

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS AT THE 11th SESSION OF UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE (1960) AND THE BELORUSSIAN SSR

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ABSTRACT

This article based on declassified materials of the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs analyses the problems of regional development, discussed by UNESCO during the “Year of Africa” and the participation of the Republic representatives in this discussion. The approaches to solving regional problems generated by the Organization in the 1950s are stated. The paper considers the international situation and the preparations for the 11th session of the General Conference. Positions of session participants and its results are characterized in the article. The author holds to the concept of significant actuation of the Belorussian SSR in international organizations of the UN system during the years of the Khrushchev’s Thaw and the conversion of UNESCO by mid-60s into the priority in this area of foreign-policy activities of the Republic. After the signing of the UN Charter in 1945 the Republic became the subject of international relations and international law, but continued to remain the subject of the Soviet federation, which limited its sovereignty and affected its international activities.

KEYWORDS: *UNESCO, Belarus, developing countries, “the Year of Africa”, international cooperation.*

JEL CODES: B19, B29, B59

Introduction

Having joined UNESCO in May 1954 Belarus has accumulated more than 60 years of experience of cooperation, the study of which received significant prospects due to the declassification in the late 1990s of documents of the Khrushchev’s Thaw period by the Records of the Foreign Office of the Republic. Even in Soviet times documentary publications appeared that reflected to some extent the activities of UNESCO for solving problems of regional development and the involvement of the Belorussian SSR (Belorussian SSR in international relations, 1983; the Soviet Union and UNESCO, 1989). After the end of the Cold War the publications continued (Foreign Policy, 2002), but outside of them there is an enormous aggregation of valuable archival sources. Among the Soviet researchers, one must note Y. Brovka (1961), V. Kolbasin (1963), S. Romanovsky, N. Sissakian, V. Vakhrushev (1966), G. Uranov (1986), L. Yazykovich (1986), but their works were based on a limited source base and Marxist methodology. In 2002 a German-Russian collection of articles was published (UNESCO. Objectives, structure, activities). Participation of the Organization in addressing regional problems during the Cold War was reflected based on the archival materials in the publications of J. Hayduk (2008) and S. Svilas (2013). Among the Western researchers W. Preston (1989), M. Lacoste (1994), F. Valderrama (1995), R. Droit (2005) should be mentioned.

The USSR, Belorussian SSR and Ukrainian SSR activity in the Organization took place in the context of implementation of the principle of peaceful (“competitive”) coexistence, competition between two systems

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in education, science and culture, cooperation with the US for dealing with global challenges and competition for the “Third World” countries.

In 1954 the Belorussian delegates supported the principal directions of the Organization activity, adopted during the 8th session of the General Conference: assistance for the transition of member countries to free and compulsory primary education, amplification of basic knowledge, negotiation of tension in race, social and international relations, mutual recognition of cultural values by East and West, performance of scientific research improving the quality of life. Having provided support to three long-term UNESCO projects – the mutual recognition of folklife culture values of East and West, the spread of primary education in Latin America, the study of arid regions, adopted in 1956 by the 9th session, the Republic was providing all possible assistance for their implementation. The first experience of participation in the work of the Organization and the accompanying reporting bore the imprint of upcoming period of “competitive co-existence” in the “Cold War” history, confidence in the advantages of the socialist system and the possibility of the modernization of the Organization, described as the “ideological weapon of the US ruling circles” for the purposes of its appending with Soviet members.

The crisis of 1958 in the relations between the USSR and UNESCO, that showed up at the point of the 10th session, was caused by the fact that according to the Soviet assessment the Organization continued to follow pro-Western orientation and was in use by the US as an instrument of “Cold War”, although the Soviet Union ranked second in the size of contributions to the budget. Discontent was also caused by the UNESCO bureaucratization and the increase of expenditures for the maintenance of the administrative apparatus, predominance of representatives of NATO member countries in it, that retarded the process of the Organization universalization (which referred to admission to UNESCO not only of the Chinese People’s Republic, but also of the Soviet satellites – the Democratic People’s Republic Korea, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Mongolian People’s Republic), publishing activities. In the context of the international relations’ thaw, which was reflected in the exchange of exhibitions between the USSR and the United States, Khrushchev’s visit to the United States and his successful participation in the XIVth session of the UN General Assembly, UNESCO began to pay more attention to the discussion of peaceful (“competitive”) coexistence issues, to the coverage of Soviet progress in cultural development. American diplomats allowed that in competition between the two systems in the sphere of UNESCO competence their country played the role of a “losing a competitor”. As long as 1958 the leaders of the Belorussian SSR adopted the recommendations of the Republic delegation concerning the need to continue the propaganda of socialist construction progress, especially focusing on the Asian and African countries. For example, on UNESCO Forums data was given that before the First World War the North-West region of the Russian Empire had only 50 secondary schools and no universities, about 80 % of the population was illiterate, the total number of students was only 35 thousand. By 1960 the number of students exceeded 1.3 million, compulsory education of eight years was adopted. The Republic accounted 27 universities, 9 research institutes, more than 7500 libraries with book collection of more than 12 million volumes, approximately 4500 cultural and educational institutions, 17 million copies of books were published annually, which was 80 times more than in 1913 (National Archives).

