

The Rebirth of the Scout Movement in Russia

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Translated for the English-speaking community

(Phraseology has been retained to acknowledge original work)

In the magazine Komsomol at the end of 1980's, there was some discussion about the future of the pioneer organisation. Some of the future Scout leaders aired their dissatisfaction of affairs in the Pioneer Organisation and their skepticism about the planned changes. Komsomol charged everyone for whom it was possible, to look for new approaches and to carry out experiments in opportunities for young people. They first made a basic concession; the softening of the party ideological institution into something that would help children and teenagers in their civil and moral development with a generation devoted to ideals and values of socialism, the Soviet multinational native land.

As well as all reforms, the Communists again tried to introduce Scouting in the traditions of the USSR. The Committee of the Youth Organisations had come into contacts to the World Organization of Scout Movement and the World Association of Girl-Guides and Girl-Scouts, as well as the national organizations of the USA, Canada and the United Kingdom. Pioneer workers travelled to the West to gain experience so that they might rescue their own Communist organisations. In May 1990 in Geneva, the World Bureau declared the Scout Movement would not engage in a cosmetic repair of the Pioneers facade.

Time for change

After the Chernobyl nuclear incident, Jean Cassaigneau of the World Bureau arrived to Moscow for discussions about the practicalities of sending some of the young victims for visits abroad. The head of the V.Lenin Children's Fund, writer Albert Likhanov, emphasised the idea was "as important as the development of our contacts it is an opening opportunity of 'a great revival' of the Scout Movement in the USSR. The Scout Movement cannot be created from above; the young people should solve this question". The propagation of message such as this in the Soviet press and the greeting by Michael Gorbachev to the 32nd World Scout Conference in July 1990, had let known that the country was ready for a rebirth of Scouting. This new political tone in international relations required WOSM make its position clear. It is possible to assert that the World Bureau considered this an opportunity to influence the revival of the Scout Movement in the USSR. However, other factors influenced the situation more seriously. Interest rose in 'Scout emigrants'; with perestroika came more opportunities for Russians to travel and even move abroad which was reflected in media reports. Those who had an opportunity to meet compatriots while away on businesses trips would frequently bring home information on Scouts.

Throughout the Communist decades, Scouting had waited for the moment when it will be possible to bring the embers of Scout fires home. Certainly, it was necessary to think carefully before making such an important step (although the idea seemed organic for exiled Russian Scout organisations). The group which would bring Scouting back home will end the sense that those exiled are foreigners and the "fires across Russia will be lit"!

Revival

Since spring of 1989, the Organisation of Russian Youth Pathfinders (ORYP) started its attempts to penetrate the collapsing 'iron curtain'; it participated in church action by delivering literature to the USSR and the 'freedom' programmes on the Voice of America radio station. At the fourth congress of ORYP in 1989, leaders made the decision to establish a special sector whose purpose would be to work with Russia.

The activity of the World Bureau (WB) to revive Scouting in the USSR forced the pace to quicken for other organisations such as the National Organization of Russian Scouts (NORS). NORS worked co-operatively with Geneva but were almost instantly out of depth with the question of Russian Scouting; the suddenness of the situation and indecision in management about what they should do after 70 years of exile.

Scouting in Russia has been revived largely due to penetration into the country of the World Bureau and the influences of those in and returning to Russia. Other factors are:

- The Komsomol and Communist Party used some ideas of Scouting for their own purposes.
- Elements of Scouting were spontaneously used in the work of outdoor, military, sports and religious clubs. There were also "underground Scouts" in the "allowed" clubs.
- Some pioneer leaders saw the fiasco of traditional pedagogical systems based on ideas of Marxism and Leninism and tried to find an output in loan. One sincerely wanted to rescue the pioneer organization, whilst others wanted to create a new sphere.
- Some people used Scouting as a protest against the totalitarian system. Scouting seemed to be the alternative of a former life when compared to their background of highly political activity.
- Patriotic sentiments in society became an additional push for the search for an educational system that could become a way of life for Russian people.

In June 1990 the High Komsomol School student Slava Chernykh spoke to Scouts about the Committee on Youth Affairs of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The committee decided to support the revival of the Scout Movement as the state answer to youth interests. They devised a programme of seminars where the All-Russia Scouts were invited.

The initial idea of using seminars has rather quickly developed into something greater - the Conference of representatives of the Scout Movement. At a meeting which took place in November 1990, from 69 delegates, only a small proportion of these had a precise knowledge of what Scouting is, its history and the modern situation surrounding it. There were delegates from 23 territories.

In the statement accepted by Congress, it was remarked that "the movement of Scouts in Russia based in 1909... has been destroyed by political and other oppressive methods. However, the founder of Russian Scouting, Oleg Ivanovich Pantjuhov, has tirelessly kept the ideas and spirit of Scouting alive all these years in Russia". In discussions, delegates showed various approaches; one suggested to form a national organization immediately of the All-Russia level; others preferred to create a support base to provide assistance to Scouting; the third have acted for the strengthening of propaganda without legal registration of the organization.

Eventually Congress proclaimed the formation of the Associations for the revival of Russian Scouting (AVoRS) - an independent, non-political, non-governmental voluntary organization; its purpose, the revival of the Russian Scouts movement. This would act as a form of out-of-school education for children and youths on the principles of humanism and the encouragement of religious education.

