

Commonwealth of Independent States - 30 Years Old

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Abstract

By the end of the twentieth century, the situation in the USSR was deteriorating, living standards were declining, the political, economic and social situation was becoming more complicated, and inter-republican and inter-ethnic relations were deteriorating. At a time when the whole of the Soviet Union was facing increasingly difficult situation, the question arose as to whether the political and economic relations between the Union and its constituent republics should be determined by agreement. Such an agreement was originally called the Commonwealth of Independent States. However, Academician Hoji Akbar Rahmonkulov, the State Adviser to the First President of Uzbekistan, who took part in drafting and discussing the agreement, proposed to change the agreement to the Commonwealth of Independent States. This proposal was approved by many.

Keywords: States, wealth, Old.

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The fact that the Republic of Uzbekistan remained an independent state within the Soviet Union and joined the Treaty on the Commonwealth of Independent States was announced in the "Declaration of Independence" adopted at the second session of the Supreme Soviet on June 18-20, 1990.

Much work has been done on the draft treaty of alliance. Various opinions and comments were expressed. As a result, in a discussion held on July 23, 1991, the last seventh version of the treaty of alliance was found to be satisfactory.

The Treaty of the Commonwealth of Sovereign States, which was approved by the republic's leaders and was to be signed by them on August 21, 1991, in the Giorgievsky Hall of the Kremlin, was not signed by the USSR State Committee of Emergency Situations (GKChP) on August 19. To overcome this situation, Uzbekistan was the first to secede from the Soviet Union and declare full sovereignty in accordance with the Law "On the Foundations of State Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan" adopted by the Oliy Majlis on August 31, 1991.

After that, other republics also declared their sovereignty. The life of the USSR was coming to an end.

On December 8, 1991, President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin, President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk, and Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR Vladislav Shushkevich gathered in Beloveninsk Pushka, Belarus. went to Gorbachev without going to the meeting on the pretext that he could not fly with the Soviet Union.)

It was here that Boris Yeltsin called US President George W. Bush to announce the end of the USSR. Kravchuk contacted Gorbachev by telephone and conveyed the message. As a result of Gorbachev's reluctance, no counter-decision was made. The important historical event did not leave the First President of Uzbekistan I.Karimov immediately invited the presidents of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan to Tashkent and worked out a common position. Then Karimov had a telephone conversation with Russian leader Boris Yeltsin.

After the declaration of independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, one of the necessary issues was to improve and develop the economic situation in the country. In this regard, we should first of all make full use of our domestic potential and study the experience of developed countries. We were especially interested in which countries were closer to us and the initial results they achieved. For the first time, Uzbekistan, as an independent state, had to establish economic and political ties with foreign countries. For the first time, the Presidium of the Supreme Council decided to send its delegation abroad.

In terms of development in most areas, Malaysia has been recognized as a country similar to Uzbekistan. After all, in the last fifteen years, it has gone from being a colonial, backward country to one of the fastest growing economies in Asia. In Malaysia, the annual production rate was 6-7 percent per year. It opened a wide way for foreign capital in the country. Free economic zones have been established, and foreign goods are sold in half of the country without any customs duties. If ten to fifteen years ago the outflow of labor in Malaysia was relatively large, as a result of the opening of joint ventures, workers from abroad, especially from China and India, came here and formed a cheap labor market.

In order to study the development path of Malaysia, the Presidium of the Supreme Council decided to send a delegation to this country. I was (E. Khodjaev) confirmed as the head of the

delegation of the Parliament of Uzbekistan and we returned to this country on December 6-13, 1991.

The Uzbek delegation was met at the airport in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, by representatives of the country's Parliament and the USSR Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Malaysia Anatoly Ivanovich Khmelnsky. On the evening of December 8, AI Khmelnsky invited us as guests to his residence, where he met with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Belovezhskaya Pushsha in Belarus. Eltsin, President of Ukraine L. Kravchuk and the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus V. The Shushkeevichs gathered and announced that they had rescinded the 1922 decision to establish the USSR and that a "Commonwealth of Independent States" should be formed in its place. I heard these stories in Malaysia. I quickly arrived at the hotel and contacted Tashkent. I did not receive any other message from our committee, and three more days later Ambassador A. I had a one-on-one conversation with Khmelnsky at the embassy and he told me the whole story.

