

THE CRISIS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION IN 1990-1991
(ACCORDING TO THE MATERIALS OF THE NOVOPOLOTSK COMMITTEE OF THE CPSU)

ALEXANDER KOZLOV, EUGENE GLAZYRIN
Polotsk State University, Belarus

The article presents the prerequisites for the crisis of the party-state apparatus of Novopolotsk, the main features and features of this process in 1990-1991. The conclusion is made about the regularity of the genesis of the problems, the escalation of tensions in accordance with the trends within the Byelorussian SSR, the connection between the rising crime rate and the decline in the standard of living and the loss of control over the management of the city.

Introduction. In the 1988, when the second stage of perestroika started, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union faced a crisis of governance and public confidence. This crisis began after the start of structural socio-economic and socio-political reforms, initiated by the general secretary of the Central Committee of CPSU and the Chairman of the Presidium of Supreme Soviet of USSR Mikhail Gorbachev. The reforms were conceived as an accelerator of the development of the Soviet economy, the engine of social progress. However, due to the fact that hidden destructive phenomena have accumulated in the economy of the USSR since the late 1970s, structural reforms not only didn't accelerate economic growth, but also led to its sharp decline, as well as the escalation of contradictions in all spheres of life. The Communist Party, the core of the entire political system, was losing control of situation. A wave of a surge in national sentiment has swept through the Union republics, and interethnic conflicts have entered an open phase.

The Novopolotsk committee of the CPSU also lost control over what is happening in the city. Open confrontation with green activists, as well as the national democratic movement in the city council of people's deputies led to the open political struggle and to suspension of activity of city council of people's deputies, city executive committee [1, p.96]. One of the main causes of the crisis in Novopolotsk was the ecological situation, because 180 thousand tons of harmful substances were thrown into the urban atmosphere. The main polluters were the production associations «Novopolotsknefteorgsintez», «Polymir» and the plant of protein-vitamin concentrates [2, p.33]. This reason, as well as the all-Union negative tendencies in economic led to increasing of opposition sentiments among the residents of Novopolotsk.

Task formulation. The purpose of the study is to examine the main features of the crisis of party-state apparatus of Novopolotsk in 1990-1991 in the field of crime control, relations within the city party organization and the Komsomol, according to materials of the Novopolotsk Committee of the CPSU

Methods of research: historical-genetic and statistical methods.

Results, their discussion and perspectives. On January 9, 1991, the 2nd Plenum of the Novopolotsk Committee of the CPSU was held [3, p.2]. The first secretary of the city committee, Vladimir Pantalev, read out to the delegates and members of the city committee a report "On the work of party organizations, communists to strengthen the fight against crime, mismanagement, compliance with current legislation" [4, p.3-8]. The report noted that the negligent attitude of officials, the unsatisfactory condition of fences and the poor work of military security units and militia led to an increase of crimes in Novopolotsk [4, p.5].

The report listed several major thefts at the production associations «Novopolotsknefteorgsintez» and «Polymir». In January 1990, 4 carpets and a batch of Yugoslav footwear in the amount of 2,340 rubles were stolen from the «Novopolotsknefteorgsintez» warehouse. At the production association "Polymir" from shop No. 17, 2 tons of polyethylene were stolen, in shop No. 304 – 8 rolls of plastic film, from shop No. 204 - 4 rolls of plastic film, from warehouse No. 85 - 16 video recorders, near the service shop - covers for cars in the amount of 1870 rubles. From September to October 1990 the tractor drivers of the «Polymir» plant removed from the territory and hid 675 kg of granulated polyethylene in the amount of 11,577 rubles for sale to the cooperative firm from Lithuania [4, p.5].

There was a general increase in the number of crimes from 669 to 808 (20.8%), in the field of criminal investigation from 552 to 690 (25%). In addition, the number of serious crimes increased by 11.4%. The main part of the crimes (70%) - theft of state and personal property - increased from 353 to 474 [4, p. 4-5]. 12 cars and

19 motorcycles, 2 engines and 51 windshields were stolen [4, p. 6]. 97 crimes were committed while intoxicated, and in 1990 2,200 people were imprisoned in sobering cells. 245 were sent for treatment to drug treatment, 15 people - to medical and labor health centers. 192 drivers were drunk and detained, 48 people were prosecuted for drinking juveniles, 22 facts of speculation on alcohol were revealed. This indicated the spread of drunkenness and alcoholism among the population of Novopolotsk. [4, p. 7]. Despite the low crime detection rate (63.7%), the report reported a decrease in the number of crimes committed by minors - 77 cases in 1990. The number of participants also decreased from 67 to 65 [4, p. 6,8]. Considering the co-reports of the head of the city department of internal affairs, the judge of the people's court and the city prosecutor, delegates and members of the city committee adopted the Resolution, which gave instructions to primary party organizations to strengthen control and fight against crime and negligence [5, p.20].

