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The
ELECTORAL SYSTEM
of the
UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

*A Collection of
Official Documents*

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THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

I

Chapter XI of the CONSTITUTION OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, deals with*

THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

ARTICLE 134

Members of all Soviets of Working People's Deputies—of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., the Supreme Soviets of the Union Republics, the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the Territories and Regions, the Supreme Soviets of the Autonomous Republics, the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Autonomous Regions, area, district, city and rural (stanitsa, village, hamlet, kishlak, aul) Soviets of Working People's Deputies—are chosen by the electors on the basis of universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 135

Elections of deputies are universal: all citizens of the U.S.S.R. who have reached the age of eighteen, irrespective of race or nationality, religion, educational and residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities, have the right to vote in the election of deputies and to be elected, with the exception of insane persons and persons who have been convicted by a court of law and whose sentences include deprivation of electoral rights.

ARTICLE 136

Elections of deputies are equal: each citizen has one vote; all citizens participate in elections on an equal footing.

ARTICLE 137

Women have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with men.

ARTICLE 138

Citizens serving in the Red Army have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with all other citizens.

ARTICLE 139

Elections of deputies are direct: all Soviets of Working People's Deputies, from rural and city Soviets of Working

*See "Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics," (Authorised Text), *Soviet News*, 4d.

People's Deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., inclusive, are elected by the citizens by direct vote.

ARTICLE 140

Voting elections of deputies is secret.

ARTICLE 141

Candidates for election are nominated according to electoral areas.

The right to nominate candidates is secured to public organisations and societies of the working people: Communist Party organisations, trade unions, co-operatives, youth organisations and cultural societies.

ARTICLE 142

It is the duty of every deputy to report to his electors on his work and on the work of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies, and he is liable to be re-called at any time in the manner established by law upon decision of a majority of the electors.

II

DECREE of the PRESIDIUM of the SUPREME SOVIET of the U.S.S.R. on the HOLDING of ELECTIONS to the SUPREME SOVIET:

In connection with the termination of the war and the expiration of the powers of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. of the First Convocation, in accordance with Article 72 of the "Regulations Governing the Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.," which lays down that the date of elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. must be announced within at least two months of the elections, and that the elections are to be carried out on a non-working day, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has decreed:

To appoint elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. for Sunday, February 10, 1946.

Chairman of Presidium of Supreme Soviet of U.S.S.R. — M. KALININ

Secretary of Presidium of Supreme Soviet of U.S.S.R. — A. GORKIN

Moscow, Kremlin,
October 5, 1945.

III

DECREE of the PRESIDIUM of the SUPREME SOVIET of the U.S.S.R., approving the REGULATIONS GOVERNING the ELECTIONS to the SUPREME SOVIET of the U.S.S.R.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics resolves: "To approve the Regulations Governing the Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R."

Chairman of Presidium of Supreme Soviet of U.S.S.R. — M. KALININ

Secretary of Presidium of Supreme Soviet of U.S.S.R. — A. GORKIN

Moscow Kremlin,
October 11, 1945.

THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE ELECTIONS TO THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE U.S.S.R.

CHAPTER-I

ELECTORAL SYSTEM

ARTICLE 1.—In conformity with Article 134 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. are chosen by the electors on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 2.—In conformity with Article 135 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., elections of deputies are universal: all citizens of the U.S.S.R. who have reached the age of 18, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, educational and residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities, have the right to vote in the election of deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., with the exception of the insane and persons convicted by a court of law whose sentences include deprivation of electoral rights.

ARTICLE 3.—Any citizen of the U.S.S.R. who has reached the age of 23, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, educational and residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities, may be elected deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 4.—In conformity with Article 136 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., elections of deputies are equal: each citizen has one vote: all citizens participate in elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. on an equal footing.

ARTICLE 5.—In conformity with Article 137 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., women have the right to elect and be elected to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. on equal terms with men.

ARTICLE 6.—In conformity with Article 138 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., citizens serving in the Red Army have the right to elect and be elected to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. on equal terms with all other citizens.

