



THE HISTORY OF THE RELATIONS OF THE TURKESTAN GENERAL-GOVERNORSHIP WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN THE 70S OF THE 19TH CENTURY"

Urakov Dilshodbek Jamoliddinovich

National University of Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

In this article, the role of the Governor General of Turkestan in the foreign policy conducted by the Russian Empire with neighboring countries in the 70s of the XIX century, the Ili Problem and the participation of the governorship in it, the relations of the governorship with Ettishahar State and Kashgar, which was established in the territory of Eastern Turkestan, in the disputes over Afghanistan Issues such as the role of Turkestan administration were analyzed.

KEYWORDS: *General-Governorship of Turkestan, Ili Problem, Eastern Turkestan, Afghanistan.*

At the beginning of the 1870s, the situation in Eastern Turkestan became tense. In September of this year, the military governor of the Ettisuv region sent a report to von Kaufman stating that the military forces of the Ettishahar state consisted of about 30,000 soldiers, and rumors about starting a war against the Russians began to spread among them.

Based on the powers given to him, even without the approval of the higher administration, he decided to end the Taranchi Sultanate in Kaufman Ili and prevent Yaqubbek from occupying Gulja. In August 1870, at the request of the military governor of Ettisuv, G. Kolpakovsky, the governor-general sent the Tianshan border detachment under the leadership of lieutenant colonel Tchaikovsky to capture the Muzort pass. The acquisition of this strategically important pass stopped the communication between Kashghar and Gulja. On the other hand, it destroyed the possibility of uniting the entire East Turkestan[1].

K. Kaufmann pursued a cunning policy. In this regard, in his letter to the head of the Asian Department, von Kaufman states the following: "Naturally, we must create convenient communication within the interests of the metropolis and, of course, our own platform... If we did not warn them in time, the British would start relations with Yakubbek. set off and would soon be able to enter through Yorkent. ... The key to our victory over England in Europe is Kashgar, where we beat them without a fight.[2]"

The changing attitude of the Russian ruling circles on the issue of Ili leads von Kaufman to accelerate the plan to conquer Western Turkestan. On June 12, 1871, the Ettisuv military detachment led by Kolpakovsky invaded Gulja. On June 22, 1871, the Sultan of Gulja surrendered to the Russians. In a short time, a large area with more than 100,000 inhabitants will be included in the Turkestan General Governorate. In this way, the Ili region will be temporarily included in the Turkestan General Governorate and given to Ettisuv region[3].

At the end of the 60s of the 19th century, Yakubbek took advantage of the current political situation in East Turkestan and further strengthened its position in the region. On May 6, 1872, on the



initiative of Governor-General K.P. Kaufman, an embassy mission was sent to the palace of the "wealthy emir" (the Russians called Yaqubbek - D.U.) under the leadership of Baron Kolbars, captain of the general staff. The representatives of the empire were well received by Yaqubbek, and between Russia and Kashgar, five-point friendship and trade relations were established[4].

On July 28, 1872, Turkestan Governor-General von Kaufman sent a letter to Yakubbek, the ruler of Kashgar. In the letter, the issues of establishment of strong friendship and harmony between both sides, liberalization of trade relations took the main place. Also, from the content of this letter, it is understood that Turkestan General-Governorship has repeatedly stated that it will only benefit from diplomatic relations between Kashgar and Kashgar. Mulla Muhyiddin Akhun Mufti, who was sent by Yakubbek to von Kaufman in his place, was warmly welcomed by the governor-general. In response to the ambassadors from Kashgar, a group of ambassadors headed by Junker Sherbinsky will be sent on behalf of the governor. But von Kaufman, as he himself stated, was not in favor of maintaining a friendly attitude towards Jacobbeck[5].

In February 1876, after the termination of the Kokand Khanate, the military governor-general of Ferghana Skobelev put forward the idea of establishing a military base in the border areas, believing that the occupation of the region would strain relations with Kashgar and England. On June 21, 1876, K. P. Kaufman sent a letter to Yaqubbek and offered to agree on the border issue after taking Ferghana. On the other hand, in his reply letter (September 6, 1876), the governor of Kashgar emphasized that he would not break friendly relations with Russia, and informed that he was worried about the Chinese taking over Urumqi due to the foolish behavior of the Dungsans. He also says that he agrees to agree on border issues[6].