Problem. A long-term membership in UNESCO and demonstration of achievements in the fields of its competence contribute to the formation of positive image of the Republic of Belarus in the international arena, appear to be one of the most important channels of study and implementation of global innovations in culture and an incentive to improve the efficiency of foreign cultural policy of the country, which includes Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Purpose. The author examines the debate on issues of regional development in UNESCO and the participation of the Belorussian SSR delegation in it.

Object: UNESCO Belarus cooperation on regional development problems.

Tasks:

- characterize the international context, in which the 11th session of the General Conference took place, and the range of issues discussed;

- analyze the position of Western and Soviet diplomacy and diplomacy of the developing countries;
- esteem the results of the session.

Research methods. The following methods were used: historical-genetic method; historical-comparative method; micro-historical approach; system approach; content analysis; situational analysis; event analysis.

1. The international situation and preparations for the session

For UNESCO and the Belorussian SSR most part of the 1960 passed under the sign of implementation of the 10th session decisions and the preparation for the 11th session of the General Conference, under a new aggravation of the international situation due to the “Powers matter” and the beginning of the Congolese crisis. During the 3rd Conference of European National Commissions for UNESCO (February 1960, Taormina, Italy) the Belorussian SSR was represented by the Minister of Culture, chairman of the BSSR Commission for UNESCO G.Y. Kiselev (Head of Delegation), Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the BSSR, deputy chairman of the BSSR Commission for UNESCO P.E. Astapenko, executive secretary of the BSSR Commission for UNESCO V.S. Kolbasin. The Conference agenda included the issue of the Commission role in the development of UN and UNESCO Programs provision of technical assistance to underdeveloped countries. The leaders of the Republic discussed the issue of the Belorussian SSR contribution by the admission of students to the Polytechnic Institute, the language teaching of qualified professionals began to guide them as experts both through the UN Expanded Technical Assistance Program and UNESCO programs (Records of the Foreign Office).

The contribution of the Republic to the implementation of the 10th session decisions was the participation of its delegation in the 2nd World Conference on Adult Education (Montreal, August 1960), which was attended by about 250 representatives from different countries. Not only the delegates of Venezuela, Cambodia or Ghana where complaining of the shortage of teachers, but also those of the Western countries. The US delegate noted low payment of teachers’ work, decline in prestige of the profession among the young. The delegation, given sight of the Republic experience in eradication of illiteracy, spoke in favor of secondment of Soviet experts and teachers to the “third world” countries and the leading role of the state in adult education. The delegation of Canada initiated a draft resolution on general and complete disarmament as a source of funds for the development of education, which received unanimous support, including the US delegation. The final declaration emphasized the importance of peaceful coexistence, as well as the need to assist underdeveloped countries in eradicating illiteracy and raising of overall level of culture (National Archives).

K.V. Kiselev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Belorussian SSR, in his letter to the deputy chairman of the USSR Commission for UNESCO S.K. Romanovsky joined the evaluation of the UNESCO program and budget project, expressed by the USSR representative during the sessions of the Executive Council (March, 1960). Comments of the Belorussian SSR Board, formulated by Moscow sample, after the Union Commission approval were addressed by the Permanent Representative of the Soviet Union to UNESCO G.A. Kulazhenkov. Minsk offered to focus on the eradication of illiteracy, support for young states in the creation of education system and training of national personnel, fight against any discrimination, development of science with a view to promote peace building and improve social welfare by increasing the Organization budget at the expense of the Department of Culture and Information; to organize an extensive exchange of experience in cultural development, promotion of national cultures (National Archives). A certain role in preparation for the session was designated to correspondence with the Union MFA and Commission for UNESCO regarding the support of candidates for election as members of UNESCO Executive Board – J. Malalasekera of Ceylon, Mitsuyo of Japan, I. Gandhi of India (Свилас 2013).

