

# Native language press revives in USSR

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**YAKUTSK** — Today only Khanty, Nenets and Chukchi in the Soviet North have newspapers in their Native languages, while in the previous years, other small nationalities in Siberia and the Soviet Far East also had their own newspapers.

The appearance of the press in the Native languages of the Soviet northern peoples was directly connected with the formation of their national statehood.

In 1930-31, national-territorial autonomous areas, national districts and Soviets were formed in the North. For Evenks and Evens, who live in a vast area from the Lena River to the Pacific and Kamchatka, three Evenk and one Even autonomous areas, as well as 10 Even and six Evenk national districts were formed. Smaller groups of the indigenous population in the North were included in national Soviets.

After alphabets were developed for northern nationalities, newspapers in the Evenk, Even, Eskimo and Nanai languages began to be published in the Yakut Autonomous Republic, the Magadan Region and the Khabarovsk Territory.

Apart from newspapers, the New Alphabet Committee, set up in the early 1930s, tried to put out even a journal in the languages of the northern peoples.

However, the rapid development of the national autonomy of the indigenous nationalities in the North did not fit in with the nationalities policy of Stalinism.

The number of autonomous areas was sharply cut, and by 1934, national districts and Soviets were annulled. At that time, the majority of newspapers in Native languages were closed. The bureaucratic system of administrative command that followed Stalinism was not interested in changing the state of affairs.

The experience of publishing newspapers in the languages of northern peoples will be useful now that nationalities relations are being revised in the Soviet Union.

The revival of the cultural life of many nationalities is directly connected with the principle of the complete satisfaction of the requirements in periodicals in the Native language of every nation and nationality in the USSR, irrespective of its strength and whether it has its national statehood.

Last August the first two national districts were formed in the Russian Federation. One of them, the Even-Batantai, was revived in the Yakut region. Soon, a district newspaper in the Even and Yakut languages will be launched there.

The number of national districts in the USSR will increase. Accordingly, new newspapers will appear.

In some regions, local newspapers in the Russian language have started publishing special supplements in Native languages.

The publication of new newspapers necessitated the solution to a number of problems, the most difficult of them being the shortage of journalists speaking Native languages.

At the Yakut State University, where I head the department of jour-

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nalism on a part-time basis, we train specialists for the local press in the autonomous republic. Now we plan to train Even and Evenks for the purpose.

Not long ago, a request came from Sakhalin to train journalists for the local newspaper to be published in the Nivkh language.

In the future, it would be expedient to organize a center on the basis of the university to train journalists from among the local population for the entire northeastern part of the USSR.

The revival of the press in the languages of the northern nationalities raises the question of training journalists also at other big educational centers of Siberia and the Soviet Far East.

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