



Archival documents on repressions in the Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR (1937-1939)

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ABSTRACT

As you know, documents are one of the foundations for the study of the history of a particular period of society and the state. The study of the most tragic period in the history of Soviet power, when mass repressions were carried out, especially during the period of the Great Terror, without archival documents is unthinkable. The official documents of the party and Soviet organs of the USSR, including those of the Uzbek SSR, play a huge role in the analysis of the essence and monstrous consequences of political repression in the USSR, especially in 1937-1938. Among them, the documents from the archives of the NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs) of the USSR, both central, republican and peripheral ones provide a huge mass of information about the organization and conduct of repressions against their own people. The activities of punitive bodies, the sad fate of over 1.5 million arrested people, of whom about 700,000 were shot.

The article provides materials from the archives of the State Security Service (SSS) of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the case of Osoaviakhim¹ (Society of Assistance to Defense and Aviation Chemical Construction of the USSR) of the Uzbek SSR, whose leaders and workers were repressed in those terrible years of Soviet rule in Uzbekistan.

Keywords:

Osoaviakhim, anti-Soviet, sabotage, NKVD, counterrevolution, rehabilitation, repression, terror.

The NKVD of the Uzbek SSR ruled (Resolution on Precautionary Measures of December 26, 1937) to arrest and prosecute the Chairman of the Central Council (CC) of the Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR, Merkulov Dmitry Vasilyevich, on the grounds of crimes under Articles 63 and 67 of the PC (Penal Code) of the UZSSR.

The Resolution gives information about him by Sapozhnikov, Sergeant of the State Security: Merkulov Dmitry Vasilyevich, born on May 7,

1888, a native of stanitsa Tsimlyanskaya, Don region, Russian, descended from peasants, kulaks, ensign of the tsar army, Cossack centurion in the imperial war. Former member of VKP(b) (All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik)) since 1920 and excluded in August 1937, for the collapse of defense work and as an accomplice to the enemies of the people Eideman² and Rubtsov. [1, л. 1].

¹ The Society of Aviation Defense and Chemical Construction is a mass voluntary public military-patriotic organization that existed in the USSR from 1927 to 1948. It was founded on January 23, 1927 by merge of the Aviakhim and the Society of Assistance to the USSR Defense. Main tasks: promoting the development of aviation industry, disseminating military knowledge and carrying out mass defense work among the population.

² Eidemann Robert Grigorievich - born in 1895, the former Chairman of the Central Council of Osoaviachima of the USSR was arrested on May 22, 1937, on May 27 interrogated, on his testimony Merkulov does not pass. On June 11, 1937. On June 11, 1937 the Supreme Court of the USSR condemned Merkulov to capital punishment - execution.

In the questionnaire of the arrested Merkulov about the composition of his family, he writes the following: wife - Merkulova Maria Emelyanova, 44 years old, housewife; son - Merkulov

Evgeny Dmitrievich, 22 years old, student of the financial planning institute; son - Vladimir Dmitrievich, 10 years old.

The interrogation report of Michael Emelyanovich Tenshov (brother of D.V. Merkulov) of 29 July 1929 contains his testimony concerning Merkulov. It says that "... In the German war on the frontline, he graduated from the school of ensigns. At the beginning of 1917, he escaped from the front to Tsimlyanskaya stanitsa, where he was chosen as an assistant to the stanitsa ataman. Two months later he had to surrender his case, as Soviet power had already been established, and then he stayed with his father. Merkulov's father did not have a large farm, but after his sister or aunt (his father) died, that she was left her an inn, which was passed on to Merkulov's father and they began to live well. Nowadays, as I heard, Merkulov's inn was taken away from him, the house was taken and they were evicted..."

And, from the transcript of the minutes № 27 "Meeting of the Tsimlyansk district commission for review and approval of clearly kulak farms" from April 5, 1931 we can learn that the decision of the said commission the farm of the father of D.V. Merkulov - Vasiliy Vasilievich Merkulov was classified as a kulak. [1, л. 9-12].