A notable event in the cultural life of the Republic became a photo show “Culture and understanding of nations”, organized as part of UNESCO main project “East – West” (July – December 1960). In accordance with Moscow instructions chairman of the Belorussian SSR Commission for UNESCO, Minister of Culture

G. Y. Kiselev asked the Director General V. Veronese to set aside 4000 dollars for this purpose: in addition to stands with photos, installed throughout the country, it was supposed to organize lectures, talks, radio and TV shows. The main objective of the exhibition was defined as the increase of public interest to the cultures of Eastern nations and to their contribution to world culture treasury. In January 1960 Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs P. E. Astapenko informed G. Y. Kiselev that only a thousand dollars was received, funds provided by UNESCO compensated only part of the expenses, whereat the Department of Information was notified, but Paris refused to increase the amount (National Archives).

Executive Secretary of the USSR Commission for UNESCO G.V. Shvedov received a photo show report from G. Y. Kiselev with a request to head it to UNESCO through the USSR Permanent Mission in case the USSR Commission for UNESCO did not have any remarks. The report noted that while total expenditure amount was almost 15 thousand rubles, the photo exhibition was a great success, it was widely reported in the national press. UNESCO Secretariat did not receive the report and urged the MFA of the Republic not to give excuses for the creation of both principal and technical difficulties in the relations with the Organization. In April 1961 P. E. Astapenko addressed the USSR Permanent Representative to UNESCO A. G. Kulazhenkov with a request to inform Paris that the report had been sent in due time per Mission (National Archives). This case became one of the many arguments in favor of the establishment of the Republic permanent representative to UNESCO post, who would not show such “forgetfulness”, but the Republic got this post only in May 1962 (Свилас, 2013).

According to a Soviet diplomat O. A. Troyanovskiy, the year of 1960 was one of the worst during the whole period of “cold war”: a meeting of heads of state and governments of the “Big four” in Paris went burst, a visit of the US President D. Eisenhower to the USSR was canceled (Трояновский, 1997). By estimate of a Russian researcher O. Rukavishnikov a violation of a delicate balance of cooperativity and confrontation, established in the second half of the 1950s came off (Рукавишников, 2005). Professor B. D. Piadyshev holds the opposite point of view. From the perspective of an expert of the USSR delegation at the UN General Assembly XVth session he asserts that after the war the year of 1960 was the most successful year for Soviet policy and diplomacy: the first gathering of the world leaders in the UN halls illustrated the triumph of the Soviet Union and its followers from the “Global South” (Пядышев, 2003). Khrushchev appealed for the implementation of the idea of general disarmament in four years, announced by him a year earlier, as well as for the victory in struggle against colonialism. It is important to note that the UN General Assembly XVth session proceeded from September 20th through December 22nd, and the 11th session of the UNESCO GC – from November 14th through December 15th of 1960, therefore those seconded to Paris could follow from Minsk the events in New York, where there was the delegation of the republic chaired by the first Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPB K. T. Mazurov (Свилас, 2013).

During the year of 1960 17 African states became members of UNESCO and the number of its members reached 100. For the first time in the history of UNESCO a representative of Africa – Ethiopia’s chief delegate – was unanimously elected a chairman of GC session. 47 delegations were headed by ministers, and 37 of them were Ministers of Education, which testified to highlighting the problems of primary and secondary education, the most important of which was the elimination of illiteracy, especially in the African continent (Колбасин, 1963).

2. Discussion and positions

The Soviet Union chief delegate Minister for Foreign Affairs of the RSFSR S. G. Lapin informed the session that during its work the Peoples’ Friendship University was opened, which received 43 000 applications from 59 countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. He opposed the US interference in the internal affairs of Cuba, came out for the universalization of the Organization, reduction of administrative costs and redeployment of the available funds for the development of education, science and culture in the countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America, expressed his concern over the state of schooling in Congo liberated from

Belgian colonialism. The head of the Soviet delegation addressed a proposal to support the Declaration on Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, presented by the USSR delegation at the XVth session of the UN General Assembly, and read out the text of N. S. Khrushchev message to the participants of the 11th UNESCO GC session. The message stated that fruitful international cooperation was only possible under the conditions of lasting peace and contained an appeal to the workers of culture not to remain neutral in struggle for peace and national liberation. UNESCO literacy activities in former colonies and reclamation of arid lands, rapid increase of the proportion of UNESCO projects in the Expanded Technical Assistance Program and the United Nations Special Fund received positive evaluation (СССР и ЮНЕСКО, 1989).