The world organization has had an opportunity to influence the process of a revival of Scouting in Russia after opening the Information Scout Centre in 1991. Alexander Bondar began to represent the interests of the WOSM there. He also advises other foreign organizations about contacts inside Russia.

The tendency of Russia to play an initiating role has reflected in documents of the World Bureau of November 1990 and January 1991 Contacts and exchanges to the USSR, and Conditions of rebirth of Scouting in the USSR.

The WB's position to reviving Scouting in the USSR was as follows: The All-Union Scout organization would act as a federation of the republican organizations, which, in turn, could also be federations. The organizations of other countries were not recommended to establish direct relations with the Russian Scouts. Apparently, the future separate recognition of the national organizations in union republics was presumed.

Thus, the WOSM persistently pushed the Russian Scout leaders to its understanding of the contents and the form of movement in Russia. The further heads of the WOSM recommended "to refrain from direct contact to somebody in the USSR before informing Geneva, in particular it concerns Pioneer and Komsomol organizations and (for the opposite reason) ORYP supported groups.

The staff of the AVoRS included almost all leaders of the Scout organizations existing today. Eventually from five regions of the AVoRS, only three could develop high-grade activity: the Centre, Northwest, and Siberia. In each of them Scout associations have been created: Union "Moscow Scout" (April, 16, 1991), "Association of Scouts of Saint Petersburg" (May, 18, 1991), "The Siberian association of Scouts" (September, 24, 1991).

The AVoRS is determined to proceed from passive propaganda to active work in the status of the new organization. Leaders of three local associations met and under the influence of the WB concluded that this association has become obsolete. ORYP refused to participate in the next congress. Some leaders seemed to think that the creation of a national organization would be a fast and easy process. Plans were varied and time was a constraint. The AVoRS has not been registered. For the first roles, there were new leaders. After seminar in Saint Petersburg in November 1991 a question on creation of "The Federations of Scouts of Russia" have been put on the agenda.

The Federation

The Federation of Scouts of Russia (FSR) was founded on November 27th, 1991. The Scout leaders selected Arkady Nikitchenko as president. As the purpose the AVoRS, in their opinion, had been achieved, it was dissolved so that Russian Scouting could be organised within the FSR; all local groups were invited to join in and take part.

However, the purpose of the AVoRS has not necessarily been achieved and its tasks not executed. Objective information on Scouting had not been distributed. The new regional organisations did not unite members of the ORYP and other associations. The Congress of the Russian Union of Scouts had not been organised and the Congress of the FSR had been prepared outside of AVoRS and, not using its name. That is why, in 1991, there was a split in modern Russian Scout Movement.

The Head of the World Organisation welcomed the creation of the FSR as it operated in a democratic nature, following the accepted charter corresponding to WOSM requirements as well as being politically independent. On December 5, 1991 the FSR was named as the only association of Scouts in Russia, having the right to use the word "Scout" and use the Scout emblem; attempts were made to isolate and discredit ORYP.

The Council of the FSR authorised basic documents at their 2nd congress in October 1993 in Saratov. In December 1993, the international department of the FSR was opened. At the youth centre, Olympia, in March 1993, an international seminar was organised for members of the FSR which included participants from Britain and the United States.

From the very beginning of the Russian Scout revival, there were three visions for Scouting:-

- to build it with orientation to the WOSM
- aimed toward the traditions introduced by émigrés
- to create something absolutely unique

Certainly, there were factors within each vision which needed to be taken into consideration. The Scout Movement had to rise from the ground up and the way in which it did would depend on the choices of the partners.

The liberal base of the first All-Russian Scout association attracted many leaders. The absence of a clear, defined structure gave leaders the opportunity to realise their own visions for Russian Scouting and allowed them to use new, sometimes completely different, educational and organisational approaches. By 1995, in the FSR, there were up to ten models of Scouting. Independence was given to regions so that they could take as much sovereignty as they felt necessary; regional associations already showed their force.

As regional and inter-regional associations were formed based on subjective factors (some were together in a camp, studied together or were simply friends), at least two outcomes came about -

strong links between the leaders based on interpersonal relationships (which did not coincide with the principles of the organisation) and the opportunity for contradictions.

The FSR represented an example of federal association; all work was conducted by regional unions in Petersburg, Moscow, Siberia, Saratov and Tomsk. In the northwest region, during 5 years, they started out about 250 groups. In first few years of the FSR, several Scout groups were formed including the well known White Seagull group of Alexander Karasev, Bird vetch of Natalya Skorohodova from Petersburg, Agidel of Arkady Nikitchenko, Дискавер of Constantine Isaenko from Omsk, Pilgrim of Aida Jurchenko from Kazan, Робинзон of Sergey Dubinskyi from Berezniki and The Union of Scouts Comrade of Sergey Vozdvizhenskyi from Petrozavodsk. The huge territory of the Moscow Scouts Union spread out into the Volga region.

The Siberian association of Scouts, having quite good support from Boy-Scouts of America managed to develop regular professional training of new and skilled Scouts through four educational centres in Omsk, Tomsk, Irkutsk and Perm.