This Plenum de-facto confirmed the loss of control over the situation of party and state structures, the growing crisis of party confidence as a regulator of public relations, as well as a change in the form of social relations towards the establishment of individualism. The 3rd Plenum, which took place on April 3, confirmed this crisis [6, p. 23]. According to the agenda, the question was raised about the creation of a reserve fund of a city party organization, which received a certain percentage of membership fees. However, the primary party organizations of the plant for protein-vitamin concentrates, the city communications center, the music school, and the Novopolotsk Polytechnic Institute refused to participate in the creation of such a fund [7, p. 25]. Despite this, Plenum Resolution established the fund together with percentage of transfers (35%), and its main tasks were social support for secretaries of party committees and organizations, social assistance to party veterans, bonuses for secretaries to party organizations with less than 50 people [7, p. 24-25].

The crisis was aggravated by the fact that the party was losing its reserve in the form of Komsomol members. At the 4th joint Plenum of the city committee of the CPSU and the city committee of the Komsomol, which was held on June 12, this was officially confirmed [8, p. 30]. First Secretary Vladimir Pantalev in his report "On the interaction of party committees with the Komsomol committees, the city Council of People's Deputies, state enterprises and institutions to address the social, spiritual problems of young people in modern conditions" noted that in December 1990 the 29th Congress of the Belarusian Komsomol organized the transition from the status of a political communist union focus on the social organization of a socialist sense, based on humanism, justice, freedom and civic dignity [9, p. 33-34]. Therefore, among the secretaries of the primary Komsomol organizations, the number of communists has decreased by 4 times, and the number of working communists in the Komsomol city committee fell from 400 people (1985 level) to 125 people (1991 level) [9, p. 34]. The number of workers of the city committee since 1990 has decreased by 2 times, 43 primary organizations were abolished [9, p. 35]. The plenary session adopted the Resolution and Program of interaction between the structures of the CPSU and the Belarusian Komsomol. The Decree prescribed joint meetings, and the Interaction Program laid the foundation for the interaction of the party and Komsomol organizations, the initiative work of the communist deputies in city council of people's deputies, communist leaders of the city executive committee, labor and training groups in solving social and spiritual problems of youth [10, p.61-62; 11, p.63].

By the summer of 1991, the all-Union destructive tendencies reached their peak, so it cannot be said that the Novopolotsk committee, which made several serious mistakes, but also subordinated to the will of the central leadership, could correct the situation as soon as possible.

On July 2, 1991, the 5th Plenum of the Committee was held [12, p. 68]. The main issue was the personal composition of the city committee. By the Decree of the Plenum, Vladimir Pantalev was dismissed from the post of first secretary in connection with his transfer to the apparatus of the Vitebsk Regional Committee [13, p. 69]. Instead him the city party organization was headed by second secretary Oleg Zakharenko [14, p. 72]. Member of the city committee Akulov, Bezenova and Latysheva were excluded. Akulov leaved Novopolotsk and changed his place of living. Latysheva and Bezenova left the CPSU [15, p. 69].

Based on the foregoing, it can be noted that in 1990-1991 the Communist Party lost control in a regular chain. Initially, the communists practically ceased to control the Soviet organs and production facilities. Then the crisis touched the Komsomol structures, which announced their departure from the role of the CPSU reserve. Then disunity began in the ranks of the primary party organizations, and the 5th Plenum was the apotheosis, during which the composition of the city committee and its first secretary changed.

It is widely known that at the second stage of perestroika, destructive phenomena reached their apogee, including in the Byelorussian SSR. The new first secretary, Oleg Zakharenko, in the conditions of the collapse of the party system could not influence the course of decisions of the Novopolotsk City Council of People's Deputies and the national democratic movement.

Linguistics, literature, philology

On August 25, 1991 Decree of the Supreme Council announced the suspension, and de facto, the actual ban of the CPSU and the Communist Party of Byelorussia in the territory of the Byelorussian SSR [16]. Communist party organizations ceased to exist and no longer influenced the state apparatus.

Conclusion. Summarizing, we can highlight the following theses:

- In 1990-1991, the Novopolotsk Committee of the CPSU ceased to be the main driving social and political force in society, lost public support and control over government bodies.
- There was a pattern of loss of control, according to the materials of Novopolotsk committee - first in Soviet and industrial bodies, then over Komsomol, later in primary party organizations and directly in the city committee itself.
- At the 2nd Plenum, the city committee confirmed that primary party organizations do not follow the discipline, which resulted in an increase in crime, theft and alcoholism.
- The 3rd Plenum was held in an atmosphere of disunity - several primary organizations (Novopolotsk plant of protein-vitamin concentrates, Novopolotsk Polytechnic Institute, music school, communications center) refused to participate in the creation of the reserve fund of the city party organization.
- At the 4th Plenum, the city committees of the CPSU and the Belarusian Komsomol adopted the Interaction Program, as previously the Komsomol changed its ideological orientation and refused the political union and reserve of the CPSU. It was announced and the reduction of the ranks of the Komsomol, the communists working in it.
- The top of the loss of control by the party was the change of leadership of the city committee and its composition at the 5th Plenum: the first secretary went to the office of the Vitebsk regional committee, two members of the city committee left the CPSU, one left Novopolotsk.
- The loss of control of the Novopolotsk party organization is associated with both local and all-union destructive processes, which is a characteristic feature for all party structures in the territory of the Soviet Union.

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