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SOVIET POST-WAR CITY: ISSUES OF IMPROVEMENT

Abstract: The paper examines the peculiarities of the perception of Soviet reality in 1945–1952. The basis of the research are regional archival materials – letters written by residents of the city of Gorky to the local authorities during those years. The paper presents their opinions about issues related to the post-war city – the state of housing and communal services, and the preservation of cultural monuments.

Keywords: Post-war reality, archival documents, letters from citizens, the city of Gorky, the life of the city and its inhabitants.

This paper examines some aspects of the social life of the city of Gorky – a large industrial centre of the Soviet era in 1945–1952: during the transition from the victory in the Great Patriotic War to creative civil life. This issue is elaborated on taking into account two *considerations*.

The first consideration relates to the manner in which ordinary Gorky residents resolved public and private issues in those years. As the main historical materials, we examined the documents of the State Social and Political Archive of the Nizhny Novgorod Region (GKU GOPANO), kept in the fund of the 30th Gorky City Party Committee (Gorcom) – citizens' letters to its departments, which constituted the paperwork of local councils.

It is well known that a written petition was a customary opportunity for a Soviet person to draw the attention of government officials to his problems and receive their aid in resolving them. In the difficult conditions of the war and early post-war years, for many people this practice was the only way to survive. Gorky residents addressed the city party committee on various social issues. The authors of some of the letters were front-line soldiers who faced significant everyday difficulties in peacetime, and

therefore needed comprehensive social support. At the same time, a significant number of them were written by women – wives, mothers, relatives of former soldiers, who had difficulty adapting to the realities of post-war everyday life. They turned to Gorcom for various financial assistance for their families. In their letters, citizens were convincing officials of the need to carefully consider their requests.

The system of state material assistance helped citizens survive in 1941–1945: it provided basic life needs for food, housing, employment and medical care at the minimum required level. They remained a priority in 1945–1948.

The housing issue remained the most pressing. Gorcom had to resolve it not only for those demobilised, but also for citizens returning from evacuation, who lost their homes due to the enemy bombing of the city of Gorky. The issue of medical provision for citizens and especially war veterans was also present in the petitions. Their authors pointed out shortcomings in the organisation of work, material and food support of hospitals and city hospitals¹.

In 1945–1946, Gorky residents also drew the attention of local authorities to the enormous difficulties in food supply. As shown in letters, in stores supplying cards, the quality of bread, salt and other foodstuffs was very low; there were constant interruptions and shortages in their trade. A letter from 1946 reads: “If previously they could get bread at a high price, now they can’t get any”. It was almost impossible to purchase tobacco, clothes, industrial goods, and if they could be purchased, their cost was exorbitant and they were inaccessible to ordinary people². To eliminate these problems, city residents proposed to develop cooperative trade in the city and regularly reduce prices for goods in high demand at the state level³.

Just as many people in 1945–1948, Gorky residents faced a huge number of other social problems⁴. At the same time, in their letters they drew attention of the city leadership to the situation with the city’s housing, utilities and transport services. They highlighted the poor performance of public water pumps, steam baths, frequent power outages in residential areas, insufficient supply of fuel to city areas, regular flooding of streets with wastewater. The townspeople who worked at enterprises in Sormovo, the Gorky Railway, etc. were particularly dissatisfied with the lack of trams and buses on intracity routes. This situation was aggravated by the lack of permanent bridges across the Oka and Volga rivers, which at the time were replaced by a seasonal ferry crossing.

Citizens also emphasised the authorities’ views on the neglect of the city, the lack of sanitary and technical services in urban workers’ settlements, and the state of the housing stock. A letter from 1949 reads: “In the city of Gorky, the squares are covered

¹ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1 Д. 3125. Л. 160.

² ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3301. Л. 78.

³ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3890. Л. 93.

⁴ For more information about the social problems of Gorky residents see: Абракова Т. А. Шляхов М. Ю. *Человек в контексте послевоенной повседневности 1945–1948 гг. (по материалам г. Горького)*, Современная научная мысль 2021, № 4, 121–130.

with paper waste, and the movement of people and vehicles is disorderly. The police are inactive, there is no order in the streets, beggars and various fortune tellers are everywhere. The majority of houses require either partial, and many, major repairs. Unpainted, thin, crumbling chimneys, broken corners of buildings, the lack of drainage pipes, crumbling fences and gates – this is an incomplete picture of our housing in many city streets”⁵.