The Tatar Organisation was created under the strong influence of The Siberian association of Scouts. In April 1995 the assembly of Interdistrict Association of Scouts of Tatarstan took place in Kazan.

In the Arkhangelsk area, Scout troops reappeared from 1992 in Severodvinsk. The regional association Scouts of Pomorje was also founded. In August 1994, the FSR held the first international Russian Jamboree near lake Ladoga for 2500 Scouts. By 1997, the FSR adopted the charters of the regional members of the federation; those on uniform, promise and laws, regulations about the payments, the associated members, ranks, emblems, etc.

The FSR actively cooperated with state bodies, participated in local and governmental programs to restore historical and cultural monuments and carried out youth programs (social adaptation of teenagers, additional education and summer camps). The FSR totalled more than 4000 Scouts and issued numerous booklets and educational literature. Siberians have especially successful in publishing such information. Their well known series of brochures called Scouting day by day are very popular. In Kazan, the newspaper Pilgrim turned into an all-federation issue. Volodya Nesevrja and Volodya Gromov have just released a book of methodical recommendations entitled Scouting is simple. However, the Council of the FSR meet very irregularly. Although it generates many interesting ideas, most of them are not supported by the necessary resources and are therefore not carried out.

ORYP

By 1993, the two Russian Scout organisations in exile recognised their changing role. In Paris, NORS declared it no longer had the right to exclusive representation of Russian Scouting in view of the presence of a Scouting organisation in their Native land. NORS accepted the amended name The National Organization of the Russian Foreign Scouts, promising to enter ORYP.

ORYP was the main influence in the rebirth of Scouting. Understanding between it and the WB was not established in any way. The WB demanded of ORYP a public declaration of political independence and about the offer of the services of the FSR. Leaders of the ORYP repeatedly voiced non-political status and absence of any connections and agreements with political movements. In May 1994, J. Moreillon recognized mistakes in WOSM attitude to the ORYP in former years.

Foreign policy aside, internal activity of ORYP did not depend in any way on Geneva. Work started to gather pace at group level. In June 1991, the first large camp took place for Scouts from Chernogolovka, Yekaterinburg and Crimea.

ORYP developed a specific structure. One of their features was a well advanced system of courses for leaders at all levels. One more means of strengthening the organization became the gathering of the senior staff, which took place in 1992 and 1993 and equal voting rights solved

problems. Rostislav Ordovskij-Tanaevsky offered to assist organisers of the ORYP's services and in the beginning of 1993, the Coordination Council of the Russian branch was created; in R. Ordovskij's "Росинтер" company a Centre of Communications was opened.

In 1995 J. Moreillon asked whether ORYP was going to join the world organization or not. It was immediately decided that in the future national organization structure, the ORYP should not have separate legal status.

The ORYP Council in 1996 approved attempts in negotiations with other Scouting organizations in Russia concerning the creation of a national organization with which the ORYP demonstrated to WB that an independent organization could exist with full rights. The majority believed that ORYP would get an opportunity to influence the Russian Scout Movement due to its historical experience.

In 2000-2001 the ORYP began to split its functions between Saint Petersburg and Moscow. The capital handled communication with regions and abroad, some administrative functions and the Scout shop. Saint Petersburg took on general management, foreign Scouts, a museum and the archive. In April, Roman Aleksandrov was appointed the Assistant Chief Scoutmaster. They also had established the publishing of magazines and newspapers for leaders. This includes in the federal list of public youth and children's associations that offer state support.

In November 1991, when the FSR was created, The Union named after Oleg Pantjuhov was formed. The founder members did not wish to recreate the FSR, as at its Congress there was a different theme of practical realization of the Scout Duty to God. On December 15, 1991, representatives of 20 formations from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus signed the declaration on the creation of the movement of orthodox Scouts for the development of a so-called 'orthodox model' of the Russian Scout Movement.

Based on a version of two secular features of the FSR in February 1992 'The Association of the Independent Scout Organizations' (which is not affiliated with the FSR - Ю.К.) 'the Orthodox Union' was formed. ORYP and the Orthodox Union tried to create the only orthodox national organization parallel to the FSR which received a Church blessing. However, by the autumn of 1992, the ORYP decided to separate from it showing its self-sufficient, independent status. Thus, the ORYP did not undertake a supervisory role in the creation of national organizations other than those affiliated with the FSR.

In December 1992, the Russian Orthodox Church blessed the creation of the Youth Orthodox Organization. The meeting of orthodox Scouts decided "to create under protection and with assistance of the Russian orthodox church, a Russian Scout orthodox brotherhood on the basis of the fundamental principles of Orthodoxy, to Scouting and to the love of our Native land".

In March 1992, the memorandum of the World Bureau "Some legal aspects of Scouting in Russia and around it" was published in which it actually took the first steps of Russian Scouts to be united to a religious attribute of Orthodoxy. The following paragraph shows where it stated that "ORYP", "NORS" and "orthodox" Scouts should be united.