ARTICLE 7.—In conformity with Article 139 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., elections of deputies are direct: deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. are elected by the citizens by direct vote.

ARTICLE 8.—In conformity with Article 140 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., voting at elections of deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. is secret.

ARTICLE 9.—Persons residing on the territory of the U.S.S.R. who are not citizens of the U.S.S.R., but are citizens or subjects of foreign states, do not have the right to participate in elections or be elected to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 10.—In conformity with Article 141 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., candidates for election to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. are nominated according to electoral areas.

ARTICLE 11.—The expenses of elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. are covered by the state.

CHAPTER II VOTERS' LISTS

ARTICLE 12.—All citizens who have the right to vote and reside (permanently or temporarily) on the territory of the given Soviet at the time of the compilation of the lists, and who will have reached the age of 18 by election day, are entered in the voters' lists.

ARTICLE 13.—No elector may be entered in more than one voters' list.

ARTICLE 14.—Not to be entered in the voters' lists are persons deprived of electoral rights by a court of law throughout the entire period of deprivation of electoral rights stipulated in the sentence of the court, as well as persons judged, in keeping with the procedure established by law, to be insane.

ARTICLE 15.—The voters' lists are compiled in cities by the executive committees of the city Soviets of working people's deputies; in cities subdivided into districts, by the executive committees of the district Soviets; in townships, by the executive committees of the township Soviets, and in rural localities, by the executive committees of rural (stanitsa, village, hamlet, kishlak, aul) or volost Soviets of working people's deputies.

ARTICLE 16.—Lists of voters serving in military units or formations are to be signed by the commanding officer. All other servicemen are entered in the voters' lists at their place of residence by the respective executive committees of Soviets of working people's deputies.

ARTICLE 17.—Voters' lists are compiled for each election precinct in keeping with the form approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., in alphabetical order and showing family name, first name, patronymic, age and place of residence of the elector, and signed by the chairman and secretary of the executive committee of the Soviet of working people's deputies.

ARTICLE 18.—The executive committee of the Soviet of working people's deputies is to post the voters' lists in public or give the electors an opportunity to see the lists at the premises of the Soviet or the election precinct 30 days before the elections.

ARTICLE 19.—The original voters' lists are to be kept by the corresponding Soviet of working people's deputies or military unit or formation.

ARTICLE 20.—If an elector changes his place of residence after the voters' list has been published and before election day, the respective executive committee of the Soviet of working people's deputies issues him a "Certificate of the Right to Vote" on a form approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. and enters his departure in the voters' list; at the new place of residence (permanent or temporary)

the elector is entered in a voters' list upon presentation of the "Certificate of the Right to Vote" as well as his identification papers.

ARTICLE 21.—Complaints concerning errors in a voters' list (omission or deletion of a voter's name, mis-spelling of family name, first name or patronymic, incorrect inclusion of persons deprived of electoral rights) are to be entered with the executive committee of the Soviet of working people's deputies that has made the list public; the latter is obliged to consider each complaint concerning an error in a voters' list within three days' time.

ARTICLE 22.—After considering a complaint concerning an error in a voters' list, the executive committee of the Soviet of working people's deputies is obliged either to make the necessary corrections in the voters' list, or to give the complainant a written explanation why his complaint was rejected.

ARTICLE 23.—In case of disagreement with the decision of the executive committee of the Soviet of working people's deputies regarding an error in a voters' list, the complainant may appeal to a People's Court, which is obliged to hear the complaint within three days' time at an open court session, summoning the complainant and a representative of the executive committee of the Soviet, and announce its decision at once to both the complainant and the executive committee of the Soviet. The decision of the People's Court is final.

CHAPTER III

ELECTORAL AREAS FOR ELECTION TO SOVIET OF UNION AND SOVIET OF NATIONALITIES

ARTICLE 24.—In conformity with Article 34 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., the Soviet of the Union is elected by the citizens of the U.S.S.R. according to electoral areas set up on the basis of 300,000 population to each area. Each electoral area for elections to the Soviet of the Union elects one deputy.