He was arrested on January 2, 1937 by the SD SAMD GDSS of the NKVD of the Uzbek SSR (Special Division of the Central Asian Military District of the General Directorate of State Security of the NKVD), in his house No. 9, apartment No. 3, str. Vinogradnaya in Tashkent. NKVD of the Uzbek SSR for arrest and search warrant No. 27/34 of January 2, 1938. [1, л. 2].

In the interrogation report of January 14, 1938 Merkulov confesses to being "guilty" and says that he is indeed a member of the military Trotskyite conspiracy, having been "recruited" in 1935 by Eydeman, Chairman of the Central

Council of the Osoviakhim of the USSR. He had known Merkulov since 1926 as a former attendee of the courses for advanced training of the higher initial staff at the RKKA (Workers and Peasants Red Army) Military Academy when Eidemann was head of the Academy. In 1934 Merkulov graduated from the special faculty of the RKKA Military Academy.

Dmitri Vasilievich quotes Eideman's words about his dissatisfaction with the state of military affairs in the country. According to him, as in the early years of Soviet power, when old military specialists were dismissed from the army, so now there are many commanders of the RKKA who in the past created the army, but now, thanks to improper leadership of the NKO (National Commissariat of Defense), are pushed into the background. As an example, he cited himself that he was a former major military worker pushed out of the leadership of the army.

Merkulov also expresses his dissatisfaction with the fact that he, as one who did much for the Red Army, is not satisfied with his work in the Osoviakhim; in addition, he considered his promotion to the rank of brigade commander to be an infringement.

According to Eideman, there are many commanders in the army who are dissatisfied with the current leadership and that they are united by the desire to get rid of Voroshilov's leadership and are working accordingly in this regard. For this purpose, an organization was allegedly set up with the aim of carrying out a coup in the Soviet state and establishing a military dictatorship in the country headed by Tukhachevsky³, timing it with the war with Germany and Japan.

Eydeman puzzled Merkulov that on his arrival in Uzbekistan he was to carry out sabotage work aimed at disintegrating the country's defense capability by: a) ... lowering the standards in the training of the Voroshilov Riflemen, discrediting this type of training before the population; b) disrupting the combat and political training of the pre-conscription contingent so that

³ Mikhail Tukhachevsky (1879-1938), military commander, Marshal of the Soviet Union (1935), from 1936 first deputy People's Commissar of Defense of the USSR. In June 1937 he

was sentenced to the death penalty by the Special Court Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, rehabilitated.

unprepared conscripts would get into the army; c) restraining the turnaround of the work of militarizing the population; d) consolidating and keeping Trotskyist and other anti-Soviet elements in the Osoaviakhim system, which could be counted on to benefit the counter-revolutionary organization.

Merkulov's testimony on the state of affairs in the Osoaviakhim of Uzbekistan is interesting. As he notes, a number of senior officials both in the center and in the periphery work in a malicious manner, failing year after year in their areas, the defense work in the Osoaviakhim system of Uzbekistan is a shambles, plans are not fulfilled, specific aspects of local conditions are not taken into account, personnel training has not been done, and much more. I was satisfied with such a state of affairs, although I began to take, for appearance, measures to correct these deficiencies. [1, л. 12-18].

Moreover, Merkulov testifies that his practical activities allegedly consisted in the creation in the Osoaviakhim system of the Uzbek SSR of a counter-revolutionary sabotage organization, which ruined all defense work in the republic. He led the individuals involved in the organization, directing them to counterrevolutionary work. These works include: holding back the militarization of the population; the development of the shooting in breadth, not providing it with appropriate resources; omissions in the training of shooters, mass pre-conscription training and holding back its deployment in rural areas, so that the army received a motley mix of trained from the city and not prepared from the village, which affected the effectiveness of training of soldiers of the Red Army (Workers and Peasants Red Army). [1, л. 26].

