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# Cartographic Activities In The Uzbekistan SSR: Problems And Solutions (Based On The Documents Of The National Archive Of Uzbekistan Dated 20-30 Of XX Century)

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**Abstract:** the article is devoted to the shortcomings and problems and that have arisen during activities of organisation of cartographic works carried out in the 20 – 30 years of the XX century in the documents of the National Archive of Uzbekistan in the Uzbekistan SSR and the ways of eliminating of them. It can be said that the main works in the field of cartography in Uzbekistan began in the 20 – 30s of the XX century. But even before it, most of the territory of the Republic was provided with large-scale, topographic cards. Alternatively, educational natural geographic maps for schools were also published. However, the work on cartography could not fully respond to the request of that period. To do this, it was necessary, first of all, to bring the map massifs to the metric system, to carry out precise Geodetic measurements, to produce Geodetic and cartographic instruments and to train highly qualified personnel to carry out work in this area at a high level. The article covers the work done to eliminate these problems and their effective results.

**Keywords:** Dobrolet, Sredazvodkhoz, Uzbekhlopok, Narkomzem, Central Asian state planning office, Council of people's commissars, horizontal, people's Commissariat of Agriculture, Aerosyomka, deciphering, irrigation, Sredazgosplan, Central rationalization, Asian Economic Council, Uzbekneft, Geotrest, Aerofotogeotrest



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Because of the lack of accurate information necessary for the filming of Uzbekistan SSR, the filming was stopped. In 1927, Dobrolet (volunteer military fleet) society could not work for this reason and caused excessive costs. Under the leadership of Professor Subbotin, a special commission was established on October 1, 1927 from the representatives of the Central Asian water economy (Sredazvodkhoz), Uzbek cotton (Uzbekhlopok), the people's Commissariat for land affairs of the UzSSR (Narkomzem) and the Dobrolet society. In 1928, Sufficient money was allocated to Dobrolet Society to carry out cartographic activities on 400.000 hectares in Surkhandarya region, and to Central Asian Department of Water Management (Sredazvodkhoz) and Cotton(Khlopkom) on 500 000 hectares in Fergana. Central Asian state planning organization (Gosplan) also decided this commission to control the activities of filming. On October 24 of that year, the Council of people's commissars of Uzbekistan SSR determined to combine all horizontal photographing works and direct the necessary funds in 3 directions:

- 1. From the union state budget to the Water Department of Central Asia;
- 2. From the budget of the republics to the people's Commissariat for Land Affairs:
  - 3. From money on the farm account to cotton committee;

All prospective plans were set out for 4 years and would not to reclaim the Aeros obtained in Fergana (from the account of cotton wool) Surkhondarya(from the account of the people's Commissariat for Land Affairs), in 1928-1929 the works of Kashkadarya (people's Commissariat for Land Affairs), Fergana and Hodjakent (Chief cotton wool) would continue. In 1929-1930, a plan was drawn up on the filming of the Bukhara, Zarafshan and Samarkand districts, and in 1931-1932 the whole republic was airborne and deciphered. 2 kinds of deciphers configured:



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- 1. On the use of each land plot;
- 2. Simple deciphering (irrigation networks, forest and crop areas);

The cost of deciphering was determined depending on the costs incurred in the sheds. Pictures of deciphers obtained in Fergana in 1926 – 1928 years were ugly and was ready in 1931-1932 years, because they were taken in large cameras. The cost of more than 100 000 rubles from the plan of the people's Commissariat for Land Affairs in 1928 – 1929 years was paid in 1929 – 1930 years. 4 419 800 rubles were allocated for all works<sup>1</sup>.

On May 6, 1928, with a resolution numbered 744, an agreement was signed between "Narkomzem" (people's Commissariat for Land Affairs) under the leadership of Leonid Nikolaevich Isaev and "Dobrolet" (Department of the volunteer military fleet), led by the head of Central Asian airlines, Abram Semyonovich Chernyakov. According to thee agreement, it was determined that the border area of 300 000 hectares of the Surkhandarya region should be prepared by 1 June for 50 000 hectares, 75 000 hectares by 1 July, 75000 hectares by 1 August, 75 000 hectares by 1 September and the remaining area for 1 cm – 10 km, 1: 12 000 scale maps by 15 September, The map marked the inclusion of the characters and names of the Fort, garden, vineyard, Forestry, crop fields, Mosque, cemetery, Mill, Bridge, well, Factory, post, fountain, consoles. When the transaction was notarized, the total cost was set to 195 000 rubles<sup>2</sup>.

