

rial mailbag illustrates that many readers are interested in military advisers' past and present actions alike. It is becoming possible under conditions of glasnost to talk about this in more detail. In the future we will tackle this topic more frequently. We start today with a conversation between our correspondent and Lieutenant General I. Novoseletskiy. [passage omitted]

[Markushin] Clearly, it is extremely necessary for a military adviser to possess qualities that combine great competence with purely human traits, allowing people to sympathize with him.

[Novoseletskiy] That's right. It is especially necessary to bear in mind the fact that our work abroad is by no means easy. People often impede us, try to discredit our work, and sow mistrust in it. I mean above all the active attempts in this area on the part of U.S. leaders and their allies. These attempts mask the quite definite policy of counteracting our selfless aid to countries that need and have asked for such aid. Take, for instance, Afghanistan, Angola, and Ethiopia. In these countries our military advisers work under conditions where the national armies are waging hostilities against outside aggression or against internal counterrevolutionary forces and bandit units. In this connection they need a high level of vocational training, the ability to think in an original and bold fashion, the capability to tactfully suggest solutions when most needed, and a great many other things. Once again I want to stress that they must possess the sort of qualities that attract people and, as they say, inspire confidence. This is very important.

[Markushin] Consequently, candidates and their training need to be selected carefully?

[Novoseletskiy] Most strict demands are made when selecting candidates for assignment as military advisers. The main criteria here are as follows: A high level of vocational training, pretty substantial experience in working in relevant posts in the Soviet Armed Forces, high moral and ethical qualities, and a broad political outlook. I have had occasion in the performance of my duties to acquaint myself with the activity of our military advisers in situ, that is in the host countries (Angola and Syria, for instance). Thus the military-political leadership in these countries speaks gratefully above all of our comrades' selflessness, their professionalism, and their ability to gain complete mutual understanding with national cadres when resolving the tasks with which they are faced. The state awards that have been conferred on many Soviet military advisers attest to this high assessment.

[Markushin] The specific nature of the tasks resolved by military advisers presumably also leaves its imprint on the style of work. What should be deemed particularly important here?

[Novoseletskiy] I would regard as most important our military advisers' ability to maintain very active and close business contacts with the representatives of his

Life of Military Advisers Described

PM2610124588 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 26 Oct 88 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Lieutenant General I. Novoseletskiy by Correspondent Lieutenant Colonel V. Markushin: "Soviet Military Advisers. They Were Rarely Mentioned in The Past"—date and place of interview not specified; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Excerpts] We have mostly found out about the people who fulfill this crucial international mission—that of military advisers—from memoirs. However, the edito-

host country. It is this quality that helps him to work successfully in any area, be it organizing combat operations, preparing equipment, or instructing officer cadres. I must also mention our specialists' ability to learn themselves during the process of their activity as advisers. The point is that the national experience of our friends contains many valuable elements of which we are simply unaware. So it is necessary not only to be able to talk but also to be able to listen. This sort of contact also produces results. The positive experience that has been accumulated, for instance, in Afghanistan confirms this. We can also name our best comrades here: Colonel B. Kononchuk, adviser to an infantry division commander and chief of staff; Colonel A. Makatsariya, adviser to the deputy commander of an armored corps; Major A. Khaydarov, advisor to the battalion commander of an airborne troop assault brigade, and others.

Unfortunately, not everyone everywhere is able to organize fruitful contacts. Some of our comrades are somewhat at their wit's end in this respect and behave with constraint. Others, on the other hand, develop signs of arrogance (I represent a great power, I have graduated from an academy, and so on). Both adversely affect the successfulness of all their activity.

[Markushin] Contacts, conversations, and transfer of experience.... All this is linked to the language barrier....

[Novoseletskiy] Let me stress straightaway that when a military adviser can do without the help of an interpreter, a considerably greater effect is achieved. In such cases conversations are of a particularly confiding nature and can establish stable contacts. It is our great regret that only a few military advisers can speak the national or the official language in the countries in question, say French or English. We are clearly lagging in this sphere. Our country has held the matter of studying foreign languages to be unimportant. Clearly the time has come to change this situation. The time and the interests of cooperating with many countries necessitate this.

[Markushin] The conditions for military advisers' sojourn abroad are, evidently, far from normal. Cut off

from the motherland, their friends, and families, a different climate and a different spiritual atmosphere. How far are our people's domestic and cultural needs satisfied?

[Novoseletskiy] There are no acute problems in this area. This is ensured on the basis of an accord with the government of the host country. Advisers are provided with good accommodations and, where possible, are given everything they need. Of course, it is more difficult for people occupied in a combat zone. Of course, they have to share all the difficulties and privations of service in the field. Let me say more. In this case military advisers' work puts them in mortal danger. There have even been cases where military advisers have died. Thus, Lieutenant Colonels V. Dideychuk, V. Kryuchkov, N. Bobrik, and A. Serikov died while performing their international duty in Afghanistan.

[Markushin] People in the West often accuse us of attempting to "export revolution," since they say that military advisers exert ideological pressure on their host countries. What can you say in this respect?

[Novoseletskiy] Our aid does not pursue any ideological aims. We don't foist our views on anyone. Of course, in the course of everyday activity and various contacts our friends find out more about the USSR and the Soviet people. Literature about our country is also in demand. Especially that devoted to restructuring and the current phase of our history. In circulating this literature, we are not undermining anyone's foundations and are not encroaching on anyone's interests. Thus, there can be no question of any "export of revolution."

[Markushin] Ivan Grigoryevich, one last question. Restructuring, which is gathering pace, encompasses all aspects of our life and activity. What can you say on this score with regard to military advisers?

[Novoseletskiy] All spheres of Soviet Armed Forces' activity are involved in restructuring. Military advisers are no exception. I must point out that we are persistently implementing the line of improving their work methods, enhancing the effectiveness of the aid offered to national military cadres, reducing the numerical strength of our allies' apparatus, and using less resources to fulfill all the tasks.