, center of Republic of Ukraine, providing higher physical training: Physical Training Institute and Investigation Institute for Science of Physical Training. The first one, like institutes of Leningrat and Moscow, was higher education and teaching

³¹ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 82-83.

³² This period was 3.5 years until 1932.

³³ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 85.

³⁴ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 92.

³⁵ This period was 3.5 years until 1933. B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 95.

³⁶ Initially, an exam covering arithmetic, Russian language, political and social sciences was used to be given. Health exam included practices such as free body movements, balance, rope climbing, high jump, long jump, runs, throwing bombs, and shooting with a gun. Admission for girls was quite hard. They had to achieve balance walking at 150 height, jumping from vaulting horse, high jump, shooting, swimming, running, shooting and etc. Marital status of students was of no importance. High school graduates between the ages 18-30 were allowed to take institute exam. B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 100-101.

Turkish Studies

International Periodical For the Languages, Literature and History of Turkish or Turkic
Volume 8/8 Summer 2013



school. Different from the aforementioned ones, period of the study was three years. The situation of the institute in 1933, which had two faculties, was not so bright according to the report. The building was quite old and inadequate. The number of students and teachers was low.³⁷ Harkof Investigation Institute for Science of Physical Training was founded in 1926 under the control of social and health commissariat. The purpose of the institute was to make professional researches about physical training. The institute was bounded to Supreme Council of Physical Training in 1928. They were studying patients' movements. Students of the school were doctors or teachers who received higher education. Students enrolled here were granted with the title of "aspirant". At the end of three-years education, those who would work in factories used to receive "economist" diplomas, those who would work as trainers used to receive "methodist" diploma, and those who would organize physical training in sanatoriums, health and rest houses used to receive "gymnast doctor" diplomas. The school gave its first graduates in 1931.³⁸ The school also had small branches in Odessa, Kiev, and Dniyepro-Petrovsk working as a laboratory with the center.³⁹

3. G.T. O. and Children Camps

Gymnastics was taken as a whole in Soviet Russia. The main purpose of this sport was to impose the idea that physical training issue is the preparation for the defense of the country. The most characteristic indicator expressing their system was the medallion which meant that they were "Ready to Defend and Work" named as G.T.O.⁴⁰. This medallion, with the purpose of incentive, was handled separately from the competitions. Each female turning 18 and each male turning 19 was allowed to enter the exams to win this medallion. In order to prepare young people for the exams, courses under the control of teachers were used to be given.⁴¹ As a result of this incentive, in Russia, where 30 thousand young people was doing sports in 1930, this number increased up to 3 million and 800 thousand. Again, the rate of doing sports among women was 5% in 1913 while this rate increased up to 32% in 1932.⁴²

Dinamo Electricity Engine Factory Sports and Physical Training Organization, which was one of the sports organizations formed within the factory for laborers, was mentioned in detail in the report. There was also a laborer committee responsible of cultural affairs in the factory as there is in other offices which was a representation of both laborers and the people of the factory management. Again, as it is the same with all other factories, sports affairs were transferred to physical culture bureau which was under the control of laborer committee. Plans of sports affairs to be carried out within the factory were used to be prepared via bureau.⁴³ In the report, which spared another section for stadium constructions, there are statements saying that "...the pitches, paths and rings were too nice that they prevent any complain of the staff who were demonstrating incredible ability..." It is clear that the Turkish delegation was very much impressed by the stadiums in Soviet Russia.⁴⁴

Sports affairs of Culture and Rest Park in Moscow were divided into branches such as medical affairs, chess, physical training center and G.T.O, health house, sea sports, rowing sports and materials. Medical affairs branch was dealing with first-aid incidents in the park, manage the

³⁷ The Turkish delegation stated in the report that a school practising a similar program of those in Moscow and Leningrat institutes could not access the promised program and documents. **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 110.

³⁸ There were 15, 11, and 12 graduates in 1931, 1932 and 1933 respectively. **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 114.

³⁹ **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 114.

⁴⁰ G.T.O. is the abbreviation of this sentence. **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 118.

⁴¹ 399 thousand people applied to get this medallion in 1931 and 233 thousand of them won it. In 1932, 466 thousand people achieved out of 2 millions and 600 thousand people.

⁴² **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 118.

⁴³ **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 125.

⁴⁴ **B.C.A.**, 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 127.

Turkish Studies

International Periodical For the Languages, Literature and History of Turkish or Turkic
Volume 8/8 Summer 2013



consultation center for two thousand clerks working in the park, making propaganda of the health affairs and examine the people who would enter G.T.O. ⁴⁵ in the branch for physical culture affairs, which can be regarded as a sports school as well, the activities were rather comprehensive. There were only 26 volleyball courts and five teachers for each court.⁴⁶ There were teachers for each branch of sports and for those who want. Government allocation for only this issue was 400 thousand roubles. All these activities were used be controlled by park management.⁴⁷

The last section of the report was about children camps. The camps, which were founded by Education Commissariat, unions, pioneer and Komsomol⁴⁸ dorms and ministry of health and social welfare, were subjected to division within themselves with respect to age limit. There was “oktopriyat” camp for kids. There were different versions of it (summer-winter, urban and sanatorium). There were also serial camps for pioneers who were older. The camps for children in Russia were made near sea, in the woods or in the mountains as huts taking into account the health needs of the children. Materials like electricity power and water which would ease the life in the camps were supplied for sure. The camps were being managed by a manager and vice-managers who were affiliated either with the party or Komsomol organization.⁴⁹ There were doctors, nurses, arts and handicraft teachers, teachers for physical training, technical education and staff for other issues there. There was not a sample curriculum for the education to be given to children. Education committees of the camps determined the curriculums. The camps had courses for progressing handicraft abilities, improving technical information, knowing nature as well as political and military education. Parents of the children were paying an insignificant amount of money (8-10 roubles).⁵⁰