On March 26, 1929, the project submitted by the Central Asian state planning organization (Sredazgosplan) was investigated by the commission of Mamchenko, Mamaev and Fayvilovich. In order to avoid parallelism in Geodesy, aerospace, cartographic works with the aim of rationalization and cheapening the work of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> UzNA fund R-10, 1-list, 767-work, P. 34-37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> UzNA fund R-90, 1-list, 358-work, Pp.1-5.



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photographing, the Central Asian Economic Council(Sredazekoso)decided the following:

- 1) To appoint the Central Asian Department of the General Geodesy Committee of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR National Economy for all topogeodetic and aerophoto works in Central Asia;;
- 2) Submission of all reports of topo-geodetic works to the General Geodesic Committee of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR National Economy by the People's Commissariat for Land Affairs;3) Let all government, public and production associations submit their prospective annual plans to the General geodesic of the Supreme Council of the USSR national economy;
- 3) All government, public and industrial associations submit their prospective annual plans to the General Geodesic Committee of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR;
  - 4) report on the work done and done;
- 5) create catalogs for all submitted reports and create an opportunity for anyone interested in their copies<sup>3</sup>;

According to the decision of the Central Asian Economic Council No 173, dated March 10, 1930, the General Cotton Committee of the UzSSR, the Central Asian Water Administration, the People's Commissariat for Land Affairs, together with the State Aeronautics Department would sign a contract until 15 march.

The General Directorate of Geodesy established the allocation of about 500 000 rubles for the necessary expenses. Control of these works was entrusted to the Central Asian state aerospace administration. Plans, taking into account the shortage of personnel and Technical Supply was defined not to exceed an area of more than 10 000 – 12 000 KV km. The society "Dobrolet" was entrusted with the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> UzNA fund R-9, 1-list, 232-work, Pp.10-11



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task of providing the aerofilming administration with space until it had the necessary building.

On February 22, 1930, a meeting of the Economic Council of Central Asia on aerospace affairs was held in Central Asia, which was scheduled for 1930. It included the secretary of the Economic Council Nikanovich, the people's Commissariat for land affairs of the UzSSR Skrisky, the head of the Geology Department of Central Asia Korisky, professor Lebedinsky from the Geology Department(Geolkom), the senior geodesic from the Water Management Department of Central Asia Drennov, the Chief Cotton engineer Rassolov, the head of the Geodetic Department of coal and nitrogen Klimashevsky, head of the Department Central Asian aerofilming Sadchikov.

The meeting was started by Sadchikov with a speech about cartographic plans, Technical Supply and financial opportunity for 1930-31. After the discussion, a special commission was established under the membership of Skrisky, Rassolov, Lebedinsky, Korisky and Sadchikov, and they were instructed to create an application until February 25. In the program, the following were determined: 3 aircraft and 2 units of Air Force experts should be allocated for this Summer, 15000 – 17000 KV km should be filmed at 1: 10 000 strangely, 2000 KV km should be filmed for the first time. Later, an order was given from the people's commissariat for Land affairs of UzSSR to film 4,000 kv. Km in Fergana valley, 5,000 kv. Km in Bukhara district, 4,000 kv. Km in Khorezm district (total 13,000 kv. Km); from the Geodesy comitee to film 155 kv. Km in the Kyzyl-Kiya region, 550 kv. Km in Naryn, 30 kv. Km in Kushtut, 100 kv. Km in Issyk-Kul, 1000 kv. Km from Uch-Kurgan of the Naryn district to the Kitman-Tyubinsk valley; from Uzbekneftgaz comitee to film 600 kv. Km in Naryn, 600 kv. Km in Osh, 800 kv.



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Km in Vakhsh, kv. Km in Ferghana valley. To fulfill these orders, one more specialist, one camera and one aircraft were requested.