"The German Village", "The Moscow brotherhood of orthodox Scouts" and Scouts from Dubna, Syktyvkar, Izhevsk, Rybinsk and Stavropol created "the Federation of orthodox Scouts" in October 1993. Soon the name was changed to "The Federation of orthodox pathfinders (Orthodox Scouts)". This was at the request of a Head of Church as the word "Scout" did not correspond to the essence church organization. Patriarch Alexei II signed the FPS Charter in March 1994. It was decided that, in various regions, local groups would work under Scout programs, but the foundations of orthodox education would be the same for all. The main purposes of the organization are: to help families in the education of children, to help children in their personal development, and ensure education as a whole is patriotic. The FPS Congress took place in Moscow in October 2000. The new charter of the organization was accepted in connection with joining the WOSM and the name was changed to "The Brotherhood of Orthodox Pathfinders".

In 1993, the Nizhniy Novgorod inter-regional association "The Russian Union of Scouts" was founded. The organization formed extensive international connections with the Polish harzerzh and the British "Association of Scouts of Baden-Powell". Keen on the ideas of Scouting, the Slava Chernykh has issued an extensive range of books and manuals for children and leaders, which have been popular with the different Scouting authorities. The Russian Union of Scouts has advanced the idea of the Russian certificated system of Gilwell - a course first developed by Baden-Powell.

Between 1991 and 1993, on the basis of "congenial Scouting" the "Union of Russian Scouts of Sacred Vladimir" was formed. As there were many students of the Moscow pedagogical high schools within the Union, they used schools as bases for their Scout groups. The name was chosen because this Saint allowed the admittance of both Orthodox and Catholic churches. The Union began interacting with the Polish Scouts; "Scouts of Europe" and the French branch of the NORS. At first, the organisation only covered Moscow, but, since 1996, it has grown to other regions in Russia.

"The National Organization of the Scout Movement of Russia" was created in 1996. The organisation's mission statement reads: "The organization's purpose is: to assist in the development of the Scout Movement in Russia, by gathering and distributing information on the Scout Movement in Russia and abroad; the development and realization of Scout programs; the development of the an initiative regarding amateur performance and the mental potential of children and youths; the organization of outdoor work, and an establishment of interaction with the WOSM and others. Structural divisions of the NOSD are available in 46 regions".

Anatoly Ermolin created "The Union for the Development of Scouting in the Armed Forces" and later, with professor A.Prutchenkov, formed a new pedagogical system of Scouting within the educational organization of Scouts. They initiated the project "The New Civilization". Some leaders of the Russian part of the ORYP left the organization to create "The National Organization of Volunteers " (Rus)". The organizers switched completely to a "white idea", openly declared their political orientation and a party belonging. "The National organization of Scouts "Rus"" became one more micro group type of Scouts.

As it was already marked, ways of the FSR and the ORYP have gone away at the end of 1991, but in the summer of 1992, the Federation began to grope opportunities of an establishment more or less constructive relations. Council of the ORYP also declined desirability of an establishment of a good-neighbourhood. In January 1993 in Kostroma, both organizations signed the agreement that they are brotherly Scout. The basic distinctions and similarity have been determined: the ORYP stands on the traditions of old Russian Scouting; the FSR builds the work on a combination of modern foreign Scout techniques and the Russian traditions, tries to give an opportunity to realize author's programs, models in a vein of a Scouting, creating a new Russian Scouting. It was the important step towards each other. The tendency to associate has received the confirmation during the Round-table in Geneva (May 1994). See: the plan of joint actions and addition to it. On April 1995 rapprochement of the organizations became obvious to all. The offer to create movement "Scouts of Russia" with a view of the future national association has been put forward.

In regions the relations of leaders of two organizations are practically without problems. The common actions are often the case. Both organizations have carried out a number of joint actions that have personally shown that the wish to be united has a real basis. The positive answer by the ORYP Council has given in February 1996. In the spring of 1996, they arranged to create "The National Organization of the Russian Scouts-pathfinders".

Successful beginning has allowed hoping for happy end as a whole. The Committee on geopolitics of Russian Parliament made a project "About measures on support of Scout Movement in Russia". Having gathered in March 1997 near Oxford on the course spent by Scout association of the United Kingdom councils of two organizations has proclaimed creation of National Council of Scout Movement of Russia. Leaders of "The Union of Russian Scouts of St. Vladimir", "The National organization of Scout Movement" have appeared in sight.

Preparation for the Congress was serious. Sessions of National Council, seminars were carried out, projects of Charter, the rules were developed, and visits to the youth and Scout organizations of the different countries have taken place. FSR suggested the idea of the NORS-P and offered to all leaders and children "from any Scout organizations irrespective of their "past" to begin a new life". ORYP offered the project of the "Association of the Russian Scouts" which could unite all existing organizations with preservation of the independence.

Almost one month prior to the Congress, some Muscovites have left FSR. As the reasons it has been specified on intervention in internal affairs of the Moscow groups, creation of the alternative organizations in the capital, financial claims.

On the Congress there were representatives of "Association of Scouts of Petersburg", Union "Moscow Scout", "the Siberian association of Scouts", three branches of the Russian part of the ORYP, the regional Scout centres of Tomsk, Irkutsk, Perm, etc. Participants had been created the organization in which the ORYP became independent association. The majority of members of Council of the NORS-P represented "ORYP" as well as in the Court of Honour, Auditing Committee. ORYP offered a hymn and emblems. It has been once again declared to join the WOSM.

