

## Transcript of the Meeting on Strengthening Relations with China in the Field of Soviet Film Distribution and Improving Radio Broadcasting to China

January 16, 1950

Acting Director of "Sovksporfilm" Moscow: In China, there are a total of 700 cinema installations for the entire country, with 200 of them located in Mukden and the Far East. Not all 700 cinema installations are operational. The majority of them are located in large cities, such as Shanghai (50), Tianjin (23), and Beijing (20). In many regions, there are no movie theaters, and the population in these areas has never seen motion pictures. The theaters are concentrated in large, central districts, not in working-class areas. Therefore, despite the significant interest in Soviet films, we had, according to incomplete data, 16 million viewers in 1949. This is extremely low for a country as populous as China. The film stock of feature films in China has been increased to 2,500 copies, of which 605 are dubbed or voiced in the Chinese language. In the second half of 1949, 1,026 copies of feature films with 121 titles were sent to China from Moscow, including 220 copies of 20 titles in the Chinese version. Considering that the majority of Soviet films from previous years were not screened, "Sovksporfilm" has also sent old releases along with new films. The strategy includes increasing the number of copies. In the past, 810 copies were sent for the entire country, whereas now between 25 and 40 copies of each film are sent. Simultaneously, more informational materials, librettos, and literature on cinema are sent to China.

Assigning great importance to the distribution of Soviet films in the Chinese language, "Sovksporfilm" has dubbed the following films into Chinese in Moscow: "Young Guard" (two series), "Tale of Siberian Land," "Distant Fiancée," "The Stone Flower," "Miklouho-Maclay," "Hunchback Horse," "Meeting on the Elbe," and "Trial of Honour." An experimental Chinese dubbing of the film "Alexander Matrosov" was carried out at the Chunxi Studio last year, which showed positive results, indicating that Soviet films could be dubbed in China itself. The work should be transferred from Moscow to the Chunxi Studio. After "Alexander Matrosov," "Russian Question" and "The Great Turning Point" were dubbed. The dubbed version of "Russian Question" was released in Beijing the day before yesterday.

To continue the work of dubbing Soviet films in China, the original materials for "Konstantin Zaslouov," "Rainis," "Enemies," "Boy from the Outskirts" have been sent there, and soon materials for dubbing "Stalingrad Battle" (two series), "Rural Teacher," "Happy Voyage," and "Return with Victory" will also be sent.

In total, in 1950, it is planned to dub 32 Soviet films in China. During February to April, one copy of Russian films, such as "The Fall of Berlin" (both series), "The Great Power," "They Have a Homeland," "Kuban Cossacks," "Happy Meeting," as well as the original materials for dubbing these films in Chunxi, will be sent to China.

In the very near future, after dubbing, films such as "Youth of the World," "New Czechoslovakia," "Sports Glory," "Renewed Land," "Moscow Dynamo Stadium," as well as scientific and animated films, will be sent to China from Moscow.

Given the strong desire of Soviet viewers to see Chinese films on the screen, as well as the willingness of Chinese film industry leaders to distribute Chinese films in the Soviet Union, preparations are underway to release the Chinese film "The Bridge" on Soviet screens. Additionally, we have resolved the issue of acquiring films such as "Daughter of China," which Comrade Gerasimov highly values, and "Return to the Unit." Furthermore, a group led by Comrades Gerasimov and Varlamov is filming documentaries about China in the country.

We have a sufficient number of Soviet films to significantly increase their distribution, but the primary obstacle to expanding the distribution of Soviet films in China is the limited number of cinemas in the country. To expand the network of cinemas and increase the distribution of Soviet films, we would recommend engaging in negotiations with the Chinese government. We could propose the purchase of a significant number of cinema installations and mobile cinemas. We can provide up to 7,000 of them, but the supply of cinema installations and other equipment and materials can be arranged through contractual agreements between the governments. This would require initiative from the Chinese side.

Another matter is that we could assist the Chinese in training projectionists, establishing a school for projectionists, and preparing personnel for China's cinema network. In connection with this, technical assistance will be needed. It's important to note that this assistance will be required not only for training projectionists but also for updating the technical equipment. Currently, new equipment is arriving, but most of the existing equipment is outdated.