As can be seen, these documents shows, on the one hand, the deplorable state of the Soviet Army in reality at that time, and on the another hand, artificially created situations to find the

guilty and condemn them, putting into practice the Party and Soviet government's policy of repression.

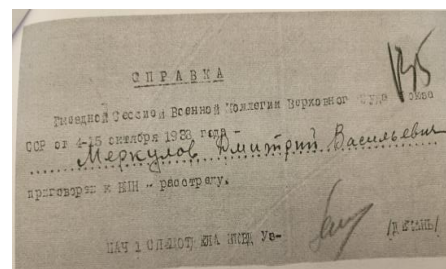
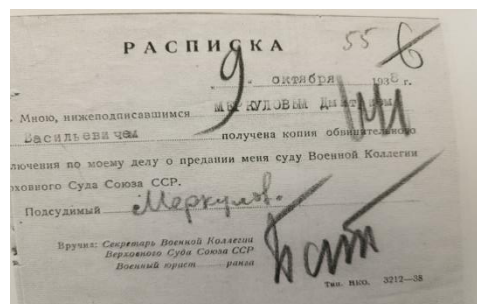
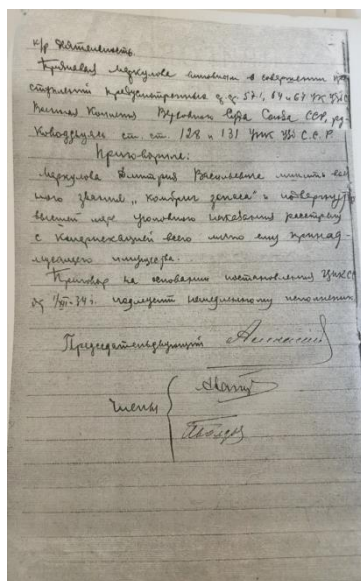
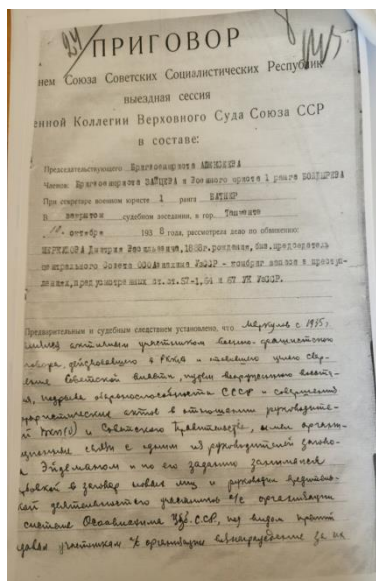
Moreover, Merkulov was incriminated with charges that he knew about the alleged leadership center of the military-fascist conspiracy, which included Tukhachevsky, Yakir⁴, Feldman⁵ and Eidemann. [1, л. 136]. This confirms the deliberate nature of the accusations, which were invented on an all-union scale, creating additional "justifications" for the high-profile court cases during the Great Terror in the USSR.

Merkulov Dmitry Vasilievich was charged with the following: 1) is an active participant of the military-fascist plot aimed at overthrowing Soviet power and establishing a military-fascist dictatorship; 2) ... created a counter-revolutionary sabotage organization in the system of the Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR; 3) conducted the processing and recruitment into the counter-revolutionary sabotage organization of leading officials of the Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR; 4)... 4) he engaged in subversive activities; 5) under the guise of various bonuses he gave out money to organization members for counterrevolutionary work, giving out about 29 thousand rubles in a short period of time, that is, for the crimes covered by articles 57-1, 64 and 67 of the Penal Code of the UzSSR and was brought before the Military Board of the Supreme Court (MB SC) of the USSR, applying the law of December 1, 1934. [1, л. 136].

On October 9, 1938 in Tashkent a preliminary session was held, and the next day, that is, on October 10, 1938, the court of an exit session of the Supreme Court of the USSR. The court found D.V. Merkulov guilty according to the aforementioned articles and sentenced him to the VMN (the highest measures of punishment) - shooting, with confiscation of all his personal property. [2, л. 140, 143].