The ORYP keeps the integrity within the NORS-P and enter to regional branches of the NORS-P on a local level. The structure of association began to be formed - the first inter-regional association within the NORS-P has arisen in Saint Petersburg and Leningrad regions (head Andrei Klochko, December, 1998), then the Moscow city branch, the Moscow regional branch, the Perm Regional Scout Centre, Tomsk branch, the Omsk Scout Centre, "Scouts of Karelia", the Organization of Scouts of Kaliningrad, the Samara regional branch, etc. The NORS-P began to play an active role in National Council of youth and children's associations of Russia in which the special section of the Scout organizations works.

The union of the ORYP and the FSR was productive. The ORYP Internet-server has played big role in propagation and interactive registration of units of the organization. The Information centre of the NORS-P in Tomsk was a headquarters of all organization for some time. Newspapers "Pilgrim", "the Scout world", "Staff", magazine "Scout-pathfinder" became official publications of the organization. Accommodation of "The Orthodox brotherhood" on Krutitsky farmstead became the Scout centre for all organization. In the middle of 2000 NORS-P have presumably consisted of 458 groups in 58 regions of Russia. All-Russia NORS-P Jamboree in 2000 near Saratov became a real top of cooperation. In 7 sub camps about 4 thousand Scouts has gathered from Russia and 12 countries. It is important for new block to consider principles of a Scout method, the organizational roots of work with kids and the people, a Mission of the Russian Scout Movement, the social role of the organization.

Council of the NORS-P gathered not so frequently assumed to carry out the next Congress of leaders of the Scout organizations but it was not possible to realize. Directing bodies of the common organization could not solve many basic problems. Therefore, Conference of representatives of the regional organizations defines the further activity on inter-regional level, new Chairman was elected (Michael Drozdov), 4 National Jamboree in 2003 was discussed.

One of the main reasons of WOSM attention to Russian affairs was it can give almost two million potential Scouts to the World Movement. So significant additive to the World movement would bring to it significant dividends in public opinion. WB had to define correct ways of influence, to choose necessary people.

In practical actions we see inconsistency and discrepancy. Relations with the Russian organizations remain complex. A Bureau tried various means to determine a condition and a direction of development of Scouting in Russia: publishing the definite information, trips and seminars worldwide, making "publicity" to convenient leaders. It was made an impression that the Bureau thinks out the organization, develops its game rules.

On February, 1993, Malek Gabr explained the rules of acceptance of the national organization in the WOSM: single, open for all comers; in a federation all organizations included also should meet to WOSM requirements; a history and traditions can be taken into account, but the modern situation will be taken into consideration only. As a creation of the national organization is not a duty of the WOSM, the Russian citizens and the Russian Scouts should construct such organization.

At that time, the Federation of Scouts of Russia was considered as "open", "pluralistic", "non-confessional" but demanding adherence to spiritual principles. The ORYP and AISO-OS looked as "orthodox Scouts". Further variants were described: "the National Scout organization of Russia" is possible only on the conditions determined by the WB: it will consist of several Associations: the FSR; "Association of orthodox Russian Scouts" (or "the Russian Federation of the orthodox Scouts") or similar "confessional" association; "Association of Muslim Scouts" as well as Scouts-Catholics or Protestants; Associations from autonomous republics.

In the letter to Scouts of Russia J. Moreillon (October 1993) has called Russians to join "Federation of Scouts of Russia", "Federation of orthodox Scouts" or the ORYP. By this time, obviously, the FSR in opinion of Geneva was one of making elements of the future national organization.

WB, the national organizations of United Kingdom, United States have developed system of courses, seminars, meetings for leaders of the Russian Scout organizations. Representatives of the Scout organizations of Russia in 1994 participated in a seminar "Europe-the CIS: the international communications in intercultural education" (Spain), a symposium "the Scouting: youth without borders" (Morocco). The working group on problems of Russia in February 1994 in Geneva has decided to intensify the decision of a problem of a unification of the Russian Scouting.

In May 1994, the Round table "Scouting in Russia" in Geneva has been called to solve all problems behind a negotiating table and to begin a reference point of a history of the Russian Scout organization. Among participants of meeting there were representatives the ORYP (the Russian and foreign parts), "Federations of orthodox pathfinders", "Federations of Scouts of Russia", small groups, observers from some autonomous republics, ranking officers of the BSA and SAUK.

Representatives of the organizations have told in detail about the formations. The Russian participants have found time for meeting during which tried to come to mutual understanding. All participants have voted for creation of the national organization.

The Secretary General of the WOSM, J. Moreillon, making comments on will of participants to create national organization suggested "to give time of time", Russians should achieve unity in their circle and only then the WOSM will begin procedure of recognition NSO.

The brief meeting of representatives of some Scout organizations has taken place in Moscow in the ORYP Information Centre. The ORYP and the FSR were initiators. It became clear that many still do not imagine how the national organization could be made. Everyone would be pro but at the same time "how", "where" and "for what" obviously sank in a heap of offers and appeals to begin friends. The meeting gradually turned in empty speaking.

During all these actions, there was a gradual reassessment of values, roles and the importance of former leaders, connections and interests.

