



THE ROLE OF THE AMERICAN AND CANADIAN CONGRESS OF BUKHARA JEWS IN THE HUMANITARIAN SPHERE IN THE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY OF UZBEKISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES

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Abstract: Bukhara Jews have played an important role in the development of public diplomacy between Uzbekistan and the United States. This community served as a unique bridge in connecting two countries, preserving cultural and religious heritage, as well as strengthening economic and political ties. Communities of Bukhara Jews in the USA support various cultural and social projects in Uzbekistan. For example, restoration and preservation projects of old Jewish synagogues and cemeteries. Through these projects, they connect with their roots, help preserve the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan and promote it internationally. Cultural events, exhibitions and other activities organized with their support will strengthen the cultural exchange between Uzbekistan and the USA.

O'ZBEKISTON VA AQSH XALQ DIPLOMATIYASIDA AMERIKA VA KANADA BUXORO YAHUDIYLAR KONGRESINING GUMANITAR SOHADAGI ROLI

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MAQOLA HAQIDA

Kalit so'zlar: Buxoro yahudiylari, Xalq diplomatiyasi, O'zbekiston-AQSh

Annotatsiya: Buxoro yahudiylari O'zbekiston va AQSh o'rtasidagi xalq

munosabatlari madaniy merosi, yahudiy sinagogalari, madaniy almashinuv, yahudiy diasporasi, restavratsiya loyihalari, tadbirkorlik.

diplomatiyasining rivojlanishida muhim rol o'ynab kelgan. Ushbu jamoa ikki mamlakatni bog'lashda, madaniy va diniy merosni saqlashda, shuningdek, iqtisodiy va siyosiy aloqalarni mustahkamlashda o'ziga xos ko'prik vazifasini bajargan. AQShdagi Buxoro yahudiylari jamoalari O'zbekistonda turli madaniy va ijtimoiy loyihalarni qo'llab-quvvatlash bilan shug'ullanadi. Masalan, eski yahudiy sinagoglari va qabristonlarni restavratsiya qilish va saqlash loyihalari. Ushbu loyihalar orqali ular o'z ildizlari bilan bog'lanib, O'zbekiston madaniy merosini asrab qolish va uni xalqaro miqyosda tanitishga yordam beradilar. Ularning ko'magi bilan tashkil etilgan madaniy tadbirlar, ko'rgazmalar va boshqa faoliyatlar O'zbekiston va AQSh o'rtasidagi madaniy almashinuvni kuchaytiradi.

РОЛЬ АМЕРИКАНО-КАНАДСКОГО КОНГРЕССА БУХАРСКИХ ЕВРЕЕВ В ГУМАНИТАРНОЙ СФЕРЕ В ПУБЛИЧНОЙ ДИПЛОМАТИИ УЗБЕКИСТАНА И США

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О СТАТЬЕ

Ключевые слова: бухарские евреи, публичная дипломатия, узбекско-американские отношения, культурное наследие, еврейские синагоги, культурный обмен, еврейская диаспора, реставрационные проекты, предпринимательство.

Аннотация: Бухарские евреи сыграли важную роль в развитии общественной дипломатии между Узбекистаном и США. Эта община послужила уникальным мостом в соединении двух стран, сохранении культурного и религиозного наследия, а также укреплении экономических и политических связей. Общины бухарских евреев в США поддерживают различные культурные и социальные проекты в Узбекистане. Например, проекты по реставрации и сохранению старых еврейских синагог и кладбищ. Благодаря этим проектам они соединяются со своими корнями, помогают сохранять культурное наследие Узбекистана и продвигать его на международном уровне. Культурные мероприятия, выставки и другие мероприятия, организованные при их поддержке, укрепят культурный обмен

INTRODUCTION

One of the forms of cooperation between the Congress of Bukhara Jews and Uzbekistan within the framework of people's diplomacy, there is joint work in the field of humanitarian relations. The most painful issues in this area for Jews are issues of human rights in the religious sphere, the improvement and reconstruction of Bukhara-Jewish cemeteries, the organization of the museum of religion and culture of Bukhara Jews, memorials to the participants of the Second World War, synagogue buildings on the territory Uzbekistan. The preservation and integrity of cemeteries and monuments is for Bukhara Jews the most valuable thing they have left in Uzbekistan. All these issues are extremely important for the peace of mind and stability in the homes of Bukharian Jews, both living abroad and remaining in Uzbekistan. However, not all these issues, due to the lack of necessary resources and official permission, can be solved by individual individuals, scientists, businessmen, artists or groups of volunteers, at the expense of human rights activists. Therefore, such a partnership involves active cooperation with governmental and international organizations, including local authorities, scientific institutes, religious, banking and other specialized institutions.

THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

On the other hand, it is also impossible to solve such issues solely with the help of government organizations, in particular, in terms of monitoring and maintaining order at sites of interest. Accordingly, the movement of people's diplomacy of the Bukharian Jews is complex and relies on cooperation and coordination between official and unofficial representatives Uzbekistan and the USA. There will be no effective interaction process with the official authorities, and the likelihood that interested individuals will be directly involved in the decision-making process will significantly decrease.

Bukharian-Jewish youth also do not have a sufficient understanding of the history of their fellow countrymen, their lives and significance for the Jewish-Bukharian people. Therefore, it is necessary to involve the "old guard" in the ranks of people's diplomacy, that is, those Uzbeks and Bulgarian Jews who have experience of working together and cooperation during the Soviet era. All these points are taken into account when organizing Uzbekistan's humanitarian partnership with Bukhara Jews in the framework of people's diplomacy.

The cooperation of the KBE of the USA and Canada with Uzbekistan on the preservation of historical and cultural monuments of Bukhara Jews. In recent times, the movement of fraternity has embraced the entire Bukharian-Jewish community in America. Meetings of fellow countrymen, discussion of pressing problems faced by immigrants in America, do not allow such

issues as the preservation and improvement of Jewish cemeteries located on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan to be forgotten.

In the early 1990s, ideas about the reburial of their relatives in the USA or Israel were floating among Bukharian Jews. In the mid-1990s, Tashkent and other cities of Uzbekistan became whether the first representatives of the "communities" of the cities where Bukhara Jews used to live compactly arrived. Given the difficult socio-economic conditions of Uzbekistan, they decided to collect a certain amount of funds for the improvement and reconstruction of Bukhara-Jewish cemeteries located on the territory of Uzbekistan. Shakhrisabz residents, Katta-Kurgans, Andijans, Tashkent, Samarqand were the first to self-organize in this matter. Bukharian-Jewish synagogues, as well as Bukharian Jews who remained to live in these cities, helped them the construction of ancient ancestral cemeteries.

Later, on the initiative of the Russian Community, in 1996-1998 the first charitable Foundations for the reconstruction and improvement of Bukhara-Jewish cemeteries were established in New York Historical merit of the President of the Congress of Bukhara Jews Boris Kandov is convinced that he was able to gather all informal associations and fraternities in a timely manner through their institutionalization – the creation of charitable foundations "Shakhrisabz", "Katta Kurgan", "Andijan", Tashkent, Bukhara, Ferghana, Margilan, Khatirchi, Paishanbeh, Navoi, Kokand, Carmina and under the auspices of the Congress of Bukharian Jews of the USA and Canada.

In general, representatives of the Bukharian-Jewish diaspora have become convinced over the years of interreligious and interethnic harmony in the country. As the head of the community, Boris Kandov, emphasizes in this regard, today the Uzbek community is of great importance to the world community as a unique example of cultural pluralism and tolerance." Moreover, "while acts of vandalism in the territories of Jewish cemeteries are noted in the world, this is not the case in Uzbekistan, on the contrary, the government of the country allocates funds for their protection and improvement and provides great assistance to the Bukharian Jewish community". The established charitable foundations, in fact, are not a structure for the care and restoration of graves - such services operate in the cemeteries themselves. Charitable foundations are engaged in the general concept of supporting cemeteries, their preservation and improvement. Monthly meetings of the funds are held, where current issues are discussed questions, an action plan, the integral use of finance, information on reconstruction, landscaping and construction in Uzbekistan. To date, at the initiative of the Congress and through joint actions with local city and regional authorities, with the support of the Government of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan has carried out full-scale work on the reconstruction and

improvement of Bukhara- Jewish cemeteries. For example, thanks to timely joint actions of the parties in Samarkand, the sliding of a high wall into the cemetery was prevented, thanks to which more than 200 graves were saved.