We held talks with the leaders of the Malaysian Parliament, the Prime Minister of the country, and as President of the Association of Entrepreneurs of Uzbekistan, we met with businessmen of this country, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce. We also visited a number of provinces in Malaysia. Our delegation returned to Tashkent on 13 December. Then I became aware of all the events and found out that a meeting of 11 heads of state is expected in the coming days. After meetings at various levels, the negotiations resulted in a meeting of the heads of independent states on December 21, 1991 in Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan, in which the USSR and President M. Gorbachev's fate had to be decided.

To this end, the composition of the republican government delegation to take part in the meeting of the President of Uzbekistan and the Supreme Council in Almaty was determined as follows: President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, Vice President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. R. Mirsaidov, Chairman of the Supreme Council Sh. M. Yuldashev, Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Z. Urazaev, Chairman of the Committee of the Supreme Council E. Khodjaev and E. Xalilov; expert group - Chairman of the Committee on Defense R. U. Ahmedov, Deputy Foreign Minister F. G. Teshabaev, Chief of Staff of the President's Office H. Odilkorievs were included. Islam Karimov identified all the tasks facing the delegation.

A working group was set up within the delegation and they had to go to Almaty as soon as possible to prepare the necessary documents for the meeting of the Presidents. For this purpose, E. Khodjaev, E. Xalilov, Sh. Urazaev and H. On December 19, Odilkarayev arrived in Almaty by plane and first met with KV Jigalov, Aide to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Then the Vice-President of the Republic of Kazakhstan E. He talked to Asanbaev and studied the materials of the Almaty meeting. The main documents and the Declaration of the Commonwealth of Independent States were given to us in three forms. The first were options and proposals prepared jointly by the Republics of Belarus and Kazakhstan, the second jointly by Russia and the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the third by Ukraine.

In addition, the protocol on the establishment of the CIS by Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, signed on December 8, 1991 in "Belovezhskaya Pushsha", Belarus, consisted of two forms. The third item on the agenda for discussion is the agreement on cooperation in the field of foreign policy; the fourth issue - the fate of the President of the USSR MS Garbachov The fifth issue - the protocol on the accession of other countries to the CIS; The sixth issue was the appeal of

the Minister of Culture of the USSR N. Gubenko to the leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

By 2:00 pm on December 19, members of our working group, along with representatives from other republics, discussed all the documents and expressed their views. Russia's ambassador to Belarus, Sergei Shakhrai, said the document, signed by the three heads of state, would be accepted in full in Belarus. We made many changes to the main text, expressing our views openly. Due to the fact that we could not reach a definite decision on some issues, the Vice-President of the Republic of Kazakhstan E. Asanbayev suggested that all issues on which he could not agree be referred to the Council of Heads of State. Everyone liked it.

On December 20, the heads of all independent states began arriving in Almaty. Islam Karimov's plane was scheduled to land at Almaty airport at 18:15. E. Khodjaev, Sh. Z. Urazaev, X. Odilkoriev, E. Khalilov, we arrived at the airport earlier to meet Islam Karimov, and after greeting the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev and other leaders of the republic, who were present in the reception hall, we had a short talk twice. In this regard, the President of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev made a good impression on us, we admired his knowledge, humility and sincerity. Men N. I told Nazarbayev to include in the agenda the issue of the embassies of the USSR abroad, that each independent state should have its share in them.

The plane of the Armenian leader first landed at Almaty airport. The delegation headed by Ter Petrosyan greeted us as we passed. Then the President of Ukraine L. Kravchuk also asked. Islam Karimov's plane landed on time. Near his ladder, we met Islam Karimov and other members of the delegation and arrived in the first stop on the road to Medeo, which is dedicated to our President. After a brief conversation with us, Islam Karimov went to see Nazarbayev. We again went to the office of the Vice President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and continued working on the documents with working groups from other countries until midnight.

On the morning of December 21, after having breakfast at the hotel, we headed to the residence where Islam Karimov was staying. Here the USSR Minister of Culture N. There was a meeting with Gubenko. Then all of us, accompanied by a cartage, met with the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. A. We arrived in the conference hall where Nazarbayev will hold a meeting. At 11:30, the heads of eleven states gathered around the table, and the Kazakh leader began chairing the meeting.

