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## **The formation and development of higher pedagogical education of the Polish national minority in the Soviet Ukraine (30th years XX century)**

In the conditions of the modern state and a democratic society in Ukraine, the scientific interest of the problems related to education and culture, not only representatives of the titular nation, but also ethnic minorities, is growing. So the question about functioning of Polish higher education institutions, at the right-bank territory of Ukraine, where young men and women of Polish descent has gained professional trainings is urgent and important. It is known, that the foundation and functioning of the labor departments provided the way for young people who has successfully finished courses for gaining higher education.

In Ukrainian historiographical researches of certain aspects of mentioned issues are represented at the works of O. Kalakura<sup>1</sup>, A. Rublev<sup>2</sup>, G. Stronsky<sup>3</sup> and others. Some information can be found at the works of Polish scientists M. Ivanov<sup>4</sup> and J. Kupchak<sup>5</sup>.

Our researches goal aims, at the introduction to the scientific use of numerous archival materials and their analysis, to give a detailed description of the establishment and operation of the Polish Pedagogical Institute in Kiev - the only one in the history of Soviet higher educational institution for minorities.

After a census in 1926 in Ukraine lived 476 435 Poland. The most ethnic array of Poland during a few centuries existed on earth of Right-bank Ukraine, particularly in Galychina, Podolye and Polesye, where it was saved to our time<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> O. Kalakura, *Poles in ethno-political processes in the lands of Ukraine in the twentieth century*, Kijów, Knowledge Ukraine, 2007, 507 s.

<sup>2</sup> A. Rublev, *Shkits the history of the death of Ukrainian „Polonia”, 1930* / A. Rublev // *Historiography Research in Ukraine* / Institute of History of Ukraine, Kyiv, 2003, Vol. 13, s. 275-319.

<sup>3</sup> G. Stronski, *Ups and downs: Polish National District in Ukraine in 20-30 years*, Tarnopol 1992.

<sup>4</sup> M. Iwanow, *Pierwszy naród ukarany. Polacy w Związku Radzieckim. 1921-1939*, Warszawa 1991.

<sup>5</sup> J. Kupczak, *Polacy na Ukrainie w latach 1921-1939*, Wrocław 1994.

<sup>6</sup> T. Eremenko, B.Chirko, O. Kalakura, *Poles in Ukraine, „Veche” 1993, № 2.*

For the first time the question about providing of interests of national minorities of Ukraine as a direction of public policy in industry of national relations was considered by Central Rada that proclaimed a right for the Polish people on the "nationally-personal autonomy" (third Universal November in 1917). Considerable attention of development of education and culture of national minorities, including Polish spared a soviet government. So, the XII-th convention of RKP(b) (April,1923) proclaimed politics of «corenization», the Ukrainian variety of that got the name of «ukrainization». It was declared, that the primary purpose of this politics was the influence on the development of cultures and languages of people of the USSR, training of national stuffs, creation of national-territory units, national educational establishments.

However, the main task of politics of «corenization» for communist party consisted in that, finally to become firmly established, take root in national republics, fix the control above them, spread the influence on a local population, conquer his trust and secure his support.

The Polish population of Ukraine with a mistrust behaved to soviet power. It caused a serious disturbance at party-soviet guidance, as it took into account the quantity of Poland in Ukrainian SSR. Among national minorities they occupied the third (after Russians and jewries) place in a republic.

Thus, at the beginning of 20th Polish education and culture got some possibilities for the development<sup>7</sup>. It important to notice, that Polish schools created in Ukrainian National Republic (1917-1918) were liquidated after the Soviet-Polish war and by the end of 1920 within the limits of Ukraine there was not a single Polish school.

In August, 1921, at the college of commissariat of education there was well-educated Advice on business of formation of national minorities, the Polish bureau operated in composition that. It came forward as a co-ordinator and explorer of the soviet system of education for Poland. In the same year on territory of republic labour Polish schools were opened.

In autumn in 1922 in Ukraine Code "About folk education", entered into in action, 23 points of that confirmed a right for national minorities to "provide education and studies of children the mother language. At the same time, a 26 point of this law marked that all education must be imbued by the spirit of proletarian internationalism<sup>8</sup>.