Gorky residents were sincerely concerned about the city’s squalor, noting that with proper improvement it could become one of the best cities in our country.

An analysis of citizens’ appeals suggests that these problems persisted in the future. A 1950 letter to Pravda, the organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, reads: “The unsanitary condition of the courtyards: there are collapsed sheds and cellars in them; in the apartments, the plumbing (sewage, water supply) has been faulty for years. All this contributes to the destruction of the already insufficient housing stock. There are so many shortcomings in the field of housing, public utilities, and cultural construction in the city of Gorky that it is impossible to list them all. Where exactly and for what purposes do the millions of funds allocated to the city by the government go so that our city becomes truly exemplary and cultural? Our Gorky, which has a large population and played a special role during the Great Patriotic War, deserves special attention, as seen in the decisions of the party and government concerning the care about the city, but this is not ensured by the leadership of the city and region”⁶.

Such appeals were returned to the city people’s economy department “to take the necessary measures”. After considering and confirming the stated facts, the necessary measures were carried out: stairs and drainpipes were repaired in residential buildings, courtyards were cleaned, the work of city transport was adjusted, etc. Those who applied for work in letters were informed through talks in the city party committee.

Gorky residents also outlined proposals for the upgrade of landmarks in the city, noting the special historical and cultural significance of the Chkalov Stairs, the A. M. Gorky Museum and others. They also pointed out the shortcomings of their preservation by the city authorities. A 1951 letter to the local newspaper Gorkovskaya Pravda reads: “About the unscrupulous attitude of the Gorky City Council towards the repair of the monument to Valery Pavlovich Chkalov. ... The stone parapet, covering the monument in a wide arc, is broken in several places and has begun to collapse. No one is keeping order around the monument. The polished finish is covered with scratches. The ruby star, marking the capital of our Motherland on the map of the pedestal, has disappeared, just as many bronze dotted lines have vanished, marking the points of the Stalinist route of the famous pilot”. The city party committee responded to this letter with a message that the improvement and repair of the monument are planned and that necessary funds were allocated for it⁷.

⁵ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3675. Л. 24–25.

⁶ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3864. Л. 190–193.

⁷ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3861. Л. 29–34.

A highly pressing issue in 1945 and early 1946 was the lack of premises for the restoration of education in secondary and higher educational institutions: in acting schools, technical schools, pedagogical and medical institutes, etc.; and schools in Gorky. The city authorities were in a difficult situation: the buildings of these educational institutions were occupied by military hospitals.

Leisure after hard work, as an outlet from the difficulties of post-war life, were for Gorky residents visits to the cinema, musical dance evenings, and thematic lectures. By analysing these documentary sources, one can get only an indirect and incomplete insight into the cultural interests and impressions of city residents. Thus, they contain references to a group of citizens watching the film "The Fall of Berlin", and to the interest of young people in "award-winning" films.

The public in Gorky was concerned about the level of development of team sports, especially football, in the city. Non-indifferent citizens wrote to the city party committee that, to develop team sports, it was necessary to organise sports schools and allocate premises. When it came to football, it was necessary to organise a coaching council at the city physical education committee and create a new team, selecting players from the best teams in the city⁸.

The analysis of a set of documents from 1945–1948 presented in the study allows us to ascertain that residents of the city of Gorky perceived the Soviet post-war reality in the same way as in central Russia. Their life was connected with the daily overcoming of social and everyday difficulties, which were often associated with the scarcity of material resources available to the city party authorities for material support of citizens and improvement of the housing and communal services of Gorky. City residents harshly criticised the local authorities, which, due to limited capabilities, could not quickly overcome the city post-war devastation. At the same time, by entering into a dialogue with the authorities, Gorky residents contributed to the post-war restoration of the city's social life, which was an indicator of its return to peaceful life.

Despite the efforts of the authorities to overcome the social problems of the residents of the city of Gorky, they remained serious over the following decade.

Thus, the leading topic of appeals to the city party committee of the early '50s was the provision of housing to citizens and the improvement of city districts. The letters mention the issues of repairing the city housing stock, relocating families from barracks and basements, providing apartments to those in need, etc. Quite often, workers, approving the activities of the local party authorities, expressed the following wish to their representatives: "Work for the benefit of the workers and taking care of the urgent needs of the workers, especially housing"⁹.

The second consideration concerns the manner in which many social issues of Gorky residents were resolved through their participation in campaigns for the election of deputies to central and local councils, which were regularly held from the

⁸ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3862. Л. 34–35.