⁴ Ion Emmanuilovich Yakir (1896-1937), from 1925 to 1937 commander of the Army, a member of the Revolutionary Military Council, a member of the Military Council of the USSR NKO. In May 1937 he was arrested, in June 1937 he was sentenced to death. Special Court Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR was sentenced to the death penalty, rehabilitated.

⁵ Feldman Boris Mironovich (1890-1937), born in Pinsk, formerly Minsk province, a merchant, a Jew, education 8 classes, before his arrest he was chief of the Red Army elementary staff. He was arrested on May 15, 1937, and on June 11 in the same year was sentenced to the death penalty by the Special Court Presidium of the Supreme Court of the USSR.



The archive of the State Security Service of Uzbekistan. P-26223, volume 1, p. 143, 141, 135. Merkulov's relatives had no information about the fate of their husband and father for a long time. Their appeals by letters to Yezhov and Stalin in 1939-40 to review the case went unanswered. The changes in the Communist Party's policy toward Stalin's rule, the beginning of the rehabilitation of innocent people during the repressions, including the period of the Great Terror in the USSR, allowed Merkulov's family again to appeal to the authorities. Merkulov's family lived in Tashkent province, Ordzhonikidze settlement, 177 Kirov Street. The letter of May 17, 1956 to the head of military department of the CPSU Central Committee the wife and sons of Dmitry Vasilyevich finished with the following words: "... For 18 years, we have been carrying the black stain of the close relatives of an enemy of the people, not for a single moment doubts in his honesty. Eighteen years we do not know what is with him, where he is and convincingly ask to consider his case, rehabilitate him and inform us of the fate of our father." [2, л. 157]. In the light of Khrushchev's "thaw" policy, the country was working to rehabilitate those

convicted of repression. The Military Collegium of the USSR Supreme Court in its session of April 18, 1957 considered the case of D.V. Merkulov. The decision of the court is recorded in the secret Form No.45 of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR, "Having heard the report of Lieutenant Colonel Smirnov and the conclusion of the assistant to the Chief Military Prosecutor, Captain of Justice Chibakov, it has established: The prosecutor's conclusion proposes to cancel the verdict against Merkulov on newly discovered circumstances and to terminate the case against him for lack of corpus delicti, since the additional investigation established that Merkulov was convicted groundlessly and his confession was not supported by objective data. It was also established that former NKVD worker Apresyan⁶, who led the investigation of Merkulov's case, was convicted of falsification of criminal cases. Having examined the case, and the materials of the additional investigations of the Supreme Court of the USSR, agreeing with the arguments of the conclusion of the Chief Military Prosecutor, determined: The verdict of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the

⁶ Derenik Zakharovich Apresyan (1899-1939), member of Dashnaksutyun in 1917-1918, from 1919 member of the RCP(b), from August 1937 to November 1938 Commissar of Internal Affairs of the Uzbek SSR and simultaneously head of the Special Department of GUGB

NKVD of the USSR Central Asian Military District. He was arrested in November 1938 and in February 1939 he was sentenced to the death penalty by the Supreme Court of the USSR; he was shot, but has not been rehabilitated.

USSR of October 10, 1938 against Merkulov Dmitriy Vasilievich shall be cancelled under newly discovered circumstances and the case against him shall be terminated for lack of corpus delicti. [2, л. 158-159].

Secret Form No. 35a of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR noted that "... please, without announcing in full the content of the ruling, inform them (close relatives - Sh.R.) only the result of the case and hand in the enclosed certificate...

I ask the head of the Special Division of the KGB (Committee for State Security) under the CM for the Turkestan Military District to inform the Military Collegium about the execution of the ruling regarding the return of confiscated property or its value to the relatives of D.V. Merkulov. [2, л. 157]. But, the relatives did not receive his property, that is, they did not come for them. This is evidenced by a letter from the city financial department of the Tashkent City Executive Committee dated May 27, 1959 - "...none of D.V. Merkulov's relatives applied to the city financial department for receiving money, and no payment was made from the budget. Despite the registration of the right to inherit the property of the rehabilitated Merkulov. [2, л. 171].