ARTICLE 25.—In conformity with Article 35 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., the Soviet of Nationalities is elected by the citizens of the U.S.S.R. according to Union and autonomous republics, autonomous regions and national areas.

Electoral areas for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities are set up on the following basis: 25 areas in each Union Republic, 11 areas in each autonomous republic, 5 areas in each autonomous region and one electoral area in each national area. Each electoral area for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities elects one deputy.

ARTICLE 26.—The electoral areas for elections to the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities are set up by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

The list of electoral areas for elections to the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities is made public by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. no later than two months before the day of the elections.

CHAPTER IV

ELECTION PRECINCTS

ARTICLE 27.—The territory of towns and districts which enter into electoral areas are divided into election precincts common for elections to the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities, where the ballots are to be cast and the votes counted.

ARTICLE 28.—The formation of election precincts is done in cities by the executive committees of the city Soviets of working people's deputies; in cities sub-divided into districts, by the executive committees of the district Soviets of working people's deputies; in rural localities by executive committees of district and uyezd* Soviets of working people's deputies.

Election precincts are to be formed not later than 45 days prior to the date of elections.

ARTICLE 29.—In towns, industrial settlements and also villages and on the territories of rural Soviets with a population of more than 2,000, election precincts are formed on the basis of one election precinct for every 1,500—3,000 inhabitants.

ARTICLE 30.—The territory of a rural Soviet which counts no more than 2,000 inhabitants comprises as a rule one election precinct; a separate election precinct is formed in each stanitsa, village, kishlak or aul which has more than 500 but not above 2,000 inhabitants. Separate election precincts may be formed in settlements or groups of settlements which have fewer than 500 but not less than 300 inhabitants, in cases where the distance from such settlements to the central election precinct exceeds ten kilometres.

*Small district.

ARTICLE 31.—In remote northern and eastern districts where small settlements prevail, it is permitted to form election precincts with a total population of not less than 100.

In the national areas of the North and also in mountain and nomad districts, election precincts may be formed with a population less than 100, but not fewer than 50 inhabitants.

ARTICLE 32.—Military units and formations comprise separate election precincts with not fewer than 50 and not more than 3,000 electors, each of which enters into the electoral area of the locality where the unit or army formation is stationed.

ARTICLE 33.—Election precincts may be formed on vessels having not fewer than 25 electors which are sailing on the day of the elections, such precincts entering into the electoral area of the locality where the vessel is registered.

ARTICLE 34.—Separate election precincts are formed at hospitals, maternity homes, sanatoria and invalid homes having not less than 50 electors.

At hospitals having several wings, election precincts may be formed in separate wings which have not less than 50 electors.

ARTICLE 35.—Election precincts are formed in long-distance trains en route during the day of elections to receive ballots from voters who have a "Certificate of the Right to Vote."

CHAPTER V

ELECTION COMMISSIONS

ARTICLE 36.—The central election commission for elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. is formed of representatives of trade union organisations of workers and other employees, co-operative organisations, Communist Party organisations, youth organisations, cultural, technical and scientific societies and other public organisations and societies of the working people, registered in accordance with the procedure established by law, as well as of meetings of workers and other employees in enterprises, servicemen in army units, meetings of peasants in collective farms, villages and volosts, and of workers and other employees of state farms.

ARTICLE 37.—The central election commission is to consist of a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and 12 members, and is to be approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. not later than 55 days prior to the date of elections.

ARTICLE 38.—The central election commission :

(a) sees to the undeviating fulfilment of the Regulations Governing the Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. in the course of the elections over the entire territory of the U.S.S.R. ;

(b) considers complaints regarding incorrect actions of election commissions and passes final decisions on such complaints ;

(c) establishes samples of ballot boxes, the form and colour of ballots, the form of the records of the area election commissions on the registration of candidates, the form for recording the count of votes, the form of the certificate of election and sample seals for election commissions ;

(d) registers the deputies elected to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. ;

(e) turns over to the mandate commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities all documents pertaining to the elections.

