

13 People's Commissars of NKVD

Biographic reference book "Kazakhstannyn halyk komissarlary" ("People's Commissars of Kazakhstan") prepared by the staff of the Archive of the President of RK was published.

It is a fundamental encyclopedic edition, offering readers information about all the leaders of the government and people's commissars (the predecessors of the ministries) and their first deputies for 1920-1946.

On October 4, 1920, I Congress of Soviets of Kazakhstan announced the formation of Kazakh Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and formed the first government in the Republic – the Soviet of People's Commissars. The government consists of 12 leaders of the People's Commissariat of People's Commissars. The system of People's Commissariats lasted until March 1946.

403 People's Commissars (including first deputies) whose biographies are presented in the reference book were replaced during this period. The leader of Alash Orda A. Baitursynov, his associates Zh.Aimauytov, A. Kenzhin, S. Saduakasov were among the People's Commissars of the first structures. Former Mensheviks, social revolutionaries, anarchists headed People's Commissariat. But since the mid-20s all the opponents of the Bolsheviks, although former, were expelled, and only members of the Communist party became the heads of government bodies.

People's Commissars were one of the first victims of Stalinist repressions. 74 of 126 People's Commissars, appointed in 1920-1938 (excluding 6 people died by that time) were repressed. 72 people were arrested in 1937-1938. 51 of them were executed by shooting, 21 – were sentenced to the various terms of imprisonment, two of them committed suicide without waiting for the verdict.

Mukkhamedkhafi Myrzagaliyev



(1889-1938)

The People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, more often called the NKVD was infamous for people among other People's Commissariats. Mukkhamedkhafi Myrzagaliyev was elected as its head at the I Congress of Soviets. He was born in the tract Daunkul of Karaoby district of West Kazakhstan region in 1887. His father was a wealthy man. After graduation from non-classical secondary school, Mukhamedkhafi continued his education in Mariinsk agricultural school near Saratov. During his study in Uralsk he joined the revolutionary movement and sympathized to the ideas of "Alash" party. In 1917-1918 he was a member of Uralsk Kirobkom, participated in the work of Karatyube Congress, where Western branch of the government of Alash-Orda was selected. But he dissented with Zh. and Kh. Dosmukhamedovs on the Congress and became a member of Alash-Orda formed by A.Alibekov and E.Kasabulatov.

During the civil war he was Deputy Chairman and Chairman of the Ural-Bukey and Jambeity revolutionary committees. M. Myrzagaliyev worked a year in position of the People's Commissar for Internal Affairs. Later he became Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars and headed the Republican Party Organization at the same, worked as a People's Commissar of the Finance. Being the leader of Kazakhstan, M. Myrzagaliyev took a principled stance on issues of national policy and peculiarities of building socialism in Kazakhstan. In the late 20s F.Goloshchekin dispersed national staff, expelling from all the most striking figures from Kazakhstan, including M.Myrzagaliyev. Since 1930 he worked as the

head of Forest administration of local importance of the People's Commissariat of RSFSR in Moscow. But in 1937, when he knew that some of his associates were persecuted, he went to Kazakhstan. This spiritual impulse cost his life. M. Myrzagaliev was arrested in August 1937 and expelled from the party for "disguising his wealthy origin, actively participated in counter-revolutionary nationalist works".

Abdrakhman Aitiyev



(1886-1936)

In October 1921, Abdrakhman Aitiyev – countryman of M. Myrzagaliev who has already held the position of the head of Department for Internal Affairs in the structure of Kazakh Revolutionary Committee headed the People's Commissariat. Coming from a poor family, Aitiyev belonged to the people called ardent revolutionaries. He was a long-term person as People's Commissar of NKVD, occupying position nearly two and a half years (the usual term in this position rarely exceeded a year). Being People's Commissar he headed the Commission for acceptance of Semipalatinsk and Akmola provinces from Siberian Revolutionary Committee in Kazakhstan. Later A. Aitiyev worked in the system of Kazakh Governmental Trade Bureau, vice-rector of Almaty Zoological Veterinary Institute, Director of the Central Museum of Kazakhstan. In 1934, being the director of Almaty reservation, he was expelled from the party, and then he rebounded, worked as the director of the resort and a lecturer at factory school.

In 1946 I.V. Stalin encouraged by the victory in war and acknowledged the socialist system in inviolability took the measure to hold reorganization of all system of state control of the USSR. On March 14, 1946 speaking on plenary session of All-Union Communist Party he gave this explanation: “The National Commissar or Commissar reflects the period of unsettled regime, period of civil war, period of revolutionary demolition and so on. This period has passed. As long as our social system came into life it is appropriate to change the name “People’s Commissar” to “Minister”. Although the newly appointed ministers were called People’s Commissars for some time by the habit, People’s Commissars became history. Commissars gave way to “executives” – ministers (from lat. ministros – serve, control).