The delegation of the Republic, headed by the Minister of Culture, President of the Commission of the Belorussian SSR for UNESCO G. Y. Kiselev “strictly adhered the addresses of N. S. Khrushchev at the XVth session of the UN General Assembly and the suggestions contributed by the Soviet delegation at this session, as well as the guidelines approved by policy-making bodies”. Despite the fact that the Soviet-Chinese relations continued to deteriorate, the BSSR delegation on the instruction of Moscow actively participated in the discussion of China representation matter, standing for the exclusion of Taiwan from UNESCO and for China enrolment. G. Y. Kiselev brought into focus that without China participation the effective implementation of the Basic project “East – West”, adopted in 1956, was not possible, the organization did not become universal, GDR, Mongolia, North Korea and North Vietnam were not submitted in it. The chief delegate proposed to intensify efforts to find additional sources of aid to the peoples of former colonies, in particular by reducing administrative costs. Participating in general debate, G. Y. Kiselev expressed conviction that the Secretariat was justifying the colonialists by its activities in Congo, appointing powers to its pro-Western delegation, directing Belgian teachers to the country and ignoring Soviet and Czechoslovak specialists. He also voiced criticism of the UK delegate, who announced prematurity of independence extension to the Congolese nation. G. Y. Kiselev stated: “The socialistic world has a strong presence across the globe, more than one billion people have already embraced it. One and a half billion people have thrown off the colonial yoke and formed an extensive zone of the world of neutral states. There is also a world where monopoly capital dominates.” The speaker commended the work of UNESCO as a “one-sided” one because the Secretariat was staffed mainly with employees from Western countries, the Director-General post was occupied by a citizen of France. One person could not objectively reflect the interests of socialist, Western and neutral countries, it was time to create a collective executive body of three people. G. Y. Kiselev finished his speech with an offer of competing in the development of education and culture to the benefit of the “civilization of all mankind”, which was new for the Soviet political discourse, handling the term “culture” (National Archives of the Republic of Belarus).

The chief delegate of the Belorussian SSR in his speech at the plenary session regarding cultural exchange emphasized that international relations of the Republic were aimed at mutual enrichment of national cultures, at replenishment of the world culture treasury. G. Y. Kiselev recommended UNESCO to use broader the Soviet experience of cultural development to help the young states and seconded the suggestion about establishment of study centers in Africa with teaching in their native languages, expressing confidence that peoples of the continent possessed “the greatest cultural values”, which the colonial regime had not destroyed (National Archives).

The Belorussian delegation during debate on the role of UNESCO in the achievement of independence by colonial countries and peoples supported the draft resolution proposed by the Working group, noting that it was more satisfied with the USSR project. Among the shortcomings of the resolution were named refusal to condemn the colonial system and the thesis of the imperialist powers moral duty to provide former colonies with partial compensation for the development of education, science and culture. The delegates of the Republic spoke against replacing the words “full and immediate” to “fast” and expressed surprise with the fact that the General Conference recognized the authority of the new Congo government representatives instead of supporting P. Lumumba (National Archives).

The Belorussian SSR delegation made two resolution drafts: to hold the World Literacy Conference in 1961 (in cooperation with the delegation of Hungary) and to deploy the posts in the Secretariat. The second draft contained a proposal to distribute the posts equally among the three groups of the member countries of the Organization, and within the groups – pro rata with the population size, not providing evergreen contracts and not recruiting to the Secretariat citizens from “overrepresented” countries. The resolution over the call of the World Conference was rejected after lengthy discussions as requiring significant financial costs. The second draft caused criticism of Director-General, the Secretariat, as well as of the delegations of countries of the West, since its implementation reduced the professionalism of UNESCO executive body. Unlike the one, the Indian resolution draft excluded the principle of equal representation of the three groups of countries. When it became clear that the BSSR project would be rejected, the members of the Belorussian delegation invited the delegates of India to make a joint project, but only got the sanction of to certain amendments. The delegation of the BSSR upon the recommendation of the Soviet Union delegation withdrew its draft, claiming it was not satisfied with the Director-General engagement, who seriously violated the principle of equitable geographical division of seats in the UNESCO Secretariat, and that it would continue to strain after equal representation of the three groups of states (Records of the Foreign Office).