ARTICLE 39.—Election commissions of the Union and autonomous republics, autonomous regions and national areas for elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., are formed in each Union and autonomous republic, autonomous region and national area.

ARTICLE 40.—The commissions for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities are formed of representatives of trade union organisations of workers and other employees, co-operative organisations, Communist Party organisations, youth organisations, cultural, technical and scientific societies and other public organisations and societies of the working people, registered in accordance with the procedure established by law, as well as of meetings of workers and other employees in enterprises, of servicemen in army units, meetings of peasants in collective farms, villages and volosts, and workers and other employees of state farms.

ARTICLE 41.—Election commissions in Union and autonomous republics, autonomous regions and national areas for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities are to consist of a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and 6-10 members, and are to be approved by the Presidiums of the Supreme Soviets of the Union and autonomous republics and the executive

committees of the Soviets of the working people's deputies in the autonomous regions and national areas not later than 50 days prior to the date of elections.

ARTICLE 42.—An election commission of a Union or autonomous republic, autonomous region or national area for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities :

(a) sees to the undeviating fulfilment of the Regulations Governing the Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. in the course of the elections to the Soviet of Nationalities on the territory of the republic, autonomous region or national area ;

(b) considers complaints regarding incorrect actions of commissions for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities.

ARTICLE 43.—An area election commission is formed in each electoral area for elections to the Soviet of the Union.

ARTICLE 44.—The area commissions for elections to the Soviet of the Union are formed of representatives of trade union organisations of workers and other employees, co-operative organisations, Communist Party organisations, youth organisations, cultural, technical and scientific societies and other public organisations and societies of working people, registered in accordance with the procedure established by law, as well as of meetings of workers and other employees in enterprises, servicemen in army units, meetings of peasants in collective farms, villages and volosts, and workers and other employees of state farms.

ARTICLE 45.—Area commissions for elections to the Soviet of the Union are to consist of a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and eight members, and are approved in republics which are subdivided into territories and regions by the executive committees of the territorial and regional Soviets of working people's deputies ; in republics which are not subdivided into territories and regions, by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviets of the republics not later than 50 days prior to the date of elections.

ARTICLE 46.—The area commission for elections to the Soviet of the Union :

(a) sees to the undeviating fulfilment of the Regulations Governing the Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. in the course of the elections to the Soviet of the Union on the territory of its electoral area ;

(b) considers complaints regarding incorrect actions of precinct election commissions and passes decisions on such complaints ;

(c) sees to the timely formation of election precincts by the respective executive committees of the Soviets of working people's deputies ;

(d) sees to the timely compilation of voters' lists and their publication ;

(e) registers the candidates for deputies nominated in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. and the Regulations Governing the Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. ;

(f) provides the precinct election commissions with ballots of the established form for voting in the elections to the Soviet of the Union ;

(g) counts the votes and establishes the results of the elections in the area ;

(h) issues the elected deputy a certificate on his election ;

(i) presents to the central election commission all documents pertaining to the elections.

ARTICLE 47.—An area commission for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities is to be formed in each electoral area for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities.

ARTICLE 48.—Area commissions for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities are formed of representatives of trade union organisations of workers and other employees, co-operative organisations, Communist Party organisations, youth organisations, cultural, technical and scientific societies and other public organisations and societies of working people registered in accordance with the procedure established by law, as well as of meetings of workers and other employees in enterprises, servicemen in army units, meetings of peasants in collective farms, villages and volosts, and workers and other employees of state farms.

ARTICLE 49.—Area commissions for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities are to consist of a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and eight members and are to be approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviets of the Union and autonomous republics and the executive committees of the Soviets of working people's deputies of the autonomous regions

and national areas not later than 50 days prior to the date of elections.