Legal status to schools of national minorities, including Polish, gave Decree of Council of People's Commissars from July, 27,1923 "About measures on business of ukrainization of school-educator and cultural and educational establishments". According to this document Polish national schools in that studies were conducted by the mother tongue were opened in residences compact Poland. Mainly schools were two of types: mass rural 4th annual and 7-years-old schools. In national Polish schools from the third class Ukrainian was studied, and in septennial schools - Russian.

The basic amount of Polish schools was concentrated in rural locality.

Mainly these were onecompleted schools (one teacher is on 2-3 classes).

In national schools that had to become the initial "instruments of dictatorship of

<sup>7</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, f. P-920 "Polish Pedagogical Institute", op.6, s. 9 - Sprawa Kompletowania Un-tu, 32 ss., s. 3

<sup>8</sup> *The Historic building in the Ukrainian SSR. Critical decisions of the Communist Party and the Soviet government. Collections of documents in 2 vols, v.1, Kijów 1960, s. 158.*

proletariat on business education of young people”, considerable control was set after maintenance of studies, composition and selection of teaching shots. Therefore schools constantly tested cleaning from “class-hostile” elements. Teachers were divided into three categories:

- Komsomol-party members;
- pupils of soviet pedagogical schools;
- representatives of old teacher to that soviet government bodies belonged with the special mistrust.

In 1925 on east Volyn the Polish national district was created with a center in the village Dovbish, that was afterwards renamed in honour to the Polish revolutionary Yulian Marhlevskiy.

Marhlevskiy district had to become a model for creation in the future of “red Poland” after necessary (in opinion of soviet ideologists) realization there of socialistic revolution.

Through the continuous cleaning there was the widespread phenomenon of sharp lack of shots for national schools, accordingly party guidance forced constantly to care of their preparation. So, it is clear that the near-term task of soviet government bodies in the field of education was preparation of “red teachers” - explorers of politics of communist party in life. To that end the Polish pedagogical courses in Kyiv, that an apartment was given for a street Prorizna 19, were organized in 1922. Before the Polish club was situated in this apartment. Repair was there conducted and an apartment was prepared for the beginning of work of courses, but it was occupied by soldiery. Therefore courses “moved” on Rilskiy street 10<sup>9</sup>.

Further development of network of Polish national schools required preparation of all greater number of teaching shots. For this reason in 1924-25 school Polish technical schools (Kyiv Polish pedagogical school was reorganized from the Polish pedagogical courses) were opened in Kyiv and Proscuriv (now Khmelnytskyi)<sup>10</sup>. In 1928 in Zhytomyr pedagogical school and Kyiv institute of folk education the Polish separations were open.

By the center of training of national scientifically-pedagogical personnel’s formed in 1930 in Kyiv the Polish institute of social education (Institute of folk education) is soon reformed in the Polish pedagogical college. It was only one in the USSR (and in Ukraine in particular) higher Polish educational establishment.

If to take into account the quantity of the Polish population in all USSR, it is possible to reach to the conclusion, that such educational establishment was really needed too satisfy some necessities of the Polish national minority. And if to trace it in the context of “politics of party”, then creation of similar establishment appears fully justified.

In addition, in December, 1930 one-year preschool courses were organized for farmers-students<sup>11</sup>. Studies were conducted at pedagogical schools. This measure was done in order to liquidate the lack of preschool teachers. But, clear that the level of previous educational preparation of collective farmers abandoned to wish the best.

<sup>9</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-807, op. 1, c.11 - Korespondencja z N.K.O., s.14.

<sup>10</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-807, op. 1 - Sprawozdania, c.1, s. 31.

<sup>11</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 5, c.8 - Plany naukowe, s. 19.

Accordingly, results of studies on one-year courses were quite not high.

At first on studies to the institute 17 students were collected, that fully satisfied guidance of institute and it was not even planned to conduct a spring set. But at the beginning of January in 1931 the Folk commissariat of education accepted corresponding resolution in relation to completing of institute and change of guidance (led by S.V. Sohatskiy). According to this decision the contingent of set was certain in 180 persons:

- 120 on a 1th course;
- 60 on a 2th course<sup>12</sup>.

So as an institute was actually just created and not many peoples knew about it, to guidance of institute it was needed in somewise to carry to the people about his existence, to execute the put tasks in relation to the set of students on studies<sup>13</sup>.

As a result of energetic work of management of institute and labour of shock-brigades from the existent students of institute, that were sent on all Ukraine, a set was complete to the end of January valuable employments began from January, 23, 1931.<sup>14</sup>

As the previous, first set was quite insignificant, these students were up-diffused between all departments and courses of institute.

