



# ***CENTRAL EURASIA***





them condemning Cossack assistance in the Dnestr region. If such a document is adopted in Moscow, we will send in response something akin to the letter of the Dnepr Cossacks to the Turkish sultan. Cossacks are a free people, subordinated only to the circle and Cossack officers and even presidents are not our law.

We shall remain here as long as it takes for attempts to impose an alien will on Dnestr residents to stop.

A. Podust, a deputy of the Tiraspol City Soviet testifies:

"We really could not get by without the assistance of the Cossacks. The forces of Moldova and the Dnestr region are too unequal. Our voters understand this and do not believe the malicious slander which our enemies are using in order to drive a wedge between the Don Cossacks and the residents of the Dnestr region."

How do our families view the decision of the Cossacks to fight? One must honestly admit—differently. Recently a man arrived from the Don with his wife and now she is busy cooking in the kitchen. While another one received a letter from his wife demanding a divorce. Psychologically, of course, it is not simple, particularly since every night brings an alert and not a day passes without battle. But it was impossible to abandon brothers in faith and blood who are in trouble.

Of course, we have no comforts here nor any material advantages. People have come here from Rostov-on-Don, Novochoerkassk, and Volgogradsk. Cossack Aleksey Morozov and Cornet Gennadiy Ivanov are among the bravest. The "watch method" has not been used yet, but it will apparently have to be established: It is necessary to allow more people to pass through the combat situation. It will also be necessary to establish order on the Don and the Kuban. There is a civil war going on in the country and that is not surprising given the present Russian Government. It is true that I myself was at the "White House" barricades last August in Moscow and commanded a Cossack defensive detachment, and was put forward for the St. George's Cross. But today I would not go to those barricades.

**AFTER WE WENT TO PRESS** Last night was a disturbing one in Dubossary. A convoy of trucks with Moldovan policemen, who seized the military compound at Kuchiyery, attempted to fight its way through to the bridge over the Dnestr. The Dubossary radio station was destroyed with grenade launchers. Terrorists kidnapped two officials of the PMR [Dnestr Moldovan Republic] procurator's office. Judging by the radio intercepts it was planned to kidnap the daughter of one of the heads of the Dnestr Region Administration of Internal Affairs. This operation was being planned by personnel of the Seventh Department of the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs. A police defector from the right bank reported that from day to day Moldovan detachments await the order to attack Dubossary and Tiraspol. In the meantime a CSCE commission is expected in the Dnestr area to study problems associated with human rights.

**'Discrimination' Seen Prompting Further German Exodus**

*924C0917A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 92 p 3*

[Interview with Boris Viktorovich Rauschenbach by Igor Lenskiy: "The Unhappy Adventures of Germans in Russia"; date and place not given]

[Text] People who survived the GULAG possess an especially strong spirit. Academician Rauschenbach, a luminary in cosmonautics and a fine scholar on ancient Russian art, is still energetic and bright at 77; and, he is well-disposed toward the press. But his eyes, which reflect the pain and suffering of his fellow-countrymen, betray his age. The stirring and tragic history of the German people in Russia, it would appear, is nearing its end.

[Correspondent] Boris Viktorovich, 500,000 applications for exit [visas] have accumulated at the German Consulate...

[Rauschenbach] But why are you surprised? Soon there will be a million. The Germans are fleeing from discrimination.

[Correspondent] What is it? Is it hard for them to live?

[Rauschenbach] They live relatively well. All the German kolkhozes—those who have been there know—are head and shoulders above their neighbors. They have fine houses, they are well-provided, and some families used to have two vehicles each. The problem is that they are being forcefully Russified. To this day there is not a single German elementary school. People are no longer conversing in their native language. One might say, go ahead and open schools; who is stopping you? But where could one get teachers? There are no teachers who could teach all the subjects—algebra, anatomy, geography, in the language. Nor is there a single textbook in German. Another example: in Omsk Oblast, during the harvest, with identical equipment, the norm for Russians is 10 hectares, and for Germans—12. Of course, this disturbs people.

[Correspondent] Can one even speak of the concept of "German character" in our specific conditions?

[Rauschenbach] Yes, one still can. These are people whom one can rely upon. They are very precise in their work, and they drink a lot less than others. Their villages are very distinctive: the streets are clean, the paths are asphalted, and the houses are so clean that one could perform a surgical operation without disinfecting it.

[Correspondent] Is it possible that Russia has an interest in their departure?