ARTICLE 50.—The area commission for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities :

(a) sees to the undeviating fulfilment of the Regulations Governing the Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. in the course of the elections to the Soviet of Nationalities in the territory of its electoral area :

(b) considers complaints regarding incorrect actions of the precinct election commissions and passes decisions on such complaints ;

(c) sees to the timely formation of election precincts by the respective executive committees of Soviets of working people's deputies ;

(d) sees to the timely compilation of voters' lists and their publication ;

(e) registers the candidates for deputies nominated in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. and the Regulations Governing the Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. ;

(f) provides the precinct election commissions with ballots of the established form for voting in the election to the Soviet of Nationalities ;

(g) counts the votes and establishes the results of the elections in the area ;

(h) issues to the elected deputy a certificate on his election ;

(i) presents the documents pertaining to the elections to the respective commission for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities of the Union and autonomous republic or to the commission for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities of the autonomous region or national area.

ARTICLE 51.—Precinct election commissions are formed of representatives of trade union organisations of workers and other employees, co-operative organisations, Communist Party organisations, youth organisations, cultural, technical and scientific societies and other public organisations and societies of the working people, registered in accordance with the procedure established by law, as well as of meetings of workers and other employees in enterprises, servicemen in army units,

meetings of peasants in collective farms, villages and volosts and workers and other employees of state farms.

ARTICLE 52.—Precinct election commissions are to consist of a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and four to eight members and in election precincts with a population of less than 300, of a chairman, secretary and one to three members, and are approved in cities by the executive committees of the city Soviets of working people's deputies ; in cities subdivided into districts, by the executive committees of the district Soviets ; in rural localities, by executive committees of the district or uyezd Soviets, not later than 40 days prior to the date of elections.

ARTICLE 52.—The precinct election commission :

(a) accepts statements regarding errors in a voters' list and submits them for the consideration of the executive committee of the Soviet which made the list public ;

(b) receives the ballots in the election precinct ;

(c) counts the votes cast for each candidate for deputy ;

(d) turns over the documents pertaining to the elections to the respective area commission for elections to the Soviet of the Union and the area commission for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities.

ARTICLE 54.—Meetings of the central election commission, commissions for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities in the Union and autonomous republics, autonomous regions and national areas, area commissions for elections to the Soviet of the Union and area commissions for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities, as well as of precinct election commissions are valid when attended by more than half of the members of the commission.

ARTICLE 55.—Election commissions decide all questions by a simple majority vote ; in case of a tie, the chairman has the decisive vote.

ARTICLE 56.—The central election commission, commissions for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities in the Union and autonomous republics, the autonomous regions and national areas, area commissions for elections to the Soviet of the Union, area commissions for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities and precinct election commissions have their seal in accordance with the sample established by the central election commission.

CHAPTER VI
**PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES
FOR SUPREME SOVIET OF U.S.S.R.**

ARTICLE 57.—In conformity with Article 141 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. the right to nominate candidates for deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. is granted to public organisations and societies of the working people, Communist Party organisations, trade unions, co-operatives, youth organisations and cultural societies.

ARTICLE 58.—The right to nominate candidates is exercised both by the central bodies of the public organisations and societies of the working people and their republic, territorial, regional, uyezd and district bodies, as well as by general meetings of workers and other employees in enterprises, of servicemen in army units, general meetings of peasants in the collective farms, villages and volosts and of workers and other employees of state farms.

ARTICLE 59.—A candidate for deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. can stand for election in one electoral area only.

ARTICLE 60.—Candidates for deputy cannot be members of area commissions for the elections to the Soviet of the Union or the Soviet of Nationalities, or of precinct election commissions of the electoral area in which they are nominated

ARTICLE 61.—The public organisation or society of the working people nominating a candidate for deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. must submit the following documents to the area election commission:

(a) minutes of the meeting at which the candidate was nominated, signed by members of the Presidium and giving their place of residence, the name of the organisation nominating the candidate, the place, time and number of participants in the meeting at which the candidate was nominated; the minutes must give the family name, first name and patronymic of the candidate for deputy, his age, place of residence, party affiliation and occupation;

(b) a statement by the candidate for deputy, giving his consent to stand for election in the given electoral area for the organisation that has nominated him.

