

From A.V. Tarasov's Report on The Stay of The Soviet Youth Delegation in The People's Republic of China And The Development of Physical Education and Sports in The People's Republic Of China

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In April-May of this year, at the invitation of the New Democratic Youth League of China, a delegation of Soviet youth travelled to the People's Republic of China. During its nearly month-long stay in China, the Soviet youth delegation visited 22 cities and several villages.

In the north of the country, the delegation visited the cities of Beijing, Tianjin, Jinan, Shijiazhuang, and Qufu; in the east, Shanghai, Changzhou, Nanjing, and Xuzhou; in the south, Hankou, Wuchang, Changsha, and Canton; and in the northeast, Mukden, Harbin, Fushun, Anshan, Jilin, Changchun, Andong, Dalny, and Port Arthur.

During its stay, the delegation held 196 various public meetings, attended by 763,000 young men and women of China. Meeting with Chinese youth, the Soviet delegates comprehensively covered the multifaceted life of the Soviet people. Meetings with Chinese youth took the form of rallies, lectures, and discussions. Discussions were also held on the development of physical culture and sports in the USSR. Nine such discussions were held.

I am enclosing the following: 1. A memorandum with proposals for providing assistance to the new physical education movement in China, as well as sample lists of sports literature and equipment to be sent to the People's Republic of China. 2. A report by Comrade Feng Wenbin, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the All-China Physical Education Society, delivered on October 26, 1949, at a conference of physical education workers in China. 3. Drawings for the description of the games.

Appendix No. 2. Report delivered by Comrade Feng Wenbin at the Preparatory Conference of the All-China Physical Education Society, October 26, 1949.

1. The Importance of Developing Popular Physical Education. The Communist Party of China, like the People's Government of China, has always paid serious attention to physical education. In the past, even under the most difficult circumstances, we have always been active supporters of physical education. The General Political Program adopted by the People's Political Consultative Conference contains a special article on the need to develop popular physical education. We are confident that, under the leadership of the People's Government, the movement to popularize people's physical education in the spirit of the new democracy will expand widely throughout the country.

The people's sports competitions in Beijing, the sports competitions of the People's Liberation Army, the convening of this conference, and preparations for the establishment of the All-China Physical Culture Association—all this demonstrates that only under the leadership of the People's Government has the development of popular physical education been possible.

Why do we need to pay so much attention to popular physical education? Because folk physical education is a science that develops human industriousness and nurtures a revolutionary spirit. Moreover, physical education improves people's health, fosters tolerance, courage, determination, and activity, and develops initiative, intelligence, and creativity. Therefore, folk physical education plays a major role in national defense, production, and all matters of state building.

2. The direction of new democratic physical education. The new direction of physical education must correspond to the spirit of new democracy. In other words, physical education must be national, scientific, and popular. We must combine physical education activities with the work of nation-building, in accordance with the spirit of new democracy.

We categorically oppose the incorrect view of physical education: "Physical education for physical education's sake."

Our slogans are: "Develop physical education for the health of the people, for building the country of new democracy, and for strengthening national defense. New democratic physical education is national.

It opposes imperialist oppression and stands for the independence and dignity of the Chinese people." Chinese physical education must have its own national character, but at the same time, it must be compatible with physical education of the world. It must, first and foremost, learn from the Soviet Union, so that Chinese physical education becomes part of the new global physical education.

New-Democratic Physical Education is scientific; it opposes conservatism, sectarianism, and those who try to turn physical education into a tool of a few or a small minority. We insist on unification and progress. We believe that physical education must be combined with political education, meaning that every Chinese citizen must be healthy, both physically and ideologically, to avoid becoming "healthy fools." We must continuously learn and improve the level of physical education so that it occupies a place of honor in world physical education.

New-Democratic Physical Education is mass in nature. It must serve the masses and gradually develop into a physical education that is the property of the entire people. It must be nationwide in nature and develop not only in educational institutions, but also in factories and plants, as well as among the soldiers of the People's Liberation Army. It must spread from the city to the countryside. It must not be limited to the young intelligentsia, but become the property of all the working masses, of the entire nation.

