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**Аспекты государственной политики в сфере внешнеэкономической  
деятельности Республики Саха (Якутия) в период президентства М.Е. Николаева**

**Аннотация.** Статья посвящена анализу правительственного курса Республики Саха (Якутия) в сфере международного сотрудничества и внешнеторговых операций в период президентства М.Е. Николаева. В условиях экономического кризиса, характеризующегося дефицитом финансовых ресурсов, республика испытывала острую потребность в привлечении иностранного капитала. В этой связи, приоритетным вектором внешнеэкономической стратегии республики стало развитие связей со странами Азиатско-Тихоокеанского региона (АТР), обладающими значительным инвестиционным потенциалом и демонстрирующими динамичный экономический рост.

**Ключевые слова:** Республики Саха (Якутия), международные связи, внешнеэкономическая деятельность, период президентства М.Е. Николаева.

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**Aspects of state policy in the field of foreign economic activity of the Republic of Sakha  
(Yakutia) during the presidency of M.E. Nikolaev**

**Annotation.** The article is devoted to the analysis of the government policy of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) in the field of international cooperation and foreign trade operations during the presidency of M.E. Nikolaev. In the conditions of the economic crisis, characterized by a shortage of financial resources, the republic experienced an urgent need to attract foreign capital. In this regard, the priority vector of the republic's foreign economic strategy has become the development of relations with the countries of the Asia-Pacific region (APR), which have significant investment potential and demonstrate dynamic economic growth.

**Key words:** Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), international relations, foreign economic activity, period of the presidency of M.E. Nikolaev.

**Introduction**

Yakutia's entry into the international arena in many areas was largely due to the activities of the first President of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) M.E. Nikolaev on organizing multifaceted international, interregional cooperation of Yakutia with many countries of the near and far abroad, as well as with constituent entities of the Russian Federation [10, p.20].

If we turn to history, then Yakutia received the opportunity to really participate in international cooperation only after the adoption of the Declaration of State Sovereignty of the Republic in the early 1990s [5, p. 207.]. As is known, the former autonomous republics of the Union did not act as subjects of international relations at all. The most active actions in this area of international politics were observed in 1990–1991.

**Main results**

After the collapse of the USSR, interregional economic ties and entire technological chains transporting and connecting communications were destroyed. Yakutia also had to overcome these phenomena. To exercise the right to foreign economic activity, by decree of the President of the

Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), the State Committee for External Relations of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) was created in March 1991. Economic entities and government structures of the republic did not yet have experience in the field of foreign economic activity. The practice of building foreign economic relations for the republic was pioneering, as in other regions of Russia[4]. The Committee prepared, and on June 28, 1991, the Supreme Council of the Yakut-Sakha SSR adopted the Law “On Foreign Economic Activity”[6]. This law outlined the rights and obligations of subjects of foreign economic activity, determined the mechanisms of interaction between subjects of foreign economic activity and government bodies [5, p. 208]. It is also worth noting that the Law of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) “On Foreign Investments”[9], adopted on December 22, 1992, determined the conditions for attracting foreign investments, guarantees, and respect for the interests of foreign investors in accordance with the principles of management generally accepted in world practice and the formation of a market economy.

On the initiative of the First President of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) M.E. Nikolaev, in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) dated January 19, 1992 No. 27 “On the reorganization of the central bodies of government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)” [8], a Decree of the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) [1] was adopted, in accordance with which, on the basis of the State Committee for External Relations, the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) was formed, in which work began to establish international, cultural and economic relations. The People's Republic of China, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, and Japan have shown activity in this. Yakutia has joined the system of multilateral cultural exchanges, the implementation of cultural relations and educational programs through UNESCO, and integration programs in the field of culture and education within the framework of a partnership with the European Union[4].

During the same period, foreign economic relations with the De Beers Centenary company, as well as with a number of large companies in Japan, Canada, and Austria, were established, which were almost of paramount importance for the economy of the republic [15, p. 209].