⁹ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3842. Л. 54.

first post-war years. Their preparation, progress and results of voting were controlled by district, city and regional party committees. The election campaign was highly centralised; the party leadership provided candidates for councils at all levels with the necessary propaganda support¹⁰.

Agitators had a special role during their implementation. They were assigned to each polling station and carried out constant work among workers, encouraging them to participate in voting. The analysis of campaign documents suggests that they not only explained various aspects of election campaigns to citizens, but quite often, agitators helped residents resolve problems that could not be noticed by district and city party committees.

Thus, in the materials of the campaign for the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR (held on 12 March 1950), there are many messages about the agitators' help to voters. Letters of residents of the Avtozavodsky district (the lower city) to the election commission: "The B-va agitator is a welcome guest among the voters of our house. One day Comrade B-va asked me in detail about how I lived. Noticing that the plaster had fallen in some places in my room, she promised to work on repairs. The room is currently being renovated. I am 73 years old. My son lost his life on the front during the Great Patriotic War. I do not feel alone. Such warm relationships are possible only in our country"¹¹. Or: "I am 65 years old, I participated in the civil war, and I express my heartfelt gratitude to the agitators P-ko, O-vu, who, like real Soviet citizens, helped me as an old man to pay the rent as a disabled person"¹². Letters from the Sverdlovsk district, located in the upper part of the city: "The agitator, the head of the workshop, the senior foreman P-n carried out agitation work exceptionally creatively. He got close to voters and studied each family. In order to achieve full turnout of voters at campaign meetings, he visited the apartment of K-ko M. F., who had not shown up. He learned of the material needs of two children, who, due to the lack of clothes and shoes, stopped attending school; there was no suitable furniture in the room. He asked M. F. Ko-ko to bring furniture to be repaired at the workshop, which he did. The furniture was immediately repaired. The question of material assistance was raised: the agitator managed to provide the children with clothes and shoes.

Infinitely pleased with the agitator's compassion, comrade K-ko became one of the most active voters. She provided an apartment for constant discussions and reports. The cordial attitude towards the voter K-ko brought the agitator closer to each family and he became respected and esteemed"¹³.

Agitators solved social problems of residents belonging to polling stations in cooperation with local authorities. They submitted information to the district party

¹⁰ For more information about the features of the organisation of Soviet election campaigns see: Абракова Т. А., Гордин А. А., Шляхов М. Ю. *Выборы в Верховный Совет СССР 1946 года в городе Горьком: организация и отношение общества, Вопросы истории*. 2022, №4 (2), 41–54.

¹¹ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3842. Л. 3.

¹² ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3842. Л. 3.

¹³ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3842. Л. 54, 55.

committees and district councils about the necessary repairs of residential buildings, dormitories, apartments, the relocation of large families from barracks to communal apartments, etc.

During meetings with them, workers again and again raised problems concerning them. The main one was the provision of food. The agitators were forced to give explanations on questions for which there were no answers at that time, such as: "Why are there shortages of bread?", "When will prices be reduced?"

They also contributed to the political education of the working people. The traditional topics of campaign conversations were the international situation, the political and economic development of the USSR at the time, and electoral legislation.

The elections were supposed to be nationwide. In accordance with this, agitators carried out a variety of activities that attracted different categories of citizens. The interest of all voters was aroused by lectures on popular science topics: "On Soviet literature", "On Soviet patriotism", "The image of Comrade Stalin in fiction", "The emergence of the city of Nizhny Novgorod", "Was there a beginning and will there be an end of the world"¹⁴. Quite often, in order to attract a wide range of workers and youth, after propaganda events, professional and amateur concerts were held at propaganda centres, drama and comedy plays were staged in theatres, newsreels were shown, and various exhibitions were held. Agitators organised joint excursions for voters to historical and local history museums and planetariums.

They also introduced workers to the latest innovations in Soviet culture. An example of voters' judgments expressed on election day is the following: "We express deep gratitude to our agitator N. A. G-vu. There are elderly people in our barracks; some of them have not been to the cinema for ten years. Comrade G-v tried and got them tickets to watch the movie "The Fall of Berlin"; "Agitator P-n read the stories "We – Soviet people"¹⁵.

At the same time, the events were aimed at certain groups of voters, including women, mothers and housewives. They listened to various reports of specialists, for instance: "Character education and preventing child nervousness", "Features of home floriculture". Often, agitators invited children to holiday matinees.