The desire to quickly solve the border problems and the need to collect military-political and economic information about the current situation led Captain A. to Kashgar in May 1876. N. Urges to send an embassy mission headed by Kuropatkin[7].

Yaqubbek's embassy was also in the presence of the governor-general, and at the end of the negotiations, it was achieved that the lands of Ulughchat will remain at the disposal of Kashgar.

Eastern Turkestan was of strategic importance for the Qin Empire. After a temporary failure in this regard, plans were made to destroy the Muslim state. On May 17, 1877, Yaqubbek died mysteriously in his summer residence in Kurla. The new governors of Kashgar did not recognize all the agreements with Yakubbek. Therefore, Kaufman sent a military detachment led by General Abramov to Ergashtom and created a border post there (based on the project proposed by Kuropatkin). After that, Kaufman ordered Abramov, who was the military governor of Fergana, to strengthen himself in Ergashtom with a military force. There is even an order to set up a military base on the border and, in case of danger from the Kashgar side, launch a counterattack in addition to defense. After the fall of the Ettishahar state, the situation in the region changed again. There were urgent problems ahead, such as solving the long-disputed border issues[8].

The new disputes over Afghanistan, which began in the late 60s of the 19th century, continued again in the early 70s with short breaks. The Russian ruling circles entrust the collection of accurate information on the borders to Governor-General von Kaufman personally. On October 16, 1872, he prepared a proposal from the administration of Turkestan on the issue of Afghanistan. This document was drawn up after a meeting with Forsyth in October 1869, and the first point of the document states that England will not help to expand the territories of the Sheralikhan state, and in turn, the Russian government will not expand the territories of the Bukhara Emirate at the expense of Afghanistan, 3) Russia will not carry out any invasion of the Afghan territories, 4) Russia will not



enter the territories of Kashgar. Issues such as not being threatened by the government were noted. However, this document is ignored at that time[9].

On the other hand, the proposal given by the British does not agree with the opinion of von Kaufman, who demands not to give Badakhshan and Wokhan to the Afghan emir. Von Kaufman warned about the need to take this evidence into account in the negotiations on the situation in Badakhshan and Wokhan. "

The ruling circles of London demand that the Russian government stop the correspondence between Sher Ali and the administration of Turkestan, after the plans for the invasion of Afghanistan have been decisively resolved. An official letter sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Governor-General on October 8, 1876 can be shown as proof of this. According to the minister, the British ambassador to Russia sent a note to the ministry, accusing Kaufman of secretly trying to conclude a trade agreement and mutual alliance with the Afghan emir, Sher-Ali, through his agents. Kaufman replied that I corresponded with Sher Ali only once or twice a year, and there was no mention of any treaty or alliance, and for this N. Mr. Girs replies that he can easily protest[10].

On October 15, 1877, the governor of Zarafshan district sent a letter to the governor-general of Turkestan, requesting permission to bring Abdurakhman's son from Kandahar to Samarkand. Although Abdurrahman's son is under strict control by Sherali Khan, he expresses hope that he will escape. On October 25, 1877, Kaufman agreed. On August 9, 1877, Kaufman sent a letter through a merchant named Nasir Khan, asking about the emir's reaction to the Russo-Turkish war. In his reply, Sher Ali promises that he will always be friends with Russia.

However, in June 1878, the governor-general sent a mission led by General Stoletov to Kabul without waiting for permission from the higher administration. It included colonel Razgonov, topographer Bendersky, doctor Yavorsky and others. However, Russia did not want new conflicts with England and ordered the return of the ambassadors. On August 11, 1878, General Stoletov hurriedly left Kabul, leaving Colonel Razgonov with the emir. Sher Ali took the convention signed with him back to Tashkent.

When the Second Anglo-Afghan War began, on December 1, 1878, Sherali Khan left his son Muhammad Yaqub on the throne and went to Mazari-Sharif to ask for help from the Russian Tsar. In a letter written to Kaufman on December 10, the Afghan emir informed that he intends to go to St. Petersburg with the advice of his elders and openly express all his objections to England in the presence of the emperor. The Russian government, afraid of the escalation of the situation with Great Britain, assigns Kaufman the task of not allowing the emir to cross the border, but to wait for him in a convenient place if he arrives in Turkestan. Later, at the suggestion of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kaufman was given permission to receive Sheralikhon in Tashkent. However, the seriously ill emir died on February 9, 1879 in the city of Mazori-Sharif. With the dethronement of Yakub Khan, England regained full control of Afghanistan.

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