ARTICLE 62.—All public organisations and societies of the working people who nominate candidates for deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. must register the candidates not later than 30 days before the elections either in the area commission for elections to the Soviet of the Union or the area commission for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities.

ARTICLE 63.—The area commissions for elections to the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities must register all candidates for deputy to the supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., nominated by public organisations and societies of the working people in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. and the Regulations Governing Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 64.—The family name, first name and patronymic, age, occupation and party affiliation of each registered candidate for deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. and the name of the public organisation nominating him are to be published by the respective area commission for elections to the Soviet of the Union or the Soviet of Nationalities not later than 25 days before the elections.

ARTICLE 65.—All registered candidates for deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. must be entered on the ballot.

ARTICLE 66.—Refusal on the part of the area commission for elections to the Soviet of the Union to register a candidate for deputy may be appealed against within two days to the central election commission, whose decision is final.

ARTICLE 67.—Refusal of the area commission for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities to register a candidate may be appealed against within two days to the election commission of the Union or autonomous republic, autonomous region or national area, and against the latter's decision, to the central election commission. The decision of the central election commission is final.

ARTICLE 68.—The area commissions for elections to the Soviet of the Union or the Soviet of Nationalities must print the ballots and distribute them to all precinct election commissions not later than 15 days prior to the elections to the Supreme Soviets of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 69.—The ballots are to be printed according to the form established by the central election commission in the language of the population of the given election area and in quantities sufficient to supply all voters.

ARTICLE 70.—Every organisation which nominates a candidate registered in the area election commission as well as every citizen of the U.S.S.R. is guaranteed the right to campaign without interference for this candidate at meetings, in the press and by other means in accordance with Article 125 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R.

CHAPTER VII VOTING PROCEDURE

ARTICLE 71.—Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. are held on one and the same day throughout the whole of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 72.—The date of the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. is announced by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. not later than two months before the elections. Elections are to be held on a non-working day.

ARTICLE 73.—The date and place of the polling is published or otherwise made known to the electors by the precinct election commission each day for 20 days before the elections.

ARTICLE 74.—The voters cast their ballots from 6 a.m. until 12 midnight local time on the day of the elections.

ARTICLE 75.—At 6 a.m. on election day the chairman of the precinct election commission, in the presence of its members, examines the ballot boxes and checks the voters' list compiled in due form, after which he closes and seals the ballot boxes with the seal of the commission and invites the voters to cast their votes.

ARTICLE 76.—The election premises must have a special room for filling in the ballots, to which no one, including the members of the precinct election commission, is admitted besides the voters; rooms in which more than one voter is admitted at a time must have as many partitions or screens as the number of electors admitted simultaneously.

ARTICLE 77.—Each elector votes in person at the polling premises. The electors drop the ballots into ballot boxes.

ARTICLE 78.—Upon arrival at the polling premises, the voter presents to the secretary or other authorised member of the precinct election commission his passport, collective farm membership card, trade union card or any other identification paper and after checking against the voters' list is given ballots of the established form.

ARTICLE 79.—In the room set aside for marking the ballots, the voter leaves on each ballot the name of the candidate for whom he is voting and strikes out the names of the others; then he takes his ballots to the room where the precinct election commission sits and drops his ballot into the ballot box.

ARTICLE 80.—Voters who owing to illiteracy or some physical disability are unable to mark the ballots themselves may invite into the room where the ballots are marked any other voter to mark the ballots for them.

ARTICLE 81.—No canvassing is permitted on the election premises during the voting.

ARTICLE 82.—Persons who come to the election premises with a "Certificate of the Right to Vote," in accordance with Article 20 of the present Regulations Governing the Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., are added to the voters' list by the precinct election commission, whose chairman and secretary affix their signatures to the voters' list.

ARTICLE 83.—The chairman of the precinct election commission is responsible for the maintenance of order in the election premises and his instructions are binding on everyone on the premises.

