

Research report

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Research theme: The OSA Archives and Central Asia during the Cold War Period

Duration of stay, February 16-April 17, 2015 (2 months)

My research fit in the theme "Available channels of information gathering in the decades of the Cold War (and comparing those channels to the ones that became available after 1989)"

1. Documents used in my researches:

Tatarstan xəbərläre, Qazan (Tatar)  
Vatanım Tatarstan, Qazan (Tatar)  
Qızıl Tañ, Ufa, (Tatar),  
Zaman-Tatarstan, Qazan, (Tatar),  
Iman, Almaty, (Qazaq),  
Zaman-Qazaqstan, Almaty, (Qazaq),  
Mädäniyet, Almaty, (Qazaq),  
Ğažayıp Ündistan, Almaty, (Qazaq),  
Yegemen Qazaqstan, Almaty (Qazaq),  
Xalıq keñesı, Almaty, (Qazaq),  
Xalıq kongresı, Almaty, (Qazaq),  
Azat, Almaty, (Qazaq),  
Almaty aqşamı, Almaty, (Qazaq),  
Suxbat, Almaty, (Qazaq/Russian),  
Žetısu, Almaty, (Qazaq),  
Turksib ünısi, Almaty, (Qazaq),  
Žas alas, Almaty (Qazaq)  
Asaba, Bishkek, (Kyrgyz),  
Biškek šamı, Bishkek, (Kyrgyz),  
Čuy bayanı, Chui, (Kyrgyz),

Ayalzat, Bishkek (Kyrgyz),  
7 Gün, Baku, (Azeri),  
Vətən, Baku, (Azeri),  
Səhər, Baku, (Azeri),  
Millət, Baku, (Azeri),  
Respublika, Baku, (Azeri),  
Press Fakt, Baku, (Azeri),  
Naxçıvan, Nahicsevan, (Azeri),  
Müstəqil qəzet, Baku, (Azeri),  
Müxalifət, Baku, (Azeri),  
Meydan, Baku, (Azeri),  
Azərbaycan, Baku, (Azeri),  
Xalq gəzeti/qəzeti, Baku, (Azeri),  
Boz qurd, Baku, (Azeri),  
Azadlıq, Baku, (Azeri),  
Səs, Baku, (Azeri),

## 2. My research activities

During my stay in the OSA I researched the Soviet and Post-Soviet regional press, a substantial part of which was first examined and identified by me after they arrived from Prague to Budapest. I worked mostly on a minority language basis, leaving the Russian regional editions for the later stages of my research. With the help of Kata Dobó, the Senior Librarian of the Archive I examined and identified the 37 titles mentioned above. I made some annotations and fixed the necessary information for a full-scale catalogue and also researched the main themes of the papers. I also prepared transcription tables for a more accurate catalogue recording.

## 3. Results

What became clear is that the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Open Media Research Institute had a well selected collection of newspapers and periodicals focusing on the "hottest" national issues within the Russian Federation (mostly in Tatarstan and

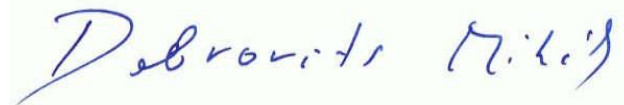
Bashkortostan) and also on the questions of nation-building and identity formation in Central Asia (Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan).

I would like to use the material I collected in the OSA in my further research on contemporary Central Asia. As in the two months of research I could reach only the top of an iceberg I intend to continue examining and identifying further materials in the Archive relating to Central Asia.

4. The importance of the research

Central Asia is a kind of "hot issue" on the international political agenda. Albeit several works have been published on this topic, most of them are written without using original sources. Even the most enthusiastic authors are satisfied with materials they find in Russian (a language of primary importance for this region), but hardly anybody tried to get access to native language resources. The native language materials kept in the OSA Archive allow a look into what happened behind the international agenda. Authentic, local issues, events of everyday life in the local community are reflected in the press material. On the basis of these materials the researcher can get a veritable impression of the micro-historical events of the region. It is also worth mentioning that the collection held in the OSA Archive is unique. The next venue where anybody interested in this region can collect such information is Moscow. There are similar collections in Ankara and in Saporó, but their informative value is far lower than that of this fantastic collection.

Budapest, April 27, 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dobrovits Mihály". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light green rectangular background.

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