In December 2002, a Protocol was signed between the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) on cooperation in the field of international and foreign economic relations. On October 17, 2003, the Law of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) “On international and foreign economic relations of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)” 84-Z No. 163-III was adopted[7].

If we turn to history, an important milestone was the signing on March 31, 1992 in Moscow of the Federative Treaty and the “Agreement on relations between the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) on economic issues”[11] by the President of the Russian Federation B.N. Yeltsin and the President of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) M.E. Nikolaev. In accordance with the Agreement, the Russian Government undertook to ensure the timely delivery of food products, consumer goods, and industrial and technical products against diamonds and gold from Yakutia; in case of short supply of goods, the cost of undelivered products was compensated in freely convertible currency, or the republic reduced gold supplies to the federal center by the same amount. To maintain the normal life of the population, starting from 1992, the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) remained at the disposal of a portion of coal and coal concentrate. He was also given the right to purchase precious metals and precious stones from legal entities and individuals in the territory of Yakutia for subsequent sale to the Committee of Precious Metals and Precious Stones under the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation. The purchase of diamonds and gold by the republic was carried out at prices set by the Government of Yakutia, and the subsequent sale of precious metals and precious stones to the Committee was at world prices. The government of the republic received the right to determine the amount and procedure for collecting fees for natural resources, as well as the amount of fines and compensation for economic damage from environmental pollution. The parties recognized that 11.5% of refined precious metals mined in Yakutia and 20% of jewelry diamonds will be purchased by the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). The Committee of Precious Metals and Precious Stones under the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation will transfer

to the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) 45% of the currency proceeds from the sale of rough and polished diamonds on the foreign market, and will also pay in freely convertible currency 25% of the gold mined in Yakutia shipped to the committee. Thus, the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) had at its disposal 75% of the foreign exchange earnings subject to transfer to the Republican Foreign Exchange Reserve of the Russian Federation, from the volumes of the republic's resources exported against the regional quota, except for diamonds and gold. The Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) could use the diamonds, precious stones and metals at its disposal for the production of jewelry, including with the participation of foreign partners; to form currency funds on the territory of Yakutia. Through the authorized representative of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the Russian Federation in the republic, the Government of Yakutia issued licenses within the agreed quotas. Also attached to it was a secret protocol, according to which, in order to eliminate the consequences of ecosystem violations and compensate for damage associated with the violation of the traditional way of life of the indigenous peoples of the North, a trust fund was formed in the republic through the sale of created diamond reserves in an amount of at least 10%, with this share being determined annually by special agreements. The Government of the Russian Federation also provided compensation for the amount of value added tax within the framework of implemented federal programs. The historical significance of the above agreements was that they made a significant contribution to the implementation of the emerging constitutional-contractual model of the Russian Federation, directly contributed to the development of the economy of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and the growth of the well-being of its population.

The next important event was the conclusion on June 29, 1995 in Moscow of the "Agreement on the delimitation of jurisdiction and powers between state authorities of the Russian Federation and state authorities of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)"[3]. The agreement enshrines the powers of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) to independently resolve a number of issues related to government structure, property, budget, legislation, judicial system, international and foreign economic activity. The day before, the executive authorities of the Russian Federation and the executive authorities of the republic signed 15 intergovernmental agreements on the division of powers in certain areas of joint jurisdiction. It is clear that in the dialogue with the federal center, the Yakut leadership, like the leaders of other subjects, adhered to the tactics of political bargaining. It is obvious that all the achievements of the republic attributed to M.E. Nikolaev are connected with this bargaining. But such a dialogue was possible only during the reign of B.N. Yeltsin. With the coming to power of V.V. Putin, this form of the negotiation process lost its effectiveness. Yeltsin's policy towards the regions was based on the complete provision of freedom of action to regions and republics, as long as this freedom did not threaten the integrity of the state. As in the Ottoman and Habsburg Empires, local privileges were granted in exchange for loyalty.

