

HISTORIC REFERENCE ON “WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS” (“MEMO JOURNAL”)

The fate of “MEMO Journal” is inextricably linked with the 60 years history of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO). The Decree of the USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium as of April 13, 1956 on the establishment of IMEMO contained the following special provision: «IMEMO is allowed to publish the monthly edition “World Economy and International Relations”». The name of the journal was proposed by A.A. Arzumanyan, IMEMO’s founder and its first director, and was meant to serve as a kind of a business card of the new institution. In January 1957, Ya.S. Havinson, a veteran of the Soviet political journalism, was nominated as the journal’s editor-in-chief. He headed the journal for 30 years.

The program of “MEMO Journal” activities was presented in the editorial “Our mission” of the first issue of the journal which was printed out in July 1957 in 60 Thousand copies. The editorial pointed out that the journal was aimed at the coverage of politics and economy of modern capitalism; problems of the general crisis of capitalism; phenomena of the further collapse of the colonial system; the economic life of the capitalist countries; current business situation in the capitalist world and the dynamics of the capitalist market; domestic and foreign policies of the capitalist states and contemporary international relations; the economic situation and the class struggle of the workers and the peasantry of capitalist countries; the national liberation movement of the peoples of the colonial and dependent countries; the status of economic science abroad. The journal was to consider the problems of relationships between the two world systems”.

Even with an obvious ideological bias defined by specifics of that time, from the very beginning “MEMO Journal” became a truly “ray of light in the dark empire” of the Soviet economic and political thought. Since its very first issues it gained loyal readers among humanitarian intellectuals, professors and graduate students of economic faculties, Soviet diplomatic and foreign trade officials. On the pages of the journal the readers found a scholarly conceptualization of all major issues and developments in the international economic and political life in the second half of the XX century.

In the early years the editorial staff consisted of 28 colleagues distributed over several problem and regional departments. A number of subsequently prominent experts on international affairs such as I.D. Ivanov, L.G. Istyagin, V.I. Gantman, S.A. Mikoyan, V.P. Fedorov, N.A. Kosolapov and many others started their careers in the editorial staff of “MEMO Journal”.

An important stage in the journal's history was connected with the name of G.G. Diligensky, a distinguished political scientist. He headed the journal in 1988-2002. At this time, "MEMO Journal" finally freed from the ideological shackles and transformed into the most prestigious Russian academic periodical specializing in the problems of the international economics and politics. In mid-1990s its circulation was about 5 Thousand copies.

The readers in Russia and abroad were attracted by the publications devoted to the analysis of trends and prospects in the post-socialist societies, especially Russia. The articles considering the progress and alternatives for economic reforms, the new party and political structure of the society, Russia's foreign policy and role in the modern world aroused a lot of interest. The journal made a notable contribution into the discussion on the problems of disarmament and conversion, the analysis of global experience of development of market structures and processes of civil society, into an investigation of the relationships between development processes in the post-totalitarian societies and the evolution of modern human civilization.

After G.G. Diligensky's demise in 2002 "MEMO Journal" is headed by A.V. Ryabov, a famous political scientist.