To develop and popularize physical education, firstly, it is necessary to utilize all its forms; we must not only engage in track and field, games, swimming, and so on, but must also devote attention to the development of national forms of physical education, such as Chinese wrestling, boxing, fencing, horseback riding, dancing, and so on.

Of course, it is necessary to rework everything outdated and inappropriate, and to make a critical selection so that physical education is scientific, beneficial to the health of the people, to production, and to national defense. The content of physical education activities must be determined by age, gender, and profession. Children should not engage in overly strenuous sports to avoid negative impacts on their development and health.

3. The Ethics and Style of the Physical Culture Movement. Love of country, the people, labor, and love of public property are the virtues of every citizen of the new democratic society. Serving the people with all one's strength and serving the cause of building the new democracy are the moral standards of every physical culture participant.

Every physical culture participant must cultivate the virtuous habit of "All for one, and one for all."

A revolutionary maxim says, "Unity is strength." Physical culture participants and athletes throughout the country must unite on this foundation, break free from the narrow circle of sectarianism, help each other, learn from each other, continually create new things, advance under the banner of Mao Zedong, and jointly strive for the development of people's physical culture.

Encouraging the spirit of collectivism and combating egotistical, record-breaking behavior and conceit is absolutely right. However, this does not mean that we should not keep track of achievements and records. Collectivism means the highest level of activity and initiative by everyone

to achieve a common goal; collectivism is based on the activity of each individual and does not aim to limit the progress and development of an individual, because competition, the struggle for victory, and the breaking of records, is one of the fundamental means of developing the physical education movement. However, achieving victory should not be achieved at the expense of harming and damaging others, but should be based on one's own efforts and initiative.

It is necessary to develop habits of obedience to the organization and adherence to discipline. Revolutionary organizations are both popular organizations and our own; discipline is a tool that meets the needs of the people and the revolution.

[Dis]obedience to the organization and [dis]observance of discipline are serious obstacles to the further development of physical education, which must be overcome.

The Kuomintang reaction subordinated physical education to the interests of individuals, forcing it to serve as entertainment for them. Thus, physical education was cut off from the masses. Our physical education must be disseminated to the masses and serve the people. Only in this way will physical education become a people's physical education movement.

4. Implementation measures and some considerations in this regard. To develop popular physical education, the government is proposed to establish a regime of physical education and training.

Allocate specific funds for the development of physical education activities, and, to the extent possible and necessary, restore and build physical education facilities for public use, and gradually replenish physical education equipment.

It is necessary to systematically prepare and train physical education personnel, create specialized physical education schools, open various physical education courses, and organize existing personnel for political activities and physical education studies in order to develop in them an ideology of serving the people and a new, conscientious approach to their work.

Sports competitions must be periodically held in all cities and regions of the country and all kinds of physical education activities must be developed.

We call on all Novosmoltsy members, especially military personnel, to participate in one or more types of physical education activities and master one or more types of artistic endeavors.

5. Establishment and leadership of physical education organizations throughout the country and at local levels. To provide organized leadership for the nascent physical education movement and thereby achieve its popularization and continuous improvement, it is necessary to urgently establish an All-China Physical Education Society and its local branches.

First and foremost, it is necessary to unite physical education workers throughout the country and create and develop various physical education organizations, thus organizing and uniting all physical education enthusiasts and practitioners.

Secondly, the Physical Education Society should be responsible for studying existing forms of Chinese physical education, sharing their experiences, publishing a journal, or expanding physical education and propaganda through radio and newspapers, in order to guide physical education activities in various locations.

Third, it is necessary to systematically translate into Chinese the successful experience and methods used in the Soviet Union and other countries in the field of physical education and assist the government in publishing systematic physical education textbooks and manuals.

Friends and comrades! In order to meet the upsurge in economic and cultural development in the country of new democracy, we need to develop and conduct a broad physical education movement to assist and support the strengthening of the physical health of every person in the cause of national defense and in the economic and cultural development of the country of new democracy.

Holding high the banner of new democratic physical education, we will move forward.