First, the issue of membership in the CIS and its declaration were discussed. B. B. Yeltsin, moving back and forth with his chair, interrupted the speakers and expressed his attitude.

They reminded him that all participants could speak only with his permission. B. B. Yeltsin agreed, and then sat quietly in his place. The meeting was attended by V. Shushkevich, B. Eltsin, L. Kravchuk and N. The Nazarbayevs presided.

When Boris Yeltsin announced that Romania and Bulgaria also intend to join the CIS, Moldovan President Snegur said "Romania should be accepted as soon as possible." In response, B. Yeltsin also jokingly said, "Yes, if Romania is admitted to the CIS, there will be no opposition in the Moldovan Parliament."

Islam Karimov took an active part in the discussion of all issues at the meeting. Thus, with his own ideas, he contributed to the thorough elaboration of the declaration. No decision was made on some issues. An agreement on this issue will be reached at a regular meeting on December 30

in Minsk. When one of the presidents reminded that December 30 was the day the USSR was formed, B. "Now is the day of the end of the USSR," Yeltsin said. After two breaks, only closed-door meetings of the Presidents took place in the hall. As we were later informed, in it the President of the USSR M. The fate of Gorbachev was discussed, and in 1992 there was an exchange of views on ways to stabilize the economies of the CIS.

On the same day at 17:15 an important historical event took place in the Palace of Friendship in Almaty. The leaders of eleven countries signed the Declaration on the Establishment of the CIS.

The Almaty Declaration was adopted, in which the leaders of the republics guarantee the termination of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics with the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the fulfillment of international obligations arising from the treaties and agreements of the former USSR in accordance with their constitutions. The member states of the Commonwealth undertook to abide by the provisions of this Declaration. The Presidents of the Commonwealth of Independent States signed the Protocol on the Agreement on Coordinating Institutions of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Agreement on the Establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States signed by the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation (RSFSR) and Ukraine on December 8, 1991 in Minsk. In the Protocol, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation (RSFSR), the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and Ukraine shall establish friendship on equal terms. Presidents of the 11 republics A. Mutalibov, N. Nazarbayev, B. Yeltsin I. Karimov, L. Ter-Petrosyan, A. Akaev, R. Nabiev, L. Kravchuk, S. Shushkevich, M. Snegur, S. Niyazov. Thus the Alliance ended, the Commonwealth was formed. December 21, 1991 was written in the pages of history as the day of the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The USSR was dissolved one year and nine days before the seventieth anniversary of its formation.

Members of our delegation stood by Islam Karimov. We were all excited. After we signed the document, B. was on my right as we all went down the stairs to the second floor. Yeltsin appeared. Then I shook his hand and congratulated him on the historic event. Unable to hide his great satisfaction, the Russian President acknowledged that this was an event that would start a new era, not a new one. He was in a higher mood than the others and felt like a winner.

After a brief press conference of the presidents, representatives of all the republics posed for photos for history. I was very happy to be among them. We were on the threshold of a new era in the history of our independent Uzbekistan. We had the right to self-determination, the formation of new political and economic relations. I was proud to be among the activists at the start of such a huge undertaking. On the other hand, I felt an inexplicable sadness in my heart that we were educated, grew up, always proud of its achievements, resting on the shores of the Baltic and Black Seas as our own country, a great state called the USSR.

At the end of the twentieth century, however, a new era in international relations had begun. Members of our delegation returned to Tashkent on the night of December 21. Now it was necessary to prepare for the meeting of CIS heads of state, scheduled for December 30 in Minsk. For this purpose, a working group has been established in the country. In its composition

T. Ya. Sharipov (Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers), E. Khodjaev, E. D. Bokiboev (Minister of Finance), F. M. Mullajonov (Chairman of the Central Bank), we went to Moscow on December 25-26 and held talks with the heads of the ministries and the State Bank of the

Russian Federation. Thus, we participated in the preparation of the Minsk documents. On December 26, the Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet from Tashkent arrived in Moscow. Bugrov and committee chairman Azamkhodjaevs arrived. They took the documents prepared by us and flew to Minsk.

