

1931

Speeches/Documents

**Title: SINKIANG--U.S.S.R. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT, WITH FOUR ANNEXZES**

**Author:**

**Date: October 1, 1931**

**Source:.**

**Description:.** Agreement between The Provincial Government of Sinkiang of the Republic of China and U.S.S.R

October 1, 1931. The Provincial Government of Sinkiang of the Republic of China and U.S.S.R., in view of their adjoining territories and historical economic relations, and the desire repeatedly expressed to develop their trade relations, have hereby agreed, pending the conclusion of a formal commercial treaty between the Republic of China and U.S.S.R., upon the following terms: U.S.S.R. has concluded an Agreement as follows:

- I. It is agreed that merchandise as well as travellers from Sinkiang Province to U.S.S.R., or vice versa, shall hereafter effect passage through the frontier points of Irkeshtan, Holkutz, Bakhti and Dzimunai, in accordance with the existing laws and regulations of the Republic of China and U.S.S.R.
- II. The Provincial Government of Sinkiang desires that the Government of U.S.S.R. should permit merchants of Sinkiang to import into U.S.S.R. any amount of the various products of Sinkiang for sale to the national commercial agencies of the Soviet Union, without the necessity of previously obtaining special permits for their action. This does not, however, include products whose importation is forbidden by the existing laws of the Soviet Union.
- III. The Provincial Government of Sinkiang agrees to allow the commercial agencies of U.S.S.R. and its citizens the privilege of carrying on trade in the areas of Kashgar, Ili, Tacheng, Altai and Tihwa, as well as the right to appoint representatives or commissioners from the above-named areas who will proceed to Yarkent, Turfan, Karashar, Khotan and Aksu to enter into sale and purchase contracts of trade with the local merchants or commercial houses, and to enforce the execution of the same.

For the purpose of placing this trade with the Soviet Union on a regular basis, the Provincial Government of Sinkiang agrees to permit employees of the commercial agencies of U.S.S.R. and its citizens the privilege of free travel, in accordance with the existing laws and regulations, to and from the various representatives, as well as to and from the places where such commercial agencies are situated.

- IV. The Provincial Government of Sinkiang desires that the Government of U.S.S.R. should allow its commercial agencies and citizens, when they enter into sale and purchase contracts with merchants or commercial houses of Sinkiang, freely to arrange terms of price, transportation and other terms of contract, and to register such items with the government agencies in accordance with the existing laws of China. The Provincial Government of Sinkiang declares that the date limit for registration shall not exceed five days, in accordance with the existing practice in Sinkiang. In case of a dispute the Provincial Government of Sinkiang undertakes that the government offices under its jurisdiction shall investigate the contracts or agreements held by each side, and that they shall enforce fair and just fulfillment of such contracts in accordance with the existing laws of China.
- V. The Provincial Government of Sinkiang agrees not to impose higher or more onerous customs dues or taxes on the commercial agencies of the Soviet Union, or on its citizens, than such as are paid by Chinese merchants or business houses, in accordance with the existing laws of China, either at the present or at any future time. Should business taxes or similar levies be introduced at some future time, in accordance with the existing laws of China, the commercial agencies of the Soviet Union or its citizens shall pay such taxes or levies as are paid by Chinese merchants or business houses.
- VI. With the object of promoting the national economy of Sinkiang, the Provincial Government of Sinkiang desires that the Government of the Soviet Union should supply in full and in terms of a commercial arrangement the various machinery necessary for the development of Sinkiang, such as industrial, electrical, agricultural and transportation machines, and also, in the same manner, to provide the technicians necessary for the reconstruction of Sinkiang and to train Chinese technicians for the same purpose. It is requested that the Soviet Government should give appropriate assistance in the improvement of agriculture, cattle raising, etc., in connection with the national economy of Sinkiang.

VII. With the object of promoting the national economy of Sinkiang, the Provincial Government of Sinkiang desires that the Soviet Government should allow free passage through the territories of U.S.S.R. of such products of Sinkiang into China proper, or of such products of China proper into Sinkiang, as are given in the appended list. This list is to be drawn up not later than November 15 of the present year by a special commissioner appointed by the Provincial Government of Sinkiang together with the Soviet Consul General at Urumchi, on the basis of developing the commercial relations between Sinkiang and U.S.S.R. The said list may be revised yearly, to suit conditions necessary to the national economies of Sinkiang and of the Soviet Union.

The Provincial Government of Sinkiang desires that the Soviet Government should allow free passage through its territories of such articles as are needed by it, though not for purposes of trade, either from China proper into Sinkiang, or from Sinkiang into China proper, or from a third country with which the Soviet Government has already concluded commercial agreements or may conclude them in the future. The Provincial Government of Sinkiang acknowledges that it has received from the Soviet Government a written document stating that should any article intended for transportation through the territories of U.S.S.R. be prohibited by existing laws, passage of such article would not be permitted. The clauses set forth above are concluded with the aim and purpose of developing mutual economic relations. The Provincial Government of Sinkiang signifies its agreement to them, and they shall take effect herewith. For the Government of U.S.S.R.: Slavutski, Delegate of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs. For the Provincial Government of Sinkiang: Chen, Plenipotentiary.

## **ANNEX I**

For the purpose of developing trade between Sinkiang and U.S.S.R., and to facilitate this mutual development, the Provincial Government of Sinkiang has ordered the Sinkiang Customs to establish a uniform rate of dues on all merchandise imported and exported between Sinkiang and U.S.S.R.

## **ANNEX II**

In order to extend the facilities for trade between the Soviet Union and Sinkiang, the Government of U.S.S.R. proposes to establish Soviet financial bureaus at Urumchi, Kashgar, Ili and Tacheng. These bureaus will take charge of the trading and finance of the Soviet commercial agencies and of their relations with Chinese merchants or business houses. The abovementioned financial bureaus will also accept commissions from Chinese merchants or business houses. The financial bureaus are entitled to charge certain fees, to be established by mutual consent, for the execution of such commissions.

## **ANNEX III**

For the purpose of facilitating passenger traffic and transportation of goods, the Government of U.S.S.R. desires that the Provincial Government of Sinkiang will agree that the pass at Irkeshtan be closed six months after the opening of the pass at Dzimunai, so that merchandise already in transit and intended for passage through the pass at Irkeshtan may be enabled to arrive at its destination.

## **ANNEX IV**

The Provincial Government of Sinkiang considers it necessary that the telegraphic communications between Sinkiang and U.S.S.R. be regulated. For this purpose there should be a direct cable connection between Tacheng and Bakhti. At the same time, direct wireless communication between Sinkiang and U.S.S.R. should also be established. The procedure and conditions for the carrying out of such arrangements shall be settled between the Chinese Commissioner for Foreign Affairs in Sinkiang and the Soviet Consul General at Urumchi.