“Derjinski Pioneer Children Camp”, which was 30 km away from Moscow, was depicted with the word of “magnificent” by Turkish delegation. The delegation was first met by two twelve years old boys who were signaling pionner in all seriousness. Impressions of the delegation what happened afterwards are as follows: “... *Children who were signaling pioneer immediately asked the password of the day after greeting. He said that we were not captains and a guest from Turkey would see the camp. He also said that he was one of the pioneer bureau officials. He asked to be let in...The seriousness of twelve years-old boy while doing his mission was really considerable. He said that he does not care who the foreigner is and the foreigner cannot pass there...*” The child only allowed the guests in after negotiating with chief in guard and the manager of the camp. Little kids with bare feet and upper bodies were being lectured in open air while other ones (aging between 14 and 16) were constructing socialist houses.⁵¹ Gymnastic courses were being made with large groups (150 people) while other sports courses were being made with small groups. Period of the camp was two months. There were 1200 children in total and all of them were the children of laborers. 1000 of them were pioneers while the rest were oktobriyat. Main purpose of the camp was

⁴⁵ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 143.

⁴⁶ There were 6 basketball areas, a big pool for children with 50 non-capsizing boats, halls for wrestle and boxing, numerous swings, separate swimming pools for general people, women and children, swimming pool for G.T.O and training places. B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 144.

⁴⁷ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 144.

⁴⁸ The All-Union Leninist Young Communist League. The Komsomol in its earliest form was established in urban centers in 1918. During the early years, it was a Russian organization, known as the Russian Young Communist League, or RKSM. During 1922, with the unification of the USSR, it was reformed into an all-union agency, the youth division of the All-Union Communist Party. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Komsomol>

⁴⁹ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 146.

⁵⁰ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 149.

⁵¹ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 149-150.

Turkish Studies

International Periodical For the Languages, Literature and History of Turkish or Turkic
Volume 8/8 Summer 2013



not to teach children something new but to improve them. They were also making albums, drawing, publishing newspaper and preparing reports.⁵²

Another children camp was Frunze, which was founded as oktobriyat by the union for the children of the laborers working Frunze District. The camp was covering children aging between 8 and 10. It was the best among the ones which were built as huts. There were 150 children and 8 staff (doctor, nurse, physical trainer, training expert who had higher education and technical works teacher expert) attending them. Similar to Derjinski camp, its period was two months as well however, the main purpose here was to teach children about health, aid and work. Before leaving, children in the camp asked interesting questions to Turkish delegation: "...Do children in Turkey celebrate 1st of May? Does police catch them? We do not have police. Is there Hitler in Turkey?"⁵³

Conclusion

After trip report belonging to year 1933 was sent to party center, another trip was organized to Soviet Russia in 1934 so as to eradicate the lacks. For a year, measures to increase welfare of students in the schools of physical training were taken. The restoration which had been being made in Moscow Institute of Physical Training was completed in 1934. Besides, dorms were opened for the students. Students had to prepare surveys by travelling across the country after their education period in Russia. They had to drive all kinds of engine vehicles, know and recognize the earth, survive according to the conditions, make propaganda and keep the regime alive. One had to drive even a tractor in Russia to win G.T. O. medallion.

Turkish delegation advised that Turkey should deem Russian activities as an example not only in terms of sports but also in the institutions educating teachers. Thus, it is possible to say that at least some of the information obtained via these reports and trips to Soviet Russia were implemented in Turkey. As a matter of the fact, in the fourth congress of Republican People's Party in 1935, some decisions were made to generalize primary education. After several series of "village educator" trials, "Village Institutes" were founded on 17th of April 1940 which was a result of return to village movement that emerged in 1930s. A peasant child attending these institutes had the opportunity to graduate with the right to be a teacher, ability to drive engine vehicles, for farming, playing instruments and presenting handicrafts and artistic works.

The first effect of these reports in the field of sports was observed in 1936. Similar to Russia, Turkish Sports Institute (TSI), combining all sports activities in the country under single roof, was founded.⁵⁴ From 1936 to 1938, it was Turkish Sports Institute who directed the policy and sense of sport in Turkey. Its central office was located in Ankara. On 29th of June 1938, General Directorate of Physical Training, which was the first official public institution, was founded pursuant to law no. 3530. First article of this law stated that the purpose was to administer games, gymnastics and sports activities which will improve physical and spiritual abilities of the people. Pursuant to this law, citizens of all ages in Soviet Russia were obliged to do physical training and sports regularly.⁵⁵

⁵² B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 152.

⁵³ B.C.A., 490.01/1105.36.1, 16.09.1933, 158.

⁵⁴ Union of Turkish Training Community was the first sports organization of Turkey. It was located in Istanbul being established in 1922. It combined sports clubs in Istanbul. However, it dissolved itself at the end of its 8th meeting for Board of Directors in 1936. It was replaced by TSK. M. Fatih Karahüseyinoğlu, Fikret Ramazanoğlu, "[Comparison of Turkey's Location in terms of Sports with Some European Countries] "Türkiye'nin Spordaki Konumunun Bazı Avrupa Ülkeleri İle Karşılaştırılması", Doğu Anadolu Bölgesi Araştırmaları, 2005.

⁵⁵ Karahüseyinoğlu ve diğerleri, a.g.m., s.76.

Turkish Studies

International Periodical For the Languages, Literature and History of Turkish or Turkic
Volume 8/8 Summer 2013



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Turkish Studies

International Periodical For the Languages, Literature and History of Turkish or Turkic
Volume 8/8 Summer 2013



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Turkish Studies

International Periodical For the Languages, Literature and History of Turkish or Turkic
Volume 8/8 Summer 2013