[Rauschenbach] Pay attention to the nature of the emigration. Whereas in other nationalities, it is basically the intelligentsia which is leaving, with the Germans it is the workers and peasants. Just the kind of people that we especially need right now. Gosplan estimated that the

departure of 100,000 Germans would mean a loss of four billion rubles. About 400,000 have left already. There are about two million left, who are also looking in that direction. Figure it out for yourself. My prediction is very gloomy. You must understand, the Germans have no problem. This is a Russian problem of retaining its workforce.

**[Correspondent] How would you halt this process?**

[Rauschenbach] On the whole it is too late for talk. That should have happened four years ago, when tens and not hundreds of thousands were fleeing. The only thing that could restore their trust would be the formation of autonomy. Let it be small, not in the former borders, but only where it used to be—in the Volga Basin. People who have been deceived a hundredfold will not move to another place. But there, the Germans would have their own university, their own kindergarten, their own elementary school. They would have their own publishing house for literature, from which books could be distributed everywhere that Germans live—in the Ukraine, in Georgia, Crimea, Kazakhstan, Central Asia, Siberia. Before the war, that is the way it was.

**[Correspondent] As far as I can tell, the German intelligentsia in Russia has been lost, and without it one could hardly implement such a program.**

[Rauschenbach] We have worked that out. If there is such a republic, Germany is prepared to send both teachers and professors on a concrete basis, say for ten years. Thousands of young people could be trained in the FRG. But the main thing, they say in Germany, is to put up a German flag—not the flag of Germany [Germania], but of German [nemetskaya] autonomy!—and they will send, free of charge, everything from pencils to computers.

**[Correspondent] One still has to consider the psychological resistance of the public in the Volga Basin.**

[Rauschenbach] Everything taking place right now on the Volga is deliberately provoked by the local bureaucracy. The people [narod] are not opposed. In those places where deliberate anti-German propaganda was not waged, where they have not stolen, not frightened, and not carried placards made in the rayon ispolkoms—there was no protest whatsoever. But then on the other hand, something else is taking place. Last fall in Omsk Oblast, several villages where Germans dwell among the Russians decided to become a German region [rayon]. The oblast leadership showed understanding, but required that they conduct a plebiscite: 83 percent of the residents (including the Russians!) voted yes. Six months have passed and everyone is pleased. In the Altay a German rayon which had existed there before the war was restored. Germany immediately set up a plant there for producing cheese. The principle is, to help not only the Germans, but everyone who lives in a given locality.

**[Correspondent] What do you think, is the language still alive?**

[Rauschenbach] Not everywhere. In the villages right now they speak a Saxon dialect of the 18th century: the dialect of the same locality from which their ancestors came 200 years ago. They know proverbs which have long since been forgotten in their ethnic motherland. In Germany this phenomenon is a cause of total amazement.

**[Correspondent] And the customs and traditions?**

[Rauschenbach] A few things have been retained. Historically, German culture was maintained on a religious basis. During Stalin's time not only prayer but everything was forbidden. They used to hide in the forests and swamps. All Germans, to the last one, found themselves in GULAG. I too was there for four years. Today it is no longer religion that defines the mentality of the Germans, but a feeling of national resentment.

**[Correspondent] You were received by Gorbachev, and were chairman of the organizing committee of the Congress of Soviet Germans. What did this congress provide?**

[Rauschenbach] Not a thing. It confirmed what we already know without the congress: the Germans demand the restoration of their republic; otherwise they will leave.

**When this material was being prepared for publication, a report came of Boris Yeltsin's decree, in accordance with which a German National Okrug is being formed in Volgograd Oblast, and a National Rayon in Saratov Oblast. This is better than nothing. But the question of whether they will arrange a secret compromise, is still open.**

Russia Urged To Support Creation of Balkar Republic

924C0824A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA  
in Russian 11 Feb 92 p 3

[Report by unidentified correspondent: "Kabardino-Balkaria"]

[Text] The People's Soviet of the Balkar People (NSBN) adopted an appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the Russian Supreme Soviet, and Russian Congress of People's Deputies, expressing the hope that it would receive the support of official Russian structures in creating the Republic of Balkaria.

The appeal states that, insofar as legal resolution of the question of formation of the Republic of Balkaria in accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution falls within exclusive jurisdiction of the Russian Congress of People's Deputies, the NSBN has suspended the resolution of the first congress of the Balkar people on conducting elections to the Balkar Republic parliament on 10 March.

NSBN members expressed the hope that a final decision on the question of formation of the Republic of Balkaria would be reached by the next regular Russian Congress