A general assessment of the activities of agitators who worked with Gorky residents in this election campaign is contained in the following judgment: "The favourite agitator of voters, Comrade Z-n, carried out his work with great love for voters. He knew their interests, needs, requests, and promptly resolved all questions that arose among voters. He conducted conversations not only as envisaged by the plan of the propaganda centre, but also on topics that arose among voters. Together with voters, he went to the cinema, discussed films, and appeared with voters in an organised manner at public events held at the propaganda centre. He activated many of his voters: at the polling station they engaged in activities".

¹⁴ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3842. Л. 61–62.

¹⁵ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3842. Л. 3.

On the eve of the elections, propaganda centres in the city districts were not only centres of political propaganda, cultural and educational leisure, but also places where one could obtain a variety of legal information. The reporting materials for the Avtozavodsky district read: "At the propaganda centre of polling station No. 27, an information desk was organised: voters checked the bond certificates. Lawyers were on duty: they gave free legal advice and answered questions about the calculation of pensions; representatives of the housing maintenance office answered questions they were interested in"¹⁶.

Let us note that in the documents of each district committee of the city it was noted that during the period of preparation for the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR (10 January – 12 March 1950) extensive political work was carried out among voters, in a meaningful and interesting way. This is confirmed by information about the enormous amount of pre-election work carried out by only one propaganda centre in the Sverdlovsk (present-day Nizhny Novgorod) region, located in the Gorky Pedagogical Institute: "Every Sunday, lectures were held in the assembly hall of the institute. Eight lectures were held. After the lectures, an artistic event was held, and a film was shown. Students of the Pedagogical Institute and the College of Physical Education performed amateur performances, and the comedy theatre performed twice. Exhibitions were set up for voters: "For the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR", "32 years of the Soviet Army", "8 March".

A total of 170 mass meetings of voters were held, at which 11,500 voters were present. More than 800 lectures, reports and conversations were held, for 10,000 voters. A bulletin-board newspaper was published regularly"¹⁷.

On election day, polling stations became the centres of the celebration. Materials about the Avtozavodsky district read: "Voters came in an organised manner, with tambourines, button accordions, and songs. All polling stations were beautifully decorated, voters did not want to leave"¹⁸. The Kirovsky district: "12 March 1950, the day of the workers' great holiday, began long before the opening of polling stations. Stakhanovites, young and old voters, already from 4.30 a.m., were impatiently waiting in the polling stations for the moment when they could cast their votes. Pensioner Elena Nikolaevna, who was supposed to be brought to the polling station by car, wanting to be among the first to vote, was already at the polling station at 5.30 a.m., holding in her hands a portrait of Comrade Stalin, having decorated it according to her own taste". Active housewives were involved in the design of polling stations in the district. All areas were well decorated with carpets, flowers, paintings, and various kinds of embroidery. With their help, polling stations began to look like premises where one could not only fulfil one's national duty by voting for deputies, but also relax"¹⁹.

¹⁶ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3893. Л. 45.

¹⁷ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3842. Л. 63.

¹⁸ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3842. Л. 20.

¹⁹ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3842. Л. 45.

The documents also contained a detailed description of the leisure and recreation opportunities that citizens had on election day. The most striking of them was: "The children's rooms and entertainment rooms were a great success. All day on 12 March, music played and young people danced. At each polling station, artists and amateur performers held from three to five concerts. Buffets with sufficient assortment were served at all polling stations. The sale of fiction and political literature was organised"²⁰.

The second campaign of 1950 – elections to local councils (held on 17 December) was modelled on the previous one. There are similar descriptions in the documents. Avtozavodsky district: "Comrade A-va came to the polling station with a bouquet of fresh flowers. She handed them over to the chairman of the election commission and congratulated him on the holiday.

Amateur concerts and symphony orchestra concerts took place at the site. Soviet songs were sung, young people danced... In the entertainment rooms they played chess, checkers, and read magazines. There was great excitement about the buffet: apples, cookies and sweets were in demand among voters. Book stalls aroused interest"²¹.

It can be assumed that the polling stations, where such a variety of leisure activities were organised for workers, were perceived in those years as a prototype of an ideally organised cultural space, which in the future the residents of every residential settlement and city street would have.