At first an institute had only three faculties:

- school;
- out-of-school education;
- child's communist movement;

Seven departments were included in their composition. Technical-mathematical department - prepared the teachers of mathematics, physics, based of industrial production; agrobiological - prepared the teachers of natural disciplines; historical-economical - prepared teachers of social economic disciplines; literary - teachers of language and literature; pedologo-pedagogical are pedology, pedagogics and didactics of pedagogical schools, pedologo-pedagogical cabinets and other; preschool - prepared the teachers of preschool establishments; department of child's communist motion and out-of-school education - teachers of these disciplines for pedagogical schools, methodists and other<sup>15</sup>.

The spring set of 1931 gave such results on an institute:

- workers - 27%- 33%
- farm-hands - 6%
- collective peasants-farmers - 19%
- peasants poor, not members of collective farm - 7%
- teachers - 25%
- office workers and handicraftsmen - 16%

From them members and candidates of CP(b) 12 persons, members of the komsomol - 45 persons, members of trade unions is a 131 persons<sup>16</sup>.

Plenty of teachers is explained by that the Polish teachers needed in-plant training, that they could not get before, as, as marked already, there were not Polish pedagogical higher educational establishments. In addition, by an institute a few

<sup>12</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 6, c.8 - Pokazy, s. 6-7.

<sup>13</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 6, c.9 - Pokazy, s. 3.

<sup>14</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 6, c.10 - Pokazy, s. 6-7.

<sup>15</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 6, c.12- Pokazy, s. 27.

<sup>16</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 6, c.12- Pokazy, s. 27.

working departments were organized: Kyiv daily, evening and Marhlevskiy. Thus, the common amount of students of institute together with working departments in 1931 presented:

- An institute - 180 persons;
- Kyiv daily working department - 127 persons;
- Kyiv evening working department - 17 persons;
- Marhlevskiy evening working department - 60 persons.

Together 384 persons<sup>17</sup>. It was also planned to conduct a set in future, to increase the amount of students. After plans, teaching had to be conducted by Polish. But there was a sharp lack of teachers that would own it so well. There were cases, when an institute to want of shots invited lecturers from other educational establishments, where they laid out Ukrainian. But it came true for terms, that no more than through half-year teaching they passed to Polish, for such short space to the teacher it was needed well enough to learn Polish, so, to conduct by her employment. Attention was accented on that in an institute students study from other countries, highly skilled specialists are needed that is why<sup>18</sup>[11, p. 9]. Teachers were also invited from abroad, for example from Minsk or Moscow, but they did not have the opportunity to arrive, as an institute could not provide their dwelling, - here again failure.

Students that in most cases studied in Ukrainian, Belarussian and other schools badly owned Polish. So, beginning from May 1931 the amount of hours was considerably megascopic for the study of Polish (from to 360 hours 140 pre-arranged at first)<sup>19</sup>[12, p. 2]. Already from first-year of existence there was a number of obstacles in-process institute and even if to cast aside the deficit of teachers and incidents with a language, there were other, no less sharp questions that disturbed guidance of institute and mixed him to normal work. Main from them was absence of apartment for realization of employments. Also is complete absence of money for the equipment of laboratories and cabinets. Coming from this situation, an institute used an apartment that was given to Polish pedagogical school. They worked in two changes and could not provide the valuable studies of all academic groups. As an institute had no equipment and laboratories - it has to use the resources of pedagogical school, that did not answer the requirements of high school even, not that higher.

Due to energetic work of prof. organizations and management of institute problem of more or less satisfactory apartment for the students of Institute and working department something was succeeded to decide: used the dormitories of proletarian students. But it was only temporally and for the students of autumn set of proletarian students guarantees on the grant of apartments did not give. In addition, there was the given possibility to live in a dormitory from another city students. The cost of residence in 1931 costed a 68 and 03 ceps for one year from one student<sup>20</sup>.

An institute differently assisted encouragement of students to attendance of employments. Yes, with the aim of stimulation, used the different social methods of labour, socialist emulation was widely unfolded in particular. Already in the first year

<sup>17</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 6, c.12- Pokazy, s. 27.

<sup>18</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 7, c.1 - Plany naukowe, 36 s.