Murtaza Hasanovich Khasanov, born in 1905 in Samarkand in the Uzbek SSR, of Iranian nationality, USSR citizen, a member of the VRP (b) since 1929. Until 1938, prior to his arrest, Deputy Chairman of the CC Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR.

Khasanov was arrested on February 5, 1938 by the Special Department of the NKVD of the SAMD and was accused of participating in a counterrevolutionary sabotage organization in the system of the Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR. There are two protocols of interrogation of Khasanov, dated March 8 and May 16, 1938.

At the interrogation on March 8, 1938 Khasanov stated that he did not know anything about the existence of a counterrevolutionary sabotage organization in the Osoaviachim system, and Merkulov did not recruit him into this organization. On May 16, 1938, Khasanov was charged under Articles 63 and 67 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code. Khasanov did not plead guilty and stated: "... I was not a member of any

counter-revolutionary organization and did not conduct any sabotage work.

On Khasanov's belonging to a sabotage organization in the system of the Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR, there are testimonies of arrested former leaders of the Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR: Merkulov Dmitriy Vasilievich, Mukhatdinov Khusain Akmaletdinovich, Dal (Zhandarmogo) Sergey Alexeyevich, Zborovsky Grigory Ivanovich.

On October 22, 1938, Murtaza Hasanovich Khasanov, was sentenced to the death penalty by the Resolve of the NKVD Troika of the Uzbek SSR. The ruling was executed. [2, л. 23-24].

Dal-Zhandarmov Sergey Alekseevich, born in 1899, a native of the village of Kalmayur, Cherdakli district, Kuybyshev region, Russian, the All-Union Communist Party (of Bolsheviks) was from 1929 to 1938, before the arrest was chairman of the revision commission of the Central Council of Osoaviachima of the Uzbek SSR.

Dal-Zhandarmov was arrested on January 25, 1938 by the Special Division of the NKVD of the SAMD, as a member of a sabotage organization in the system of the Osoaviachima UzSSR.

At the interrogation on February 9, 1938 Dal-Jandarma showed that he in May 1936, the former chairman of the Central Council of the Osoaviachima UzSSR Merkulov was recruited into counterrevolutionary sabotage organization, (allegedly - Sh.R.) that existed in the system of the Osoaviachima UzSSR.

At the confrontation with Merkulov on April 15, 1938, Dal-Zhandarmov did not confirm Merkulov's testimony that he was a member of a counterrevolutionary sabotage organization.

At the October 10, 1938 the visiting session of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR Dal-Zhandarmov pleaded not guilty, renounced the evidence he gave at the preliminary investigation, and stated that Merkulov, Mukhatdinov, Kats and Zborovsky gave false evidence against him, Dal-Zhandarmov. In his last statement, Dal-Jandarmov stated that he was not guilty.

On October 10, 1938, the verdict of the visiting session of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR on the basis of Articles 63, 14-64 and 67 of the Criminal Code of the Uzbek SSR

was sentenced to 10 years of the penal labor camp (correctional-labor camp). [2, л. 19-20]. Zborovsky Grigory Ivanovich, born in 1894 in Bendery (Bessarabia), citizen of the USSR, a member of the VKP (b) from 1919 to 1938, before the arrest of the head of combat training CC OSOaviakhima Uzbek SSR, had the military rank of captain.

Zborovskiy was arrested on April 30, 1938, by the Special Department of the NKVD of the SAMD as a member of a sabotage organization in the system of the Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR.