ARTICLE 84.—At midnight on election day the chairman of the precinct election commission declares the balloting ended and the commission proceeds to open the ballot boxes.

CHAPTER VIII ESTABLISHING ELECTORAL RETURNS

ARTICLE 85.—Representatives of public organisations and societies of the working people specially authorised for the purpose as well as representatives of the press have the right to be present during the counting of the votes by the precinct election commission.

ARTICLE 86.—Upon opening the ballot boxes, the precinct election commission checks the number of ballots against the number of persons issued ballots according to the voters' list and enters the figure in the records.

ARTICLE 87.—The chairman of the precinct election commission announces to all the members of the precinct election commission the results of the voting on each ballot.

ARTICLE 88.—Ballots in which more than one candidate have been left, as well as ballots that do not conform to regulations are considered invalid.

ARTICLE 89.—Any doubts as to the validity of a ballot are settled by vote of the precinct election commission, which is entered in the records.

ARTICLE 90.—The counting of votes cast for each candidate for deputy and the recording of the election returns is done separately for the elections to the Soviet of the Union and the elections to the Soviet of Nationalities.

ARTICLE 91.—The precinct election commission draws up a record of the voting in three copies according to regulations, and the precinct election commissions situated on the territory of autonomous republics, autonomous regions or national areas, in four copies, signed by all the members of the precinct election commission, the signatures of the chairman and secretary being obligatory.

ARTICLE 92.—The record of the voting drawn up by the precinct election commission must state the following :

- (a) the time the voting began and ended ;
- (b) the total number of voters on the voters' list ;
- (c) the number of voters who received ballots ;
- (d) the number of voters who took part in the voting, separately for the elections to the Soviet of the Union and for the elections to the Soviet of Nationalities ;
- (e) the number of ballots declared invalid, separately for the elections to the Soviet of the Union and to the Soviet of Nationalities ;
- (f) the number of ballots in which the names of all the candidates were struck off, separately for the elections to the Soviet of the Union and to the Soviet of Nationalities ;
- (g) results of the counting of the votes for each candidate separately ;
- (h) brief summary of statements and complaints submitted to the precinct election commission, and decisions adopted by the commission.

ARTICLE 93.—After the votes have been counted and the record drawn up, the chairman of the precinct election commission announces the results of the voting to the meeting of the commission.

ARTICLE 94.—One copy of the record of the voting drawn up by the precinct election commission is sent by messenger to the area commission for elections to the Soviet of the Union within 24 hours ; the second copy of the record of the voting drawn up by the precinct election commission is sent by messenger within 24 hours to the area commission for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities.

ARTICLE 95.—All the ballots, valid and invalid, for the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities must be sealed separately with the seal of the precinct election commission and together with the last copy of the record of the voting and the seal are submitted by the chairman of the precinct election commission for safe keeping : in cities, to the executive committees of the city Soviets of working people's deputies, and in cities subdivided into districts, to the executive committees of the district Soviets ; in rural localities, to the executive committees of the district or uyezd Soviets of working people's deputies.

ARTICLE 96.—The executive committees of the Soviets of working people's deputies are charged with the duty of keeping the ballots pending instructions from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 97.—Representatives of public organisations and societies of the working people specially authorised for the purpose, as well as representatives of the press, have the right to be present during the counting of the votes by the area election commission.

ARTICLE 98.—The area election commission counts the votes on the basis of the records submitted by the precinct election commissions, and ascertains the number of votes cast for each candidate for deputy.

ARTICLE 99.—The area commission for elections to the Soviet of the Union and the area commission for the elections to the Soviet of Nationalities from the Union republic draw up a record of the voting in two copies, while the area commission for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities from the autonomous republic, autonomous region or national area draws up a record of the voting in three copies, signed by all the members of the area election commissions, the signatures of the chairman and secretary being obligatory.