Deputy Chairman of the Radio Broadcasting Committee under the Council of Ministers of the USSR, S.G. Lapin: Our broadcasting volume to China has significantly increased. Since the end of October, we have been transmitting 4 hours and 10 minutes daily, compared to the previous 2 hours and 45 minutes. We broadcast a total of 6 radio programs daily in the Chinese language. These programs consist of current news-related content, political commentary on our domestic and international topics, as well as newspaper materials. We broadcast daily summaries from central newspapers twice a day for China, important international reviews published in central newspapers, and materials from our central newspapers that we consider necessary to convey to the Chinese public. We also use materials from the "Novoye Vremya" magazine, broadcast summaries from the newspaper "For a Lasting Peace, for a People's Democracy!" and important articles from that newspaper. Of course, we also transmitted a summary of the Chinese edition of "Ogoniok" and in all other cases where Chinese interests are directly involved, we make efforts to transmit relevant content.

In our coverage of China's life, we have chosen topics that we believe are of interest to the Chinese population. We have tried to showcase our industrial strength, as English and American propaganda has sought to create an impression of the Soviet Union's industrial backwardness. We have conveyed materials illustrating the educational experience in the Soviet Union, as well as the experience in

training mass cadres. We have provided a series of materials on the post-war reconstruction of the railway transport, loans in the Soviet Union, and so on. We have aimed to transmit materials on the issues currently being addressed in China. We have transmitted all materials related to the 70th anniversary of Comrade Stalin, published in our press, and translated all articles by members of the Politburo into Chinese. Additionally, materials related to the Cominform and other topics have been translated and conveyed in the Chinese language.

Regarding our shortcomings, there are significant shortcomings in multiple areas. Firstly, we have poor reception in Shanghai and Southern China. Our broadcasts are more or less tolerably heard in northern China. We recently had a conversation with one of the leaders of Chinese radio broadcasting, Li Zhan, who came to Moscow to negotiate an agreement on communications. He stated that our broadcasts in Beijing are audible but only on good receivers with shortwave capabilities. The issue of material improvement and enhancement of technical broadcasting equipment to China is considered one of the most important. In the resolution of the Party's Central Committee related to the reorganization of broadcasting, numerous measures were envisaged to strengthen the technical means of broadcasting. However, regrettably, the issue of the Far East was not included. Now everything has to be started from scratch. We have approached the Ministry of Communications, hoping for direct support and operational assistance, but we haven't even received a response from the Minister of Communications. The workers from the radio communication and broadcasting department promise to use one of the reserve transmitters available there, but this won't solve the problem.

Secondly, there is an urgent need to conclude an agreement with China of the type that exists with all countries of people's democracy. If such an agreement were signed, it would provide us with a significant opportunity to supply the Chinese with recordings, all current materials, commentaries, etc. Currently, the question of such an agreement has not been raised. Unfortunately, the Radio Information Committee should be responsible for this. The Foreign Policy Commission should assist us with this. Comrade Puzin should take the initiative to conclude the agreement. Our staff members from both the Foreign Ministry and the Radio Committee can travel there, but this needs to be done quickly.

These objective difficulties and problems are not only associated with the committee. There are issues that mainly depend on us. One of the significant shortcomings in our broadcasting to China is that we have primarily used announcers from the northern provinces. Currently, we have only one translator who is proficient in Beijing pronunciation, while the rest are northerners. There are absolutely no people with Cantonese dialect. For the southern regions, we currently have nothing. There are translators who have not been in China for a long time, and we are faced with the challenge of replacing these individuals with others. It is unlikely that this can be accomplished through training. If we were to address the issue of preparing these personnel using the literature that comes from China and the recordings that we will receive from China, we could train our translators, improve their qualifications, expand their knowledge of contemporary terminology, and acquaint them with all the new terms emerging in China. Assistance with announcer personnel is required.

Now, concerning the new western regions, we have increased the volume of radio broadcasts in Mongolian for the areas with Mongolian populations. We strive for this broadcasting not to take on a particular character but to be suitable for all regions. Uyghur language broadcasts are conducted from Tashkent. Here, there are significant opportunities: we have teletype communication with Tashkent, and the improvement of work here depends solely on us. Our task here is to establish and determine the correct broadcasting line. As for broadcasts for Kazakhs, this issue remains unclear. Kazakhstan has initiated broadcasts in the Kazakh language, and we have practically no means to control this broadcasting.