<sup>19</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 7, c.6 - Pokazy, 6 s.

<sup>20</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 6, c.13 - Pokazy, s.7.

of studies 98,8% of students were presented<sup>21</sup>. Guidance of institute notarized, that students showed outstanding activity and personal interest not only in attendance of lectures, but also successfully master an academic minimum.

In particular, for the first half-year studies an academic minimum was successfully mastered by 86,7% of students that are a large enough index, taking into account, that an institute was actually just created and had small experience on organizational work with students. Guidance of institute notarized in addition, that students on 100% took part in different public organizations, and also actively enough proved in of general utility social work. Majority from them took part in-process on a village, where students left brigades for realization of different campaigns. 88% of students ordinary attended meeting institute; 100% were the members of co-operation<sup>22</sup>. Maybe, such model data in relation to activity of students and their personal interest in an educational process, and, in addition, need different social work were first of all to guidance of institute. As thus it tried to notarize power "above" firstly, about demand and successful work of institute; secondly - about the 100% job processing.

A library functioned at an institute, but there was a problem in the lack of necessary literature for studies. A main fund were 3 thousand volumes that lent an institute the Nationwide Polish library. Guidance of institute, pursuing in life a party policy severely watched after the moral looks of students, setting a monopoly the same on truth. Already in the first months of studies a few students were excluded from an institute through the "displays of hostile ideology". In an institute there were corresponding student and party organizations (namely professional Committee and party branch), that contested with the similar "unhealthy" phenomena, conducted discussions and discussions of these questions on numerous student collections<sup>23</sup>.

In 1933 drastic alternations took place in an institute. S.V.Sohatskiy was taken off and subjected to repression, and into his place appointed Y.D.Bodniak (real name - Grabovskiy Anton Yulianovich). He was appointed on March, 1, 1933 on position of professor, manager of department of political economy. In the same year, after resolution of National Commissariat of Education, all institutes from three-year were translated on the four-year-old course of studies. Among principal reasons of such changes marked, that for three years institutes prepared less prepared teachers for the higher forms of high school. But, at the same time Polish Pedagogical Institute stopped to be the only one higher educational establishment of Soviet Union, as exactly at the end of 1933 at the beginning of 1934 at Polish Pedagogical Institute the 2-years-old Polish pedagogical college was created in Kyiv yet<sup>24</sup>. Marked, that the contingent of set to Polish Pedagogical Institute in 1936 must make 2 thousand Persons<sup>25</sup>. Radin became the director of the accrued institute<sup>26</sup>.

A teaching level was rather low, and if to take into account that an institute and middle educational establishments was named "Polish", as they anymore looked like Ukrainian educational establishments. It is explained by the row of factors : first,

<sup>21</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 6, c.15-Pokazy, s. 6-7.

<sup>22</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 5, c.7 - Okólniki z N.K.O., s. 6-7.

<sup>23</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, P-920, op. 6, c.5 - Pokazy, s. 6-7.

<sup>24</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 9, c. 3 - Kierownicze materiały NKO, s. 70.

<sup>25</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 11, c. 352 - Zadania z historii Polski, s. 27.

<sup>26</sup> State Archives in the City of Kyiv, p. P-920, op. 10, c. 49 - Akty, s. 69.

most teachers owned Polish badly; second, low level of educational preparation among students - many from them made off four-year-old or septennial rural schools; third, sharp lack of teachers and hard party mode. For the short enough interval of time it was needed to collect teachers, and specialists that would lay out Polish it was not so simply to find.

At arranging on teaching work there were not limitations neither in age, nor in a social origin nor in party membership. The teachers of institute, technical schools and working departments in most did not have the proper education and teaching experience, laying out the Ukrainian or Russian languages. Accordingly taught students that for completion of institute must lay out in Polish schools (practically not owning Polish).

But far going plans were not incarnate in life, as rolling up of work of Polish educational establishments began after the change of politics of party. Declared about the permanent "impurit" of Marhlevskiy district "wrecking elements", that he was created with a counter-revolutionary aim from beginning (in 1925) and assisted wrecking work that spread in Polish educational establishments, in particular in Polish Pedagogical Institute. But, in such case, why did allow creation of district in general and where the leaders of republic looked during his work? Speech goes, for example, about "one of the most prominent leaders of party and Soviet Government, one of most comrade-in-arms of comrade Stalin, prominent bolshevist organizer" - L.M. Kahanovych, Secretary general of CK CP (b). In 1925-1928. The anymore, that the department of national minorities created in NKVD through the network of administrative departments on places watched national minorities of Ukraine and collected information about work among them.