The wave of criticism, accusations of concealment of the important information has fallen upon the FSR, its contacts to the national organizations become complicated. Observers have noticed, "the FSR leaders unfortunately for Geneva were not dominated". A "Strange war" between the FSR and WB had begun. Some years later Petr Levitsky expressed the opinion that "the FSR has too quickly felt the force and has refused to be controlled. So leaders of the FSR have signed a verdict to themselves. Only absolute loyalty could become the permit in the WOSM". Nevertheless, it occurred already on a background of steps of the ORYP and the FSR towards each other. Feeling

pressure and in hope to be correctly understood, the FSR has refused to send their members to World Jamboree having offered the quota for the benefit of the ORYP.

In February 1996, J. Moreillon again suggested to organize the Round-table on the same problems to carry out meaningful dialogue between all interested persons. An ideal - the introduction of Russia into the WOSM by the end of 1999. Later Secretary General sent to Russian Scouts the message in which has proved that the further development of national movement can go on in two ways to create the organization - the unitary organization or federation of several associations. The analysis of a situation in 1997 has resulted WB to idea more actively to join process of creation of the national organization.

In parallel, the Bureau conducted the activity on creation of the sixth world Scout region - Eurasian that could include almost all countries of the former USSR. Alexander Bondar met leaders of the Moldavian, Ukrainian, Tatar, Russian, Armenian, Kirghiz, Kazakh Scout groups, public and political leaders of the different countries. On April, 1998 in Yerevan the Regional Scout organization of Eurasia has been founded, the Constitution was accepted as the supervising body on a transition period until 2001. A. Bondar was elected Director of the Regional bureau of Eurasia. Meeting in the Information Centre in the autumn of 1994 had a consequence - rapprochement of positions of "Russian union of Scouts", "Federation of orthodox pathfinders", "the Union of Russian Scouts of a name of St. Vladimir", "the Union for development of a Scouting in armed forces of Russia", groups in republics Komi, Udmurtiya, Chuvashia. They formed "Organizing committee of the All-Russia national Scout organization" in 1996. Founders have declared the intention to create and construct the future ARNSO in full conformity with the requirements of the World Bureau to national associations.

Gradually there were two blocks resisting each other. One has consisted of two large allies - the FSR and the ORYP, other of set of the small organizations. It was objectively more difficult to achieve full unity between ORYP and FSR. Absence of effective central authority began to affect. Those or other steps of a President sometimes met misunderstanding of strong regional leaders that delayed the decision of some questions. Though all of them put a noble purpose, actually creation of two blocks was the next proof of split in movement. Nevertheless, whatever they spoke about each other the root of all troubles initially was in subjective mutual aversion of concrete people.

Negotiations to which the WB persistently pushed both sides did not cause enthusiasm among leaders. In 1998, debates around the next World Jamboree have led to a withdrawal "St. Vladimir's Union" from ARNSO.

It became clear that the situation soon will remind a fable of a crane and a heron - all over again one, then others will invite to cooperation, to find occasions to refuse and, eventually, to try to substitute and destroy the opponent. The situation around ARNSO and the NORS-P in due course began to look absurdly. What are they talking about? About education of young Russians in the national Scout organization or about joining the WOSM by creation of the national Scout organization under the slogan of education? Unfortunately, for some time the problem of this membership became predominating.

On April, 27-30, 1998 in Moscow the constituent contract on creation ARNSO by representatives of 14 organizations has been signed. In due course Scouts of Leningrad, Irkutsk regions have joined to ARNSO. ARNSO cares of propagation of a Scouting and its work. On December, 1998 they organized the exhibition "Scouts of Russia" devoted to the 90-anniversary of movement in the Parliament. Leaders of the organization are included into expert group on questions of Scout Movement in Russia at Committee on geopolitics of the Parliament, in advisory council on no school education of the Ministry of Education, council of League of the youth organizations and National council of the youth organizations of Russia, Orthodox youth movement.

In 1998-99, Geneva has analyzed charters of two blocks. ARNSO's project was more suitable for Constitutional Committee. Trying to balance the rights of all subjects of Russian Federation - areas and republic - NORS-P proposed not the best Charter.

The leaders of the NORS-P has tried to remove disputable positions but as it seems to us now in May, 1999 a question of acceptance or no acceptance of one of the organizations in the WOSM has been actually predetermined, though any official verdict yet was not. "They were late", - it was spoken about the NORS-P. Simultaneously experts of the World Bureau improved ARNSO Charter.

On November, 1999 in Cairo the World Committee considered a situation in the Scout Movement in Russia and has come to a conclusion that the variant of the charter offered by ARNSO is much more corresponds to the Constitution the WOSM rather than a variant of the NORS-P therefore it can be a basis of the national organization. As attempts to find a consensus have not gone right and the NORS-P persistently did not wish to arrange, the Committee has declared opening of a way to ARNSO to recognition as single NSO, invited all Scouts - members of the NORS-P individually to proceed in ARNSO. On November 28, the Secretary General has repeated the offer to all Russian Scouts to proceed in ARNSO. Reasoning of the Secretary General was widely distributed among the organizations and caused the inconsistent attitude.

Leaders of some national organizations expressed anxiety of a situation developing in Russia and called the World Bureau to be attentive as more as possible.