ARTICLE 100.—The record of the voting drawn up by the area election commission must state the following :

- (a) the number of precinct election commissions in the area ;
- (b) the number of precinct election commissions which have submitted records of the voting ;
- (c) the total number of voters in the area ;
- (d) the number of voters who received ballots ;
- (e) the number of voters who took part in the voting ;
- (f) the number of ballots declared invalid ;
- (g) the number of ballots in which the names of all candidates are struck out ;
- (h) the number of votes cast for each candidate for deputy ;
- (i) brief summary of the statements and complaints submitted to the area election commission, and the decisions adopted by the area election commission.

ARTICLE 101.—After the record is signed, the chairman of the area election commission announces the results of the elections to the meeting of the commission.

ARTICLE 102.—The candidate for deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. who receives the absolute majority of votes, i.e., more than half of all the votes cast in the area and declared valid, is considered elected.

ARTICLE 103.—The chairman of the area election commission issues the elected candidate for deputy a certificate on his election as deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 104.—Not later than 24 hours after the final counting of the votes, the chairman of the area commission for elections to the Soviet of the Union and also the chairman of the area commission for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities must send the first copy of the record in a sealed envelope by messenger to the central election commission, the second copy of the record to the election commission of the Union republic, autonomous republic, autonomous region or national area for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities.

ARTICLE 105.—If none of the candidates receives the absolute majority of votes, the respective area election commission makes a special note to this effect in the record and reports to the central election commission and the election commission of the Union or autonomous republic, autonomous region or national area for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities, and at the same time announces the holding of a ballotage of the two candidates who have received the largest number of votes, and appoints a day for the ballotage not later than two weeks after the first round of the elections.

ARTICLE 106.—If the number of votes cast in an area is less than half the number of electors who have the right to vote in this area, the area commission for elections to the Soviet of the Union or the Soviet of Nationalities makes a note to that effect in the record and immediately reports to the central election commission and to the commission for elections to the Soviet of Nationalities from the Union or autonomous republic, autonomous region or national area. In this case the central election commission appoints new elections not later than two weeks after the first elections.

ARTICLE 107.—The ballotage for candidates for deputy, as well as new elections to replace those declared invalid, are carried out according to the voters' lists drawn up for the first elections, and in full conformity with the present Regulations Governing Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 108.—In the event of a seat on the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. becoming vacant, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. appoints the election of another deputy in the corresponding electoral area not later than two months after the seat has become vacant.

ARTICLE 109.—Any person who attempts by violence, deception, intimidation or bribery to prevent a citizen of the U.S.S.R. from freely exercising his right to elect and be elected to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. is to be punished by a term of imprisonment of up to two years.

ARTICLE 110.—Any official of a Soviet or member of an election commission who forges election documents or deliberately miscounts the votes is to be punished by a term of imprisonment of up to three years.

Secretary :

Nikolai Shatalin from the Trade Union of Workers of Institutions of Political Education ;

Members of the Central Election Commission :

Georgi Popov from the Moscow Communist organisation ;

Alexei Kuznetsov from the Leningrad Communist organisation ;

Klavdia Abushenko from the Trade Union of Workers and Employees of State Farms of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic ;

Nikolai Tikhonov from the Union of Soviet Writers ;

Nikolai Mikhailov from the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League ;

Alexander Pokryshkin from the Central Council of the Society for Anti-Aircraft and Anti-Chemical Defence in the U.S.S.R. (Osoaviakhim) ;

Nina Pylayeva from the "Krasny Putilovets" collective farm in the Kalinin region ;

Zinovi Serdyuk from the Kiev Communist organisation ;

Ferapont Golovaty from the "Stakhanovets" collective farm in the Saratov Region ;

Taissiya Shuvandina from an Ivanovo cotton mill ;

Alexei Shatilin from the "Stalin" Magnitogorsk Iron and Steel Works ;

and **Usman Yussupov** from the Uzbek Communist organisation.

Chairman of Presidium of Supreme Soviet of U.S.S.R. — **M. KALININ**

Secretary of Presidium of Supreme Soviet of U.S.S.R. — **A. GORKIN**

Moscow, Kremlin.
October 20, 1945.

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