Thus, if Polish counter-revolution on a kind at individuals and under a side at departments "built a counter-revolutionary outpost" on the western border of Soviet Ukraine, accountable for it were they, but not ordinaries or district scale "wreckers" against that numerous repressions were directed, and usually, not pedagogical establishments.

Thus, on August, 17, 1935 members of politburo of CK CP (b) in accepted resolution of CK "About Marhlevskiy and Pulinskiy districts". Polish Marhlevskiy and German Pulinskiy the districts of the Kyiv area were broken up "in connection with an economic weakness", and "administrative strip farming"<sup>27</sup>.

Soon, namely on September, 29 in 1935 Politburo of CK CP (b) in accepted resolution about the "Polish pedagogical college", it was marked: "Taking into account the requirement of existent Polish schools in Ukraine in pedagogical shots, to consider inadvisable to have the special Polish pedagogical college with an amount to 700 persons that pass studies in him. To liquidate the Polish pedagogical college, create instead of him a separation at the Kyiv pedagogical college on 100 persons, that fully will satisfy requirements in preparation of teachers for Polish schools"<sup>28</sup>.

Thus, can assert that creation of the Polish pedagogical Institute was only temporally a necessary measure for realization in life of plans of communist party. Guidance of party took into account the quantity of the Polish national minority in

<sup>27</sup> G. Stronski, *Ups and downs: Polish National District in Ukraine in 20-30 years*, Tarnopol 1992.

<sup>28</sup> T. Eremenko, B. Chirko, O. Kalakura, *Poles in Ukraine*, "Veche" 1993, № 2.

the Soviet Ukraine. And that is why, accordingly, it was needed to declare oneself in the eyes of Poland, thus, that it assisted the most rapid taking root among the Polish population of Ukraine. But after Polish-German rapprochement in 1933 of politician of party changes, the permanent "cleaning" began in an institute under pretence of "twisting of party ideas" and "conduct of provoking work" against Communist Party, that, in the end, and resulted in his liquidation in 1935 together with Polish Marhlevskiy district.

So, we consider that its creation was a part of the infamous and hypocritical game of Soviet authorities. After a change of emphasis in national policy of the Communist Party and collapse of korenization, which was only a temporary maneuver and permitted only in some rules and limits that are not contrary to the interests and ideological assumptions of the top party leadership. And in next years, the Stalinism has launched a brutal extermination of the all leading and teaching staff, has done massacre of the intelligention. As a result the policy towards national minorities, including Polish, was dramatically changed, which led to destruction for all the five-year struggle for the development of Polish Pedagogical Institute.



Резюме

Илона Мищенко

**Формирование и развитие высшего педагогического образования польского национального меньшинства на советской Украине (30-е годы XX века)**

В статье, на основе архивных источников, рассматривается вопрос о положении высшего педагогического образования польского национального меньшинства, в советской Украине в контексте создания и деятельности польского педагогического колледжа в Киеве в 30-х гг. XX-го века.

**Ключевые слова:** образование, польское национальное меньшинство, Польский институт народного образования, «коренизация», мархлевский район, коммунистическая партия.

Summary

Ilona Mishtchenko

**The formation and development of higher pedagogical education of the Polish national minority in the Soviet Ukraine (30th years XX century)**

In the article on the basis of the archived sources the question of position of higher pedagogical education of the Polish national minority is examined in the Soviet Ukraine in the context of creation and activity of the Polish pedagogical college in Kyiv in 30th of the XX-th century.

**Keywords:** education, Polish national minority, Polish institute of folk education, «corenization», Marhlevskiy district, communist party.

Streszczenie

Ilona Miszczenko

**Powstawanie i rozwój wyższego szkolnictwa pedagogicznego polskiej mniejszości narodowej na Ukrainie Radzieckiej (l. 30-te XX w.)**

W artykule, na podstawie źródeł archiwalnych, została przedstawiona kwestia pedagogicznego szkolnictwa wyższego polskiej mniejszości narodowej na terenie radzieckiej Ukrainy w kontekście tworzenia i działalności polskiej uczelni pedagogicznej w Kijowie w latach 30-ch XX wieku.

