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UDC 351.74(477)“1919”

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PEOPLE’S COMMISSARIAT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OF THE UKRAINIAN SSR IN 1919

Paper deals with the issue of the organization and functioning of the People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR during the first year of its existence, i.e. in 1919 on the basis of little-known archival materials of the Russian Federation. The status of the NKVS of the USSR in the system of state authorities was significantly higher than that of the current Ministry of Internal Affairs. First, the most important function of the NKVS was the organization of local authorities and the control over their activities. Today, this function is performed by the president of the country and his administration. Secondly, the most important function of the NKVS was the organization of municipal authorities in the country and ensuring its functioning. Protection of public order and the fight against criminality have always been important functions of state administrative bodies. But in 1919 their priority was only the third. Unfortunately, in almost all publications on the history of the NKVS of the USSR, only the police and the criminal investigation are considered as its bodies.

The process of creating structural units of the central apparatus of the NKVS is considered, the names of their leaders are mentioned: Foreign Department (chiefs: M. Gurevich (04.19–06.19), Tomakov (06.19–19), Instructor’s Department (Gulevich), Department of Local Government headed by: S. Vlasenko (02.19–04.19); A. Shyshkov (04.19–05.19); A. Cherviakov (05.19–08.19); Y. Gerasimov (08.19–10.19); Informational and Instructor’s Department (headed by Y. Gerasimov); Department of the Communal Services (headed by Strelanov (02.19–03.19), A. Shyshkov (03.19–24.05.19), Strelanov (24.05.19–07.19), Spaskyyi (07.19–07.19), Strelanov (07.19–16.10.19); Unit of Police – the First guiding body of militia of the Soviet Republic Y. Zaslavskiy.

The issues of interaction of the NKVS USSR with the party and state bodies of the republic are considered. Attention was drawn to the specifics of the functioning of the NKVS USSR, unlike the similar department of the RSFSR.

**Keywords:** NKVS of the Ukrainian SSR, NKVS College, the General Directorate of the Workers “and Peasants” Militia, the Directory.

Отримано 13.04.2018