The Delegation supported the Soviet Union proposal on substitution of Director-General post with a collective executive body of three members who would represent three groups of states, regarding the implementation of this proposal as a prerequisite for solving the problem of equitable geographical deployment of posts in the UNESCO Secretariat (Records of the Foreign Office). This position was projecting on UNESCO the idea of Khrushchev which was brought forward to the UN, and drew the fire of. The opponents justly saw it as a gross violation of the Charter, which could lead to self-destruction of the Organization (Свилас, 2013).

3. Results

Resolution “The role of UNESCO in obtaining of independence by the colonial countries and peoples” stated that further existence of the colonial system was an obstacle for the development of culture, encouraged the establishment of new independent states and their entry to UNESCO. The document noted that the achievement of independence could not be held under the pretense of insufficient level of development of some territory, as the duty of the Organization was to promote the liberation of colonial countries and peoples by means of its programs. It’s necessary to note that the resolution “The role of UNESCO in obtaining of independence by the colonial countries and peoples” was adopted December 12, 1960, two days before the adoption by the XVth session of the UN General Assembly of a similar project in a form of Declaration (СССР и ЮНЕСКО, 1989).

The Soviet Union set forward a proposal to develop an international act on the elimination of discrimination in education as far back as at the 10th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. In June, 1960 in Paris a meeting of an Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on this subject took place with the participation of A. Y. Malyshev, vice-principal of the Belorussian State University and a member of the Commission of the Belorussian SSR for UNESCO (Свилас, 2013). Convention concerning the Fight Against Discrimination in Education, adopted by the 11th session, provided the obligation of member states to ensure equal access to education, regardless of race, gender, nationality, religion (СССР и ЮНЕСКО, 1989).

The representatives of Japan and India were elected for the Executive Board, but the representative of Ceylon, to whom support had been promised by the Republic in spring of 1960, didn’t pass. To the satisfaction of the Belorussian delegation, the representative of Francoist Spain failed, and FRG gained a seat with a majority of only two votes, despite the release of a substantial sum of money for the education of Africans by Bonn. Chairman of the Executive Board became M. Awad from SAR, Director of Institute for the Study of Africa, Principal of the University of Alexandria, chairman of the UN Commission on Combating Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (Свилас, 2013).

Most African and Asian countries tried to avoid sharp criticism of the Secretariat in an effort to obtain specific support in the development of education and training of national personnel. The author shares the view that at the periphery of the Yalta-Potsdam system bipolarity did not acquire any hard and end forms: countries preferred their own development path. The US contribution continued to be one-third of the Organization budget and the contribution of three Soviet participants was 15 %. However, when voting for the proposal to include in the agenda of the 10th session the issue of China's representation the US delegation won by 20 votes, that time it won just by 8 (Свилас, 2013). A resolution on Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was adopted unanimously. According to the Soviet delegates Convention and Recommendation to member states concerning the Fight Against Discrimination in Education mainly took into account the principles of education, adopted in socialist countries. The resolution on preservation of monuments of Nubia, which didn't cause much discussion, noted the importance of the Aswan Dam for the development of UAR economy and culture and proposed creation of a group of technical experts (including those from Soviet Union). Protesting against the increase of the budget and at the same time bearing in mind that they found support of a vast majority of countries, the Belorussian delegation abstained. The General Conference decided to reduce the size of Taiwan's membership fee, although the Soviet delegation was against of discussion of this issue and declared that they hadn't paid the debts of the Republic of China and would not do that (Records of the Foreign Office). The delegation of the Belorussian SSR handled Belorussian books, photo albums, greeting cards and Belorussian music recordings to the representatives of a number of African and other countries. The Ministry of Culture was granted permission by chief executive T. Y. Kiselyov to use five thousand rubles for representation purposes. The costs drawn up by V. S. Kolbasin included "Vodka" "Belovezha", pickled mushrooms, cigarettes "Belarus", hard-smoked sausage, gifts (coupons of male and female Belorussian national clothes, boxes with artistic carving "Lyavoniha", "Bison", "Brest fortress", albums "Minsk" and "Soviet Belarus", straw lined caskets, boxes of chocolates) (National Archives). A list of candidates from the Belorussian SSR to participate in the implementation of UNESCO's technical assistance program was compiled with interdepartmental effort and approved in December 1960 at a meeting of the Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPB. The Bureau accepted the government's proposal on reserve enrollment of candidates for the post of UNESCO experts to African countries of 11 specialists and addressed to the CPSU Central Committee with a request to approve the decision (Records of the Foreign Office).