J. Moreillon has explained later a difficult situation with a Scouting in Russia to that it grows from its difficult history. He has entered into official use of concept about "red" and "white" ORYP having caused thus a huge wave of indignation inside this organization. Then it seemed to him that in the Charter of the NORS-P there is "hardly covered dictatorship on former Soviet model" in decision-making process. He has explained that the World Committee had no right to wait more and give in to attempts of the NORS-P to block desired membership of Russia in this international organization. With our point of view in spite, their own appeals to abstain from not weighted estimations the Geneva comrades showed an example of the subjective and emotional approach.

The regulation of activity of the organizations has led to that the Russian Scout leaders have started relations with the alternative Scout organizations of Europe (Federation of Guides and Scouts of Europe, "Neutral Scouts of France", "BP-Scouts", etc.), to strengthen connections with independent national organizations of near and far abroad, YMCA Scouts. English "Network Russia" also had its own position and not always agreed with it but in any case aspired to support connections between groups in a constructive way. In the ORYP the commission on work with "Scouts of Europe" has appeared, they had meetings with Scouts of this federation (France, Poland).

For the sake of justice, it is necessary to notice that some Russian leaders also not always objectively built the relations with Geneva. Many of them have simply overestimated the forces, abilities and opportunities, taken of irreconcilably negative position and not approaching to conciliatory proposals. Tactless behaviour often allowed an occasion to the termination of relations was kept. Adherence to principles was sometimes substituted by usual obstinacy. Sharp styled "Courier Porany" bulletin frequently overstepped the limits the correct attitude to opponents. Unsuccessful balancing on a side has led to that the international commissioner of the NORS-P P.Levitsky has been declared by the World bureau "the non-grata person" and all members the WOSM have been called not to have any communication with him. Probably there was no necessity to write so sharply to the World Bureau and the national organizations, to sneer at correspondence with the Secretary General. In fact including on a background of such messages the World Committee ripened the final decision to be guided on BHCO.

The decision of the World Committee on opening ARNSO way for registration appeared an unexpected for NORS-P leadership. It tried to explain to members of the organization that there is nothing terrible and the recognition has not come yet and did not begin at all, and in the ARNSO there are not enough members, it is not registered, etc. Hoping that this decision of Committee is only way of activating of work of all Russian associations Council of the NORS-P has decided to agree for the conciliatory commission and to hold the new Congress of leaders. However, it was already late.

Council of the NORS-P was not able to cope with tasks taken on. It became obvious that half-amateur administrative work does not bring effect. After peak of 1998-2000 NORS-P has met serious difficulties of subjective and psychological nature. In our opinion, now the NORS-P enters a stage of alternation of generations that demands not only skills of youth to operate, but also skills to leave a cargo of the last mistakes and stereotypes.

On May 29, 2000, the ARNSO was registered as All-Russian association of Scouts by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation. On September, 29-30 ARNSO has specified its structure having transformed "the National organization of Scout Movement" in "the Union of Scouts of Russia" having included there also "Russian union of Scouts", "Union" the Moscow Scout", some regional organizations. Thus, this association became the "open" organization in ARNSO structure. Sergey Sirotkin became a President of ARNSO. On September, 30 - on October, 1, 2000 at extraordinary ARNSO conference additions changes have been brought in the Charter of the organizations suggested by the World constitutional committee.

It is possible to think that management of the ARNSO appeared more mobile and flexible in adaptation of realities of the Russian Scouting to legally proved rules of club named "WOSM". Process of ARNSO recognition has come to the end on October, 1, 2000. It was declared about the membership of the new organization - about 14 thousand boys and girls in an equal proportion. It is marked that ARNSO has the strong structure of management added with three groups of associations which reflect variety of cultures of the Russian Federation: non-confessional "the Union of Scouts of Russia"; confessional associations corresponding to five traditional religions, and association representing national republics of Russia.

On ideas of founders, such structure combines advantages of the Unitarian organization and federation - Unitarian controls with the strong management providing unity and quality. It "ideally approaches to the form of a state system of the Russian Federation both legally and actually". Members of the NORS-P from the formal point of view individually could enter ARNSO; to remain in their party and to receive a status of the organization using a Scout method; to become alternative Scout associations like BP-Scouts etc. It is necessary to notice that the streamlet of the groups passing from the NORS-P to BHCO still is rather thin.

The Russian girls-Scouts showed another approach. In 90th, there was a long negotiating process between the WOSM and the WAGGGS. The World Committee of the WOSM hoped that in the beginning of the third millennium united organization of boys and girls would operate. But in due course it became clearer that WAGGGS prefers to exist separately with a view of development of girls and young women: "Their mission - to be the separate World organization devoting to promotion of girls and women".

In modern Russia, the first groups of girls-Scouts have appeared in 1990. The FSR in 1993 has declared that its boys and girls after recognition will enter in the WOSM. In the FSR Council Irina Jakubchik has been appointed responsible for a "female" direction. Soon she has come into contacts to the British guide association. Rich British experience has inspired Russians. In February, 1993 at a seminar of groups leaders from Arkhangelsk, Omsk, Saint Petersburg, Tyumen, Ufa, Saratov, Perm, Kazan, Yekaterinburg, Tchekbarkul, Berezniki "The League of girls-Scouts" has been based in a structure of the FSR.