The need for preparation for the use of the triangulation network in the second, third and fourth stages (in particular poligons) was emphasized in the photographing work in the area of 16000 kv km. Approximately 13 000 kv km taking into account the departure of 1 300 000 rubles for air navigation of the territory, the required amount is 25 % (325 000 rubles) at the conclusion of the contract, 25% at the beginning of Geodetic work, 25% at the end of Geodetic work and the payment of the remaining funds when the work was transferred. In order to carry out these works, it was established that in the first place would be completed 4000 kv km of Fergana Valley until 1 April 1931 at least 50%, in the second place 50% of Bukhara and Khorezm territory until 1 February, 1931 year until 1 Technology.

On May 24, 1931, according to the decision of the Presidium of the Economic Council of Central Asia numbered 229, the issue of unification of the Central Asian state aerofotos and Geodetic Department of Central Asia was submitted to Grigorev<sup>5</sup>.

According to the plan given to Geotrest until September 26, 1932, 34000 kv km work was carried out in the second plan, as a result of the reduction of the territory to 19500 kv km, Kalif, Karki, Chorjoy, Denov, Toshhovuz, Uzgan, Jalalabad and Ketmontepa regions were excluded from the second plan. The absence of clear plans, where the photographing work was set, caused excessive

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> UzNA fund R-9, 1-list, 302-work, Pp.81-85

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>UzNA fund R-9, 1-list, 391-work, Pp.87



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time, manpower and money to leave. For example: in one Khorezm Oasis caused an excessive expenditure of 3000 rubles<sup>6</sup>.

On February 7, 1933, in order to avoid parallelism and improve the efficiency of aerotopographic, Geodetic and cartographic works, the following decision was made about Aerofotogeotrest::

- 1. Aggregation of all topographic, Geodetic and cartographic works in Central Asia into the Central Asian Aerophotogeotrest database;
- 2. Send Loose topographer Geodetic personnel and equipment to the base of Aerofotogeotrest;
- 3. Total dispatch of all 1: 5000 scale maps, drawings, melioration and irrigation reports to the aerofotogeotrest database;
- 4. Send all of the 1: 10 000 scale and smaller pictures, triangulation summing tables;
  - 5. Submit to Aerofotogeotrest database of all major cards;
- 6. Organization of the Department of Economic Affairs in order to improve the quality of Service (primarily in the Turkmen SSR and Tajik SSR);
- 7. Organization of the commission under the chairmanship of the head of the State Planning Organization (Gosplan), the chairman of the Board of Directors (members: Milenki and Klimak) for the verification of all topographic and geodetic works;

For the above work were given two months<sup>7</sup>.

According to the decision of the Central Executive Branch of the Uzbek SSR dated April 7, 1933, number 26, the Central Asian Aerophotogeotrest was the leader in Geodetic, topographic, aerospace and photography works in the entire

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> UzNA fund R-9, 1-list, 2042-work, Pp.29-30

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> UzNA fund R-9, 1-list, 495-work, Pp.2-4

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Uzbek SSR. Taking into account the extraordinary importance of the work, it was established that when drawing up agricultural cards, it was necessary to help the leaders of the whole organization in the provision of food, accommodation, transport, medical services and secondary means. Control over the execution of the decision was attached to the chairman of the Soviet of people's commissars Fayzulla Khujaev<sup>8</sup>.

On April 21, 1933, in the Presidential Complex № 13 of the Central Asian Economic Council, a commission was established under the leadership of Paskusky with the membership of Smigli, Isaev, Zamilasko, Maksumov, Nasirbaev in order to check the entire activity of the Central Asian Aerofotext and to propose the decisions that should be taken until 4 May next year<sup>9</sup>.

In conclusion, we can say that in the 20 - 30 years of The XX century in the UzSSR, as a result of the presence of a number of shortcomings in the implementation of cartographic work, excessive output arose as a result of the repeated filming of a territory unknowingly. In addition, the fact that the photos were taken in the old cameras caused a great difficulty in studying them. With the help of commissions formed as a result of the conferences organized in order to prevent this, both the technology and the pace of work gradually improved. The work carried out was maintained by special organizations and services were organized to provide copies of the necessary parts to the necessary organizations. As a result of this work, significant changes were made in cartographic work.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> UzNA fund R-837, 11-List, 33-work, Pp.23

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> UzNA fund R-9, 1-list, 2349-work, Pp.51



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