Based on the fact that 17 African States joined the Organization, the USSR Commission for UNESCO considered it important to negotiate with them regarding the Soviet proposals support and to actively develop both multilateral and bilateral cultural and scientific relations. The Soviet Union beat the US, Germany and France by the number of UNESCO experts sent to developing countries, but it was recognized insufficient. In 1961 the Soviet government concluded to allocate 235 thousand rubles (10 thousand – from the BSSR budget) to the Emergency Fund for African countries, to grant them 50 scholarships for training of teachers, as well as to provide 15 of such scholarships to Latin American countries. However the Commission didn't develop any specific proposals to participate in the implementation of the 5-year (1961–1966 yrs) and 20-year (1961–1981 yrs) plans for the development of education in Africa, the 20-year plan for the development of education in Asia ("Karachi Plan"), the General project for the development of primary education in Latin America (Свилас, 2013).

Conclusion

The "Year of Africa" when UNESCO increased its membership with 17 young states of the continent, reflected most intensely the rivalry of opposing socio-political systems in the dissemination of their development models. Within the framework of the Organization, the Belorussian SSR participated in the Soviet-American competition for the influence on the governments that embarked on the course of independent development ranking at the same time constructive position across a range of issues. Thus, the result of

cooperation between West and East, North and South became the adoption of the Resolution on UNESCO's contribution to the cause of Independence of Colonial Countries and Peoples, Resolution on the role of education in economic and social development, Convention and Recommendation concerning the Fight Against Discrimination in Education. The delegates came to realization of special importance of war against illiteracy, especially among women, of the development of primary and secondary education, especially in Africa, of researches for the issues of industrialization in former colonies and irrigation of arid lands. For the first time ever at the 11th session of the General Conference the BSSR delegation proposed two own draft resolutions. Although these proposals were not accepted, they enriched the experience and contributed to the "recognition" of the Belorussian diplomacy, to the attainment of its own "flair".

By the early 1960s the USSR turned into a global power. The Soviet communism theorists believed that capitalism entered a third phase of crisis which began in 1917 and was doomed to inevitable death, and the main feature of the era became the transformation of the world system of socialism into a governing factor of the society development. The collapse of colonialism and the entry of new states into UNESCO made notable changes in the balance of forces within the Organization in favor of socialist and developing countries. Participants of the shaping Non-Aligned Movement declared the refusal to participate in military blocs and to station foreign military bases, came out for peace, independence, democratization of international relations, against discrimination in education, science and culture.

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REGIONŲ VYSTYMOŠI PROBLEMOS XI UNESCO GENERALINĖJE KONFERENCIJOJE (1960) IR BALTARUSIJOS TSR

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Santrauka

Šis straipsnis pagrįstas išslaptinta Baltarusijos TSR Užsienio reikalų ministerijos medžiaga. Jame analizuojamos regionų vystymosi problemos, dėl kurių diskutuota UNESCO susitikimuose, kurie skirti „Afrikos metams“, pristatytas Respublikos atstovų dalyvavimas šiose diskusijose. 1950 m. UNESCO sukūrė prieglas spręsti regioninėms problemoms, kurios aptartos šiame straipsnyje. Straipsnyje nagrinėjama tarptautinė situacija, pasiruošimas XI Generalinės konferencijos sesijai, pristatomos dalyvių pozicijos, aprašomi sesijos rezultatai. Manytina, kad N. Chruščiovo atšilimo laikotarpiu Baltarusijos TSR įtraukta į Jungtinių Tautų tarptautinių organizacijų sistemą, o Respublikos tam tikrų kultūros objektų įtraukimas į UNESCO pasaulinio kultūros paveldo organizaciją septintojo dešimtmečio viduryje akivaizdžiai parodė, kam teikiamas prioritetas užsienio politikoje. 1945 m., pasirašius Jungtinių Tautų Chartiją, Baltarusija tapo tarptautinių santykių ir tarptautinės teisės subjektu, kartu liko ir Sovietinės federacijos subjektu, tai apribojo šalies suverenitetą ir turėjo įtakos tarptautinei veiklai.

PAGRINDINIAI ŽODŽIAI: *UNESCO, Baltarusija, besivystančios valstybės, Afrikos metai, tarptautinis bendradarbiavimas.*

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