Representatives of the WAGGGS worked in Russia with success. It proved necessity of creation of the separate organizations that, despite of political changes, position of women here remained as before. Moreover, new problems were added also: unemployment, deterioration of health, children's death rate.

The guides organizations have quickly arisen in Ukraine, Belarus, and separate groups have appeared in republics of Central Asia. However, in Russia orientation to WAGGGS has not been brightly expressed until in Moscow its Office has not opened (May 1993). Laura Walsh became the engine of idea.

The FSR appeared in rather inconvenient position - the promise to Geneva seriously braked work. Attempts to involve the WOSM in negotiating process with WAGGGS on the "Russian question" were unsuccessful. Anyhow, contacts of representatives of the FSR and WAGGGS proceeded and became frequent. WAGGGS influence became more and more obvious and effective. Therefore, in result ten women have left the FSR and began to create the independent female organization. In October 1994, they organized inter-regional "Russian association of girls-Scouts" (RAGS) - the independent voluntary not political organization open for girls and women living in Russia accepting girl-Scout Laws. Purposes RAGS: assistance to development of spiritual, intellectual, physical and public potential of girls and young women as persons and responsible citizens of the country; development of movement of girls-Scouts and support.

Russian leaders have visited World Conference in Canada in 1996. With the kind help of neighbours from Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia they managed to overcome difficulties of growth. By this time, the Constitutional committee of the WAGGGS has analyzed RAGS documents. In view of the Russian originality, some deviations from standards in RAGS Constitution have been made. In 1999, RAGS joined the WAGGGS.

It is not simple to create the female organization in masculinised society. By the present RAGS consists of 3 thousand guides in one and a half hundred groups. A flower of a snowdrop became a national emblem. RAGS unites five regions: the Centre, the Volga, Ural, Eastern Siberia and the Far East. The basic centres: Volgograd, Irkutsk, Omsk, Yaroslavl, Ufa, Perm, Saint Petersburg. Taking into account that almost all RAGS leaders have once consisted in the FSR, it is not surprising, that again the union of old friends eventually should be ratified. Interaction of the NORS-P and RAGS was established without any problems. RAGS representatives participated in the NORS-P Congress in Saint Petersburg in 1998, worked on preparation of Jamboree'2000 and 2003. At a special all-Russian exhibition in June, 2001 RAGS and the NORS-P have presented the joint stand.

Thus, the modern Russian Scouting is evident confirmation of the tendencies having place in children's movement: transition from the only children's organization to their set; from one ideology to an ideological variety; carry of the centre of attention to an individual; voluntaries; wide participation in a social life.

Revival of a Scouting allowed to hope for the nearest favourable outcome on creation of the strong national organization, but unfortunately for many subjective reasons movement appeared shattered on set of the large and small groups nowadays resisting each other in structure of two mainframes.

Popular proverb says "Small children - small problems". The Russian Scout organizations became older and they have received new, even more complex challenges. Even if we see the certain cyclicity, some recession of activity of groups and teams, delay of rates of development nowadays takes place.

If in the first years of existence of Scout groups, the main problems were material resources, now we see something another. "For what the Scout work is proposed?" - a question which sounds at conferences and seminars.

Values, which attracted youth in the organization 10 years ago, have started to change. And if the organizations such as that referred to be the FSR having inside diverse approaches and principles, constantly will get a human material, ideologically more strict (the ORYP, for example) get more difficulties because "newcomers" have not gained an essence of pathfindership.

There is a little modern literature on a Scouting (in particular for the senior and younger Scouts). Theorists and practice educators until now cannot assist Scouts. Necessity of the extensive PR program for all Russian organizations is sharp: some steps to this are already done. Last years has shown that Scout newspapers live up to third-fourth issue. Happy exception, but, probably, the evidence of arising efficiency of publishing began newspapers "Pilgrim" and "the Scout world", first

90 issues of "First-Class magazine", "The Orthodox Bulletin", "the Russian bulletin of the leaders" and magazine "Scout-pathfinder".

Last years creation is Scout Internet-servers that became one more opportunity of propagation of the work, the real proof of the modernity of the organizations. Let not everywhere but Scouts make a break in sphere of telecommunication technologies: Scouts participate in World Jamboree in the Internet and in Air; Scout forums of the NORS-P and "Russian union of Scouts" are popular; teleconferences works.

For the first time Scouts put a problem of the state and church licensing of the educational and educational activity, state certification of programs.

Haste in revival of a Scouting in the modern Russian have led to set of misunderstanding and problems, the part from which, fortunately, has temporary and subjective nature and can be resolved in the near future. Attempt to create the only organization in frameworks of so great and huge country should be doomed on failure. To contain in one framework all variety of approaches, principles and techniques appeared impossible. Obviously, this is task of tomorrow's day. The Russian Scout Movement has gathered much in experience of pioneers, pre-revolutionary Scouts and Scouts of Russian Diaspora, WOSM-members but it will not be a copy of this or that variants. Time varies, the ideal of the modern personality varies, the contents and the forms of work vary. Russian Scouting has left 100 years in a history, and the future of it we should search for tomorrow.

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