For 1991-1996 The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) concluded:

- with the federal authorities of the Russian Federation—5 treaties and agreements;
- with the constituent entities of the Russian Federation (with six republics, two territories, 19 regions and cities of federal significance - Moscow and St. Petersburg) - 57 agreements, protocols of cooperation and intentions;
- with neighboring countries—25;
- with foreign countries—34;
- with international organizations and companies—38 agreements, memorandums and protocols of cooperation and intentions.

In total, the republic has concluded 164 treaties, agreements and other documents on a wide range of international cooperation and foreign economic activity [12. p.32].

In 1995, the import of industrial and technical products to Yakutia was carried out from 55 regions of Russia for a total amount of 1,595,954 million rubles. Of this, the share of 12 Siberian regions amounted to 749.510 million rubles, or 47% [10].

When developing the main directions of the republic's foreign economic activity, it was necessary to take into account its geographical location, transport scheme, as well as the urgent

need to import industrial and technical products and consumer goods. In this regard, first of all, the republic's leadership directed its attention to its Far Eastern neighbors, especially since through them the republic reaches the countries of the Asia-Pacific region (APR).

For 1992-1996 The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) has repeatedly intensified its foreign economic activity with foreign partners. Foreign trade turnover in 1996 compared to 1992 increased by 5.5 times, the volume of exports and imports, respectively, by 12.6 and 3.3 times. Receipt of funds in foreign currency to the current accounts of enterprises and organizations in 1994-1996. increased by 1.5 times, and consumption by 2.25 times.[2. c. 89]

In 1996, compared to 1993, the foreign economic turnover of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) increased by 1.45 times, including with European countries - by 1.96, Asian - by 1.12, American - by 4.1 times. Trading partners included 26 countries in Europe, 15 in Asia, 8 in America, 3 in Africa, as well as CIS countries. Of the European countries in terms of trade turnover, the leading places were occupied by Switzerland - 25,091 thousand dollars, Belgium - 24,799 thousand, Germany - 19,083 thousand, Italy - 16,156 thousand, Finland - 8,918 thousand dollars. From Asian countries: Japan - 188669 thousand, Republic of Korea - 26872 thousand, China - 6097 thousand, Israel - 4155 thousand dollars. From the countries of America: USA - 45298 thousand, Canada - 4127 thousand, Mexico - 1605 thousand dollars. From the CIS countries: Ukraine - 12424 thousand, Uzbekistan - 4319 thousand, Kyrgyzstan - 2746 thousand, Kazakhstan - 1800 thousand dollars[2. p.90-91].

### **Conclusion**

All this should be assessed as a real breakthrough of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) into the international integration process, as entry into the system of world civilizations. In a crisis situation, the republic, not having sufficient financial resources, was in dire need of investment from outside to maintain and further develop production and improve it on the basis of new technologies. It is easy to notice that the main laws defining the state-legal status of the republic were adopted before 1993. During this period, the former autonomous republics first "played" on the confrontation between the Union and Russian federal authorities, and after the collapse of the USSR, on the confrontation between the Supreme Council and the President of the Russian Federation. After the collapse of the USSR and the subsequent dispersal of the Supreme Council of the Russian Federation in October 1993, the Russian Federation began to pursue a policy of strengthening and consolidating the central federal government. The adoption of the Constitution of the Russian Federation in December 1993 was the logical conclusion of the work on the gradual "winding down" of the process of sovereignization of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. Tendencies towards the absolutization of federal power began to appear.

The main merit in establishing foreign economic activity, adopting Treaties and agreements regulating the relationship of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) with the federal center belongs to the President of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) M.E. Nikolaev. Therefore, it is quite understandable that the very fact of establishing state sovereignty in the republic is associated with the name of M.E. Nikolaev, who is associated in the mass consciousness with such concepts as "independent state", "democratization of society", etc.

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