The above allows us to conclude that the activities of agitators contributed not only to voter turnout at the elections and the achievement of positive voting results. Indirectly, their work fulfilled the needs of post-war people who needed decent cultural leisure and scientific education. This allowed them not only to take a break from the harsh realities of post-war reality, but also to expand their own education. The city of Gorky in those years did not have sufficient capabilities to fulfil this social need for everyone: there were not enough premises and specialists. The resources used to prepare for the elections helped fill this gap.

The most important topic remained the improvement of the city of Gorky, particularly the settlements that sprang up around large factories and facilities. This issue was constantly raised in the voters' instructions to deputies. The reason for such trust was that in those years voters saw in the deputies a real political force, expressing not only the interests of workers in power, but also the capacity to resolve many social problems. Particular importance was attached to the interaction between voters and deputies. Citizens hoped that their representatives – deputies, whom they elected to power, would contribute to further improvement of their standard of living. Therefore, proposals to improve the development of the city of Gorky occupy a significant place among the documents of the election campaigns.

²⁰ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3842. Л. 20, 45.

²¹ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3890. Л. 39.

Thus, the materials on the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR identify the same urban problems that were raised by residents in the above letters to local authorities in the late '40s. For example: "Why is the destruction of the housing stock allowed and no radical measures are taken to preserve it (painting roofs, installing drainpipes, fences)?"²² Gorky residents pointed out to deputies the problems of certain parts of the city. In materials on the Sverdlovsk (currently Nizhny Novgorod) region, they are presented in a generalised form: "Keep the city clean, put the sidewalks in order", "Provide certain areas with transport. Route No. 1 from the city to the station should work smoothly in any weather", "Strictly punish any barbaric attitude towards tree planting in the city. Sometimes we read in reports: so many trees were planted, but how many were destroyed? They are silent on this"²³.

In the documents about the activities of Local Councils of Workers' Deputies of the IV convocation (December 1950 – December 1952) similar information is given more specifically and emotionally: "Petition to us, residents of Izhorskaya Street, for a sidewalk. In spring and autumn we sink in mud", "The area near the Sredny Bazaar from Pushkinskaya Street and from Sverdlova Street drowns in mud during rains. Puddles remain, they rot, spreading infection", "Take strict measures to protect green spaces on Belinsky Street, which are barbarically destroyed during the construction of tram tracks"²⁴. Gorky residents also drew deputies' attention to serious citywide issues that required interaction between local and central authorities when it came to finding solutions: "When will the railway bridge across the Oka river be built to connect the Gorky and Kazan railways? Will a bridge be built across the Volga to connect the city of Gorky and the city of Bor? The cost of this bridge will pay off within five years"²⁵.

As noted earlier, the city authorities and deputies of local councils paid great attention to the improvement of workers' settlements formed around large industrial facilities. Thus, in the materials about the instructions of voters to deputies, in their correspondence, customary questions were raised again and again, and critical remarks were made. This concerned the construction of bus routes, tram lines to the buildings of the Automobile Plant and the Machine Tool Plant, resettlement of residential barracks in Gvozdilny, Severny and other settlements, improving the lighting of their streets, roadways, water supply, heating of residential buildings, etc.

These problems were considered through the interaction of multi-level local councils: the executive committee of the city council and its specially established commissions: housing and utilities, urban transport, landscaping, trade, healthcare, etc.; district councils. The deputies contributed to finding the solutions: they constantly spoke at sessions of the district council and executive committee, and monitored the timely adoption of measures. Thus, the deputy of the Zheleznodorozhny District Council Loginova spoke twelve times at the sessions of 1950–1952, and in

²² ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3842. Л. 61.

²³ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3890. Л. 93.

²⁴ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3842. Л. 66.

²⁵ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 3890. Л. 55, 58, 59.

each report she spoke about the improvement of the Sortirovochny settlement, located near the Gorky railway. She reported: "The road at Sortirovochny is still bad: children cannot go to school, residents cannot go to the store"; "On behalf of everyone working and living there, I simply demand that we get running water as quickly as possible"; "I draw attention to the poor condition of the outpatient clinic and hospital, their irregular supply of medicines: often they are not there"; "Public service enterprises do not operate: sewing studios and shoe workshops"²⁶. The deputy also spoke out about the procrastination of district and city authorities: "We will talk at the session, we will discuss, and we will put the decision to rest. We are tired of saying the same thing. Even hands drop down"²⁷.