At interrogations on May 4, 19 and 20-26, 1938 Zborovsky denied his participation in the counterrevolutionary sabotage organization in the system of Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR, stating that he did not know about its existence. The testimony of the arrested Merkulov and Mukhatdinov about Zborovsky's belonging to the sabotage organisation was denied by him, and in the accusation under articles 63 and 67 of the Criminal Code of the UzSSR he did not admit his guilt. However, at the interrogation dated May 27th, 1938 Zborovsky shows that in April, 1935 he was recruited to the counterrevolutionary sabotage organization by Merkulov - the former chairman of CC of Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR and on the instructions of Merkulov he implemented sabotage activity - ruined the work of the Combat preparation department of CC of Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR. [2, л. 21]. It is not difficult to notice that Zborovsky gave this testimony under the pressure of the NKVD investigators.

On October 13, 1938, Grigory Ivanovich Zborovsky was sentenced to the death penalty - execution. The decision was executed. [2, л. 22]. Mukhatdinov Khusain Akmaletdinovich, born in 1891 in the village of Suliavka, formerly Petrovsky uyezd, Saratov province, a Tatar, non-party, a citizen of the USSR, a former staff-captain in the tsarist army, in the old army he served from 1915 to 1918, before the arrest the head of the Republican Administration of decontamination detachments Osoaviakhim Uzbekistan SSR, had a military rank - major, arrested January 25, 1938.

From his personal file No. 48603 one can see that Mukhatdinov served in the Soviet Army from 1918 to 1929. In 1929, he was assigned to work in the Osoaviakhim system (order No. 37-30g of the USSR Revolutionary Military Council). Mukhatdinov during his service in the Soviet Army held positions of company commander up to the chief of the regiment staff. In his personal file, there are positive certificates for 1923, 1925, 1926, and from 1928 to 1931. So, in the attestation on Mukhatdinov for 1926 stated: "The will and energy of a commander has, determination and initiative shows enough. He is quick-witted. He understands the situation well and quickly enough. He treats his subordinates well, helps them in their needs as a senior comrade. Disciplined ...". There are reports of Mukhatdinov for 1932, 1933 and 1937 years with the request to transfer him from the system of Osoaviakhim to the cadres of the Red Army.

There is also a letter from Mukhatdinov dated 10 June 1937 to the Party Control Committee of the CC CP (b) UzSSR, Chairman of the Central Council of Osoaviakhim of the USSR and the head of the Office of the leading personnel of the Red Army.

In his letter, Mukhatdinov points out that he reported the shortcomings in the work of the CC of the Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR (lack of political and educational work among employees of decontamination squads and platoons of the Osoaviakhim, lack of a Komsomol stratum, embezzlement, I reported to the leadership of the Central Council of Osoaviakhim of the UzSSR (Merkulov, Zborovsky, Khasanov) in a timely manner, but they did not take any measures, and he - Mukhatdinov was unreasonably removed from his job as head of the Osoaviakhim decontamination squads.

During the interrogation on February 1, 1938 Mukhatdinov testified that in September 1935 he was recruited into the military Trotskyist conspiracy by Rubtsov, the former head of the personnel department of the Central Council of Osoaviakhim of the USSR. On his arrival at the Central Council of the UzSSR Osoaviakhim as head of the training center, he carried out sabotage work: he spent the funds allocated for

training not for their intended purpose, and the Osoaviakhim training courses were filled with illiterate people, etc.

Since May 1936, as head of the department of degassing units of the Osoaviakhim, Mukhatdinov, as he showed, continued to carry out the sabotage installations of Merkulov: contributed to the growth of accounts receivable, did not fight against waste and theft, delayed the delivery of chemicals to the areas ... At the session of the Field session of the MC of the Supreme Court of the USSR on October 10, 1938 Mukhatdinov did not plead guilty, renounced the evidence he gave during the preliminary investigation, denied the testimony of all persons about his membership in the counterrevolutionary sabotage organization.

On October 10, 1938, Mukhatdinov was sentenced to the death penalty, by the Field Session of the MC of the Supreme Court of the USSR, under Articles 57-1, 64 and 67 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code. The sentence carried out. [2, л. 15-18].