There were also the ancient Jewish cemeteries in the cities of Karshi and Chinaz, which were on the verge of extinction, have been saved. In 2000, at a meeting with representatives of the Congress of Bukharian Jews, Uzbek Ambassador to the United States Sadik Safayev positively rejected the idea of creating charitable foundations "Andijan", "Bukhara", "Samarkand": "The main task of the foundations established by Bukharian-Jewish immigrants from the cities of Uzbekistan is to assist in the preservation and improvement of cemeteries of Bukhara Jews, which are valuable both as a place of burial of their ancestors and as historical and museum memorials. The Samarkand Charitable Foundation named after Moshe Kalontarov was established in 1997 with the aim of improving the Bukhara-Jewish cemetery in Samarkand, one of the oldest in Central Asia.

In 2000, the situation in this part of Afrosiab was extremely critical. Boris Kandov, President of the KBE of the USA and Canada, began to deal with the problems of landscaping with the support of UNESCO and activists of the Samarkand Foundation, representatives of government agencies of Uzbekistan, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Spiritual Administration of the Muslim of Uzbekistan, the Samarkand city and regional khokimiyats. As a result, with the help of the Samarkand City Hall, a 60-meter-high concrete wall with a height of 12 meters was restored, separating the territory of the cemetery along Tashkent Street from marble the factory. And specialists of the Toshkentboshplan Design Institute, the Institute of Archaeology of Uzbekistan, together with other institutions, have prepared a reconstruction project. An agreement was reached to begin urgent construction work on the territory of the Samarkand memorial cemetery.

Work is also continuing on the reconstruction of the monument to the participants of the Second World War, where the names of more than 700 participants of the war from among the Samarkand Bukharian Jews will be carved. In the implementation of The vice-president of the Samarkand Foundation, the great-grandson of Moshe Kalontarov, Marik Kalontarov, takes an active part in the project. The cemetery has 250 tombstones of unknown soldiers (Ashkenazi) who died during the Second World War. Trees have been planted, electric lighting and benches have been installed. In addition, a lot of work has been done to improve and maintain the cleanliness of the entire territory every day, local staff constantly monitors the order and continues to restore graves in the cemetery.

At the suggestion of the CBE of the USA and Canada, Rafael Nektalov is creating a special catalog with a description of the cemetery, indicating the numbers of the graves, and a commemorative brochure is being prepared for publication with an index of the graves of prominent spiritual leaders of Samarkand - rabbis, scientists, singers, musicians, artists, teachers and other famous Samarqands.

In 2007, at the initiative of the Samarkand Foundation, a website was created that allows virtual visits to the treasure from anywhere in the world. Currently, the Samarkand Foundation has already started installing video cameras around the perimeter of the cemetery for online viewing, so that relatives of those buried in the cemetery can directly observe over the Internet, over the graves of their ancestors. Videos are being prepared for tourists and parishioners of the cemetery. It should be noted that the Samarqand cemetery is visited by many tourists from around the world.

The Funds from Bukhara-Jewish in Uzbekistan. The Bukhara Charitable Foundation - the Bukhara-Jewish treasure is registered as a monument of material culture under the auspices of UNESCO - the first burials were made here more than 1000 years ago.⁴ "This cemetery is the cradle of the national culture of the Jews of Central Asia. The cemetery is a repository of our documentary and material history with the names of rabbis, saints, people of art and literature.

The Andijan Charitable Foundation - in 1997, a group of active emigrants led by Khanan Mushyakhov, who previously lived in Andijan, formed the Andijan Association in the United States. In 1997-2001, the association was headed by Nerri Yushvaev, in 2001-2003 by Anatoly Manakhimov, and from 2003 to the present, the WHO Association. It is headed by Boris Yakubov. Today, the association's board of directors consists of 15 people. Over the past period, the association has done a lot to restore, improve and repair the Andijan Bukharian-Jewish cemetery "Oromgoh". The cemetery was built 100 years ago, more than 3 thousand Bukharian Jews were buried there. After the flooding of the cemetery due to natural disasters, its restoration and landscaping were required. "We are planning to carry out major transformations at the Andijan cemetery" on the website andizhanfund.com any visitor can see what the cemetery has become now, see the graves of their loved ones, relatives, neighbors, friends. Boris Yakubov carried out repairs on a large scale and with love to restore the Honako house and several rooms for traditional rituals and Jewish funeral rituals.