Residents of nearby settlements had similar problems. For example, residents of the Berezovsky settlement repeatedly contacted the Zheleznodorozhny District Council on the issue of improving the condition of roads and sidewalks. However, the deputy noted that the problem had not been solved for a long time: "Because of their poor condition, in the autumn of 1952, the population was not supplied with bread for two months, because it couldn't be brought there; workers were forced to walk five kilometres to get bread"; "A proposal has been made to pave and green the streets. This was included in the work plan, but was not completed in time due to the lack of funds. The funds were then given, but the asphalt allocated for this purpose was transferred to other construction sites".²⁸

Local councils also studied the organisation of youth leisure in the dormitories of district facilities. A document for the party committee of the Voroshilovsky district about the meat-processing plant dormitory reads: "...There is a Red Corner. All work on organising cultural recreation for young people there comes down to dancing. The party organisation has still not purchased any musical instruments, checkers, or dominoes, although funds were allocated for this back in 1951. Young people ask to buy a radio or accordion for the Red Corner. Sometimes films are shown here, there are lectures and reports, but there is no plan to work in it or in the dormitory"²⁹.

During the next campaign for elections to local councils in the city of Gorky (held on 22 February 1953), voters drew attention of the candidates for deputies from the Zheleznodorozhny district to the prospects for its further development: to improve the food supply of residents, "to improve the Moscow highway: to build a new school, library, bookstore, canteen, new water station"³⁰.

Similar offers were given to candidates in other industrial areas of the city. Voters of the Sormovsky district recommended that deputies pay attention to its cleanliness and improvement: construction of a kindergarten, nursery, bathhouse, clinic³¹.

²⁶ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Ф. 30. ОП.11. Д. 83. Л. 15.

²⁷ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 23. Л. 112–114.

²⁸ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 23. Л. 114.

²⁹ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 23. Л. 117.

³⁰ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 22. Л. 3–4.

³¹ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 83. Л. 29, 46.

The above commissions under the executive committee of the city council monitored the implementation of decisions made on the basis of systematisation of orders from voters. Thus, the housing and communal services supervised the construction of a new water station in Sormovo, the expansion of the sewer network in the Avtozavodsky district, examined the sanitary condition of the city, and checked the operation of the baths.³²

Deputies of the Gorky City Council contributed to resolving issues related to the improvement of the city: expanding the network of cultural, educational and medical institutions, improving the functioning of transport, consumer services, communications, trade, etc.³³ They received enormous assistance from Gorky residents, who voluntarily united in street committees and public commissions to promote the housing stock. With their direct participation, sanitary cleaning of city areas was carried out, roads and wells were repaired, city houses were brought into proper shape, trees and shrubs were planted in the streets³⁴.

³² ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 239. Л. 18.

³³ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 239. Л. 32.

³⁴ ГКУ ГОПАНО Ф. 30. ОП.1. Д. 239. Л. 34.

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СОВЕТСКИЙ ПОСЛЕВОЕННЫЙ ГОРОД: ВОПРОСЫ БЛАГОУСТРОЙСТВА

Резюме

В статье рассмотрены особенности восприятия советской действительности 1945–1952 годов. Основа исследования – региональные архивные материалы – письма тех лет жителей города Горького в органы местной власти. Представлены их мнения по вопросам, связанным с послевоенным городом – состоянием жилищно-коммунального хозяйства, сохранением памятников культуры.

Тесное взаимодействие между партийной властью, исполнительными структурами местных советов, депутатами, горожанами, способствовало тому, что к началу 50-х годов город Горький постепенно стал преодолевать тяжелые социальные последствия Великой Отечественной войны. Начался его путь к тому, чтобы во второй половине XX века стать одним из самых красивых и благоустроенных городов Советского Союза.

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СОВЈЕТСКИ ПОСЛЕРАТНИ ГРАД: ПИТАЊА УРЕЂЕНОСТИ

Резиме

У чланку су разматране посебности перцепције совјетске реалности из периода 1945-1952. Основа истраживања - регионални архивски материјали – писма становника града Горки локалним властима. Представљена су њихова мишљења о питањима повезаним са послератним градом – стањем стамбено-комуналног уређења, очувањем споменика културе. Тесна сарадња између партијске власти, извршних структура локалних совјета, депутата, грађана, доприносила је томе да је почетком педесетих година град Горки постепено почео превазилазити тешке социјалне последице Великог отаџбинског рата. Тиме је започео његов пут ка томе да у другој половини XX века постане један од најлепших и најуреднијих градова Совјетског Савеза.