During the meetings in Moscow, the former head of the State Bank of the USSR . Our conversation with Gerashchenko left a deep impression. At the end of that conversation, this man told me and F. Mullajonov was recently presented with a 10-sum coin with the USSR coat of arms.

So, the end of December was full of historical events. The December 29 presidential election in our country was one of them. I came to Samarkand to watch him go. I visited many polling stations in the 280th Gagarin constituency, where elections to the Supreme Soviet are taking place. I witnessed the people voting for Islam Karimov in good spirits.

The structure of the CIS now required the establishment of new political and economic ties between its members. Based on the structure of these CIS structures, Uzbekistan has focused on bilateral relations. Direct economic relations have been established with each of the CIS member states. In this regard, Uzbek-Russian economic relations have a special place. In this article, I want to focus only on the economic ties between the two countries in recent years.

Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev, re-elected President of the country, said in his speech at the joint session of the Oliy Majlis that our main goal will be to enrich multilateral relations with the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States with a new practical meaning, first of all, to strengthen good neighborly relations and strategic partnership with all countries in Central Asia.

The reforms of the last five years have entered a new stage in the country's development and are making the concept of "New Uzbekistan" a reality.

Political, economic and cultural ties between Uzbekistan and Russia are rising year by year. On October 19, 2018, the first Uzbek-Russian interregional forum was held in Tashkent. As a result, agreements were reached between regional enterprises on the implementation of 136 investment projects.

As a result of negotiations between more than 800 partners of the Interregional Cooperation Forum in Moscow on November 17 this year, about 600 documents worth \$ 9 billion were signed. The Presidents of the two countries noted that this figure will reach \$ 14 billion in the coming years.

At present, Russia ranks first in Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover, accounting for 18%. In the near future, the countries plan to increase bilateral trade to \$ 10 billion.

Today, there are 2,600 enterprises established with the support of Russian entrepreneurs. In turn, more than 600 companies with Uzbek capital are registered in Russia. Another important area for Uzbekistan is the education system.

If before 2016 there were 3 branches of Russian universities in Uzbekistan, today their number has reached 15. Specialists are being trained in 34 universities of the country on the basis of joint curricula with 48 Russian universities. Efforts are being made to ensure the highest standards of higher education by opening branches of leading Russian universities.

The number of enterprises with Russian capital in Uzbekistan has doubled over the past three years, from 915 to 2,200.

The rapid growth and enrichment of relations between Uzbekistan and Russia over the past five years has occurred after the election of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev.

For Mirziyoyev, the development of relations with Russia is one of the priorities of foreign policy.

As noted by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Uzbekistan is a promising and important partner for the Russian Federation in Central Asia. In confirmation of this, we can look at the economic relations between Uzbekistan and Russia in recent years.

At the end of 2020, this figure was 11826.4 million dollars, compared to 8388.4 million dollars. During this period, the number of enterprises with Russian capital in Uzbekistan has doubled, and today there are 2,260 enterprises established with the support of Russian entrepreneurs. In Russia, there are 600 enterprises with Uzbek capital.

In accordance with the MDX Declaration, Uzbekistan is developing independent economic relations not only with Russia but also with other CIS countries.

If in 2016 the foreign trade turnover of Uzbekistan with the CIS countries amounted to 8388.1 million dollars, in 2020 this figure will be 1189.4 million. In particular, in Samarkand region, this figure increased from \$ 308.6 million to \$ 539.2 million. Economic cooperation with neighboring countries is especially commendable. In 2020, despite the impact of the pandemic, the number of joint ventures with Kazakhstan in foreign trade amounted to 3018.5 billion dollars, 809, with Kyrgyzstan - 903.1 million and 156 joint ventures, with Tajikistan - 501.9 million dollars, 161 joint ventures. Our cooperation with Belarus, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Moldova is growing year by year.

At present, 4457 enterprises with investments from CIS countries operate in the country, 130 of which are in Samarkand region.

30 years is not a big period for it, at which time our cooperation not only in the economic sphere, but also in other spheres is reaching a new level.

The policy pursued by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev serves the interests of the people in the relations between the leaders of all CIS countries, and the CIS is strengthening its position in the world day by day. Taking this opportunity, I congratulate all the peoples living in the CIS countries on the 30th anniversary.