Novgorodov Yuri Timofeyevich, born in 1904 in Orenburg, Russian, before his arrest he was an assistant chief of the Tashkent decontamination department of the Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR.

Novgorodov was arrested on February 19, 1938 by the Special Department of the NKVD SAMD and accused of participating in the counterrevolutionary sabotage organization in the system of the Osoaviakhima of the Uzbek SSR.

At the interrogation on April 8, 1938, Novgorodov denied his participation in the sabotage organization and carrying out any sabotage work, and at the interrogation on July 7, 1938, he already "shows that he was recruited and carried out sabotage tasks of the organization leaders. However, at the session of the criminal-judicial board of the Tashkent regional court on January 19, 1939, Novgorodov denied his participation in the sabotage organization and stated that during the preliminary investigation he had been forced to give fictitious testimony about himself.

The court returned the case for further investigation. During further interrogations,

Novgorodov categorically denied any criminal activity.

On May 25, 1939 the NKVD of the Uzbek SSR, on the basis of paragraph "c" of Article 2 of the CPC of the Uzbek SSR (absence of corpus delicti) criminal prosecution against Novgorodov Yuri Timofeyevich was terminated and Novgorodov was released from custody. [2, л. 30-31].

Nechaev Anatoly Semenovich, born in 1905 in Baku, Azerbaijan SSR, Russian, before his arrest he was head of the Karshi decontamination platoon of the Uzbek Republican Department of decontamination detachments of the Osoaviakhim;

Kustov Nikolai Ivanovich, born in 1915 in the village of Nikolaevskoe, Bashmakskoe District, Kuybyshev Region, Russian, before the arrest he was a commander of the decontamination department of the Osoviakhim in Kitab District of Kashkadarya Region;

Vasily Pavlovich Polostyanov, born in 1912 in the village of Domashko, Utayevsky district, Kuybyshev region, Russian, before the arrest he was a commander of the decontamination unit of the Osoviakhim in Kitab district.

Nechayev, Kustov, and Polostyanov were arrested by the Kashkadarya Division of the NKVD of the Uzbek SSR in August-October 1937 and charged: Nechayev under Articles 63, 66 part 1 and 67 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code; Kustov, under Articles 63, 13-64, 66 part 1 and 67 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code; Polostyanov, under Articles 63 and 67 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code.

At the initial interrogation, they testified about their participation in an anti-Soviet organization and conducting sabotage activities. At the same time, during the preliminary investigation, Nechayev and Kustov did not plead guilty under Articles 66, paragraph 1, and 13-64 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code, and Polostyanov pleaded guilty under Articles 63 and 67 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code.

At the session of the Military Tribunal of the CAMD on February 15, 1939, Nechaev and Kustov recanted their testimony about their membership in a sabotage organization and their pest work on collective farms, stating that during the preliminary investigation they gave such testimony involuntarily.

Polostyanov testified in court that he had received no instructions to sabotage from anyone, and that Kustov had not recruited him into a sabotage group, stating that he had given the same testimony at the preliminary investigation, but that he had not been read the minutes of his interrogation and had signed them without knowing their contents.

The verdict of the Military Tribunal of the CAMD of February 16, 1939, Nechayev and Polostyanov were acquitted under Articles 63 and 67 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code. The same verdict convicted: Nechayev under Articles 66 part 1, 140 and 143 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code to 10 years of the ITL (correctional labor camp); Kustov under Articles 13-64 and 66 part 1 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code to the VMN (the highest measures of punishment); Polostyanov under Article 143 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code to 1 year 6 months of imprisonment in general detention facilities.

On June 17, 1939 the Supreme Court of the USSR ruled that for lack of evidence article 13-64 of the Criminal Code of the Uzbek SSR was excluded from the charges against Kustov, and his execution was replaced by 10 years of the penal colony; for the same reasons Article 66, paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code of the Uzbek SSR was excluded from Nechaev's charges and his penalty was reduced to 5 years of the penal colony. [2, л. 32-33].

