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PB - May 31, 1979]

10. Concerning certain measures for propagandistic provisions for the summit meeting in Vienna.

SUSLOV. We considered this issue at the last session of the Party Secretariat. It is prepared by the Department of Foreign Policy Propaganda, the Propaganda Department and the International Department. Everything is being taken into account here, and now we must already prepare all of our press, radio and television, in order to secure the corresponding propagandistic provisions for the meeting between L.I. Brezhnev and President Carter in Vienna.

Do you have any remarks about the draft of the resolution?

VOICES. No.

SUSLOV. Good. The issue is approved.

11. About the formation of the autonomous German oblast.

SUSLOV. This issue was presented to the Commission headed by com. Yu. V. Andropov, on the instructions of the Politburo.

KAPITONOV. By instructions of the Commission let me report on certain points of this issue.

First of all, the Commission studied in detail the documents and materials, concerning citizens of the USSR of German nationality, considered various aspects of this problem, carried out an exchange of opinions with certain leading workers of local party and soviet organs. According to the opinion of the Commission, at the present time it would be possible to regard favorably the issue of the allotment of a national-territorial autonomy to the German population.

Upwards of 1, 800,000 Germans reside in our country. They are settled chiefly in the territory of Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, and certain oblasts of Western Siberia. More than half of these Germans (36,000) reside in Kazakhstan.

Among the Germans a layer of leading workers has grown up. The Germans actively participate in social and political life; 8 people serve as secretaries of city and regional party committees, 440 serve as secretaries of primary party organizations; more than 7 thousand have been elected as deputies of local Soviets; upwards of 30 thousand students study German as their native language.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan (com. Kunaev) considers that it would be possible to create an autonomous German oblast within Kazakhstan in the number of five raions, where the majority of the German population resides.

SUSLOV. I think, that the proposal is perfectly acceptable. It is evident that we must already now take certain organizational measures, among them, for the creation of a oblast party organization.

KUZNETSOV. We have to chose 5 people from this autonomous oblast for the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

ANDROPOV. Elections for the local Soviets of labor deputies are still imminent, there is already a Politburo resolution about this. Therefore it is necessary now to pass this resolution concerning the creation of the oblast with a view to carrying out elections in the oblast, raion, city and village Soviets of labor deputies.

SUSLOV. I consider that this measure will be met positively by the German population and that they will gradually resettle from other areas to this oblast. ANDROPOV. Of course there will be such a process.

SUSLOV. At the same time, we also intend to resolve the issue of the national-territorial autonomous oblast of the Crimean-Tartar population.

KAPITONOV. Yes, this issue has been considered by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan; there is an intention to create an autonomous okrug.

The approval of such a resolution would have considerable political significance, since the Central Committee and other organization still receive many applications both from Germans as well as from Crimean Tartars.

The draft of the resolution is approved.

[signature]: K. Bogomolov

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