The Katta Kurgan Charitable Foundation - the history of the Jewish Katta Kurgan is relatively young. If we combine the memories of the members of the Katta-Kurgan charity Foundation Levi bit by bit Badalov, Gavriela Shalomova, Isaac Kataev, it turns out that the Bukhara-Sko-Jewish community of the city was formed 130-140 years ago. Despite the

difficulties, the Bukharian Jews managed to create a strong community. According to some sources, the dead used to be interred in Samarkand, Carmine or Bukhara. But one day, after the premature death of twin babies in one family, local elders appealed to the head of the city with a request to provide a plot of land for the burial of children. They found a high hill, where the Jewish cemetery eventually arose. The contract for the purchase of this land plot for Bnei has been preserved to our time Musa is the "children of Moses". That was what the Jews of Katta-Kurgan were called at that time. The Jewish cemetery of Katta Kurgan has an area of 150 thousand square meters. The ashes of not only Bukharian, but also European Jews rest here. Bukhara Jews pay tribute to the Katta Kurgans: for them there is no difference in monuments to their own and foreign tribesmen - they treat all burials with equal respect. They remember with special reverence the good deeds of their countryman Joseph Khiyaev, who realizing the irreversibility of the process of emigration of Jews from Katta Kurgan, began large-scale work on the improvement of the cemetery in the early 1990s.

The Katta Kurgans are the first to create charitable foundation for the improvement of the Bukhara Jewish cemetery.

The International Memorial Fund "Bukhoro" has been established In 1998, he was one of the first to implement plans for the reconstruction of graves at the Bukhara-Jewish cemetery in Bukhara. More than 300 unmarked graves were repaired, and over 100 fruit trees were planted. New monuments to the outstanding Talmudists Ishaq have been erected Zambori and Pinchas Cohen. Today, the entrance part of the cemetery is decorated in the beautiful style of Uzbek national architecture. The reconstruction of the front and rear facades, adjacent fences has been carried out. The next stage of the activity of the Bukhoro Foundation was the organization of restoration of the Museum of Religion and Culture of Bukhara Jews, as well as landscaping of the cemetery.

In 2013-2017, work projects were implemented on 20 sites, which significantly changed the appearance of the cemetery. In a short period of time, the foundation ensured the protection of cemeteries and the uninterrupted operation of all engineering and technical communications, lighting was carried out, unnecessary trees and shrubs were uprooted, and the territories were paved. A new website has been in operation since July 2012 BJews.info where you can see and find out what the cemetery was like 20-30 years ago, what works were carried out in the proshlom and what are currently being conducted. The construction work received an additional impetus when the President of the Congress, Boris Kandov, and a group of representatives of the Bukhoro Israeli Charitable Foundation joined them. B. Kandov, visiting Bukhara several times, met with the khokims of the region and the city of Bukhara and cooperated with local authorities

on the improvement of the cemetery in Bukhara. He made a proposal to create an international fund Bukhara International Memorial Foundation, where funds would flow from many countries where Bukharans now live.

Tashkent Charitable Foundation - the Tashkent Charitable Foundation carries out a lot of work on the construction of Bukhara-Jewish cemeteries. At two cemeteries of Bukharian Jews in the capital Uzbekistan - "**Chigatai**" (active since 1826) and "**Textile**" (since 1950) - about 8,200 people were buried. In addition to landscaping, the foundation carries out restoration of old and unmarked graves. Every year, on the initiative of the Tashkent Foundation, Father and Son charity events are held to raise funds for the needs of the foundation. On January 22, 2018, the reporting and election meeting of the charity was held in New York. Tashkent Foundation. Following the results of the voting, Alik Babakhanov was elected president of the foundation. Today, both the appearance and the internal condition of the cemeteries "Chigatai" and "Textile" have changed noticeably. 83 dilapidated monuments in both cemeteries have been completely restored. Twice a year, on the occasion of Victory Day on May 9 and the Day of 9 Aba, general cleaning of treasures is carried out. From April to October, flower beds and trees are watered. A team of workers is invited to trim junipers and apples. The Internet portal of the Tashkent Foundation has been changed, where it is located at **www.FundTashkent.org** you can get acquainted with the complete file of all burials with relevant photos, information about the deceased and the location on the map.

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