Kats Lev Pavlovich, born in 1908 in Kokand, UzSSR, Jewish by nationality, a citizen of the USSR, from 1932 to 1938 was the Communist Party (Bolsheviks), before the arrest - Chairman of the October District Council of the Osoviakhim in Tashkent (until December 1937), then head of the technical department of the Palace of Pioneers named after Stalin in Tashkent.

Katz was arrested on February 20, 1938 by the Special Division of the NKVD of the SASVO and accused of participating in a sabotage organization in the system of the Osoaviachim of the Uzbek SSR.

At the interrogation on April 8, 1938, Katz testified: "... officially no one recruited me into a counterrevolutionary sabotage organization. I did not receive specific counterrevolutionary

sabotage assignments from anyone, but due to the fact, that there were enemies of the people in the leadership of the Osoaviachim system, I could blindly carry out their sabotage assignments.

On July 10, 1938, Katz "already testified" that in 1935 he was recruited to the counterrevolutionary sabotage organization by Merkulov (allegedly - Sh.R.), former Chairman of the Central Council of Osoaviakhim of the Uzbek SSR, where he conducted sabotage work on the instructions of Merkulov.

At the session of the criminal-judicial board of the Tashkent regional court on January 27, 1939, Katz did not plead guilty and said that he was forced to incriminate himself during the preliminary investigation.

The court returned the case for further investigation. After the case was returned for further investigation, Katz denied guilt at all interrogations.

A decree of the NKVD of the UzSSR (where the case was further investigated) of May 31, 1939, for failure to prove that Lev Pavlovich Katz committed crimes under Articles 63 and 67 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code, stopped the criminal prosecution against him, and charged him under Article 143 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code (negligent attitude toward official duties). Katz also pleaded not guilty under Article 143 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code.

On August 17, 1939 the People's Court of Tashkent, for lack of corpus delicti in the actions of Kats Lev Pavlovich, terminated the criminal case against him and released him from custody. [2, л. 28-29].

Delarm, Yevgeny Petrovich, born in 1893, a native of Pashkovskaya village, formerly Kuban region, Russian, a citizen of the USSR, prior to his arrest was head of the cavalry school of the Central Council Osoviakhim of the UzSSR.

Delarm was arrested on June 16, 1938, by the Tashkent region Department of the NKVD UzSSR, accused under Articles 63 and 67 of the Criminal Code of the UzSSR.

At the interrogation on July 15, 1938, Delarm testified that in 1936 Merkulov recruited him into the counterrevolutionary sabotage organization, which existed (allegedly - Sh.R.) in the Osoviakhim system, and, on Merkulov's

instructions, carried out sabotage activities in the Osoviakhim system.

By decision of the Tashkent Regional Court of September 9, 1938, the case of Delarm was returned for further investigation on grounds of incompleteness of the investigation conducted on the case. After the return of the case for further investigation, Delarm denied at the interrogation that he belonged to a counter-revolutionary sabotage organization and denied his sabotage activities.

On July 26, 1939, by the resolve of the Tashkent region Department of the NKVD UzSSR, for lack of corpus delicti in the actions of Delarm, criminal prosecution against Delarm under Articles 66 and 67 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code was terminated and he was charged under Article 14 part 1 of the Uzbek SSR Criminal Code. Even under this article, Delarm did not plead guilty.

On November 15, 1939, the People's Court of the 27th Precinct of the Tashkent, for lack of corpus delicti in the actions of Delarm, issued an acquittal verdict and he was released from custody. [2, л. 25-26].

It is difficult to disagree with the assertion of contemporary historians that "the Soviet leadership feverishly sought a way out of the dangerous situation, but did not find a reasonable solution. The bet was once again on violence as a mechanism of state administration. As before, there were artificial culprits for the situation - spies, saboteurs and other enemies of the people, whose number exceeded a million and a half. Stalin and his entourage diverted people's attention from the real culprits of the crisis, that is, from themselves. [3, с. 5].

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