

## “Counting on the ‘universality’ of the surgeon is less and less justified”: A.N. Bakulev’s letter to N.S. Khrushchev. September 1955

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**Abstract.** In September 1955, the president of the Academy of Medical Sciences, Academician A.N. Bakulev sent a letter to the first secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, N.S. Khrushchev, in which he stated the need to amend the resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers “On staff standards for hospitals, maternity homes, and clinics”, dated September 17, 1947. He proposed to build in large cities specialized surgical hospitals with various specializations (abdominal emergency surgery, traumatology, cranial trauma, urology, diseases and injuries of the rectum and thoracic surgery). According to him, such measures would help to reduce the number of medical errors and improve the quality of medical care. The party leadership approved Bakulev’s idea, which was intended to see the start of health reforms designed to transform the current system of health care during “late Stalinism”. On the personal order of the secretary of the Central Committee and member of the Presidium of the Central Committee, M.A. Suslov, a note was circulated via the Administrative Department of the CPSU to the Ministry of Health of the USSR, the RSFSR, the Ukrainian SSR and the Belorussian SSR, as well as to prominent Soviet surgeons. However, attempts to enlist grass-roots support and begin a phased reform of the Soviet healthcare met with opposition from the leadership of the Ministry of Health and local party organs, primarily the Moscow city committee of the CPSU. Published documents show that the ministry proposed opening special departments at major hospitals instead of building specialized hospitals. This idea was supported by the first secretary of the Moscow City Party Committee E.A. Furtseva. Her position was decisive on the issue of healthcare reform. The CPSU Central Committee proposed that the regions decide on their own which way to develop health services for the population: build specialized hospitals or open specialized departments in hospitals. Bakulev’s letter and supporting documents were found in the archive of the CPSU apparatus in the department of administrative organs of the Russian State Archive of Contemporary History.

**Keywords:** surgery, hospital, Central Committee, the Ministry of Health of the USSR, A.N. Bakulev, M.A. Suslov, E.A. Furtseva

**For quotation:** Pivovarov N.Y. “Counting on the ‘universality’ of the surgeon is less and less justified”: A.N. Bakulev’s letter to N.S. Khrushchev. September 1955. *History of Medicine*. 2015. Vol. 2. № 4. P. 409–419.

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Khrushchev’s decade was a turning point in the development of Soviet society. During those years, there was a gradual abandonment of the Stalinist command system. The most telling changes occurred within the ruling elite of the party. A decision was made to respect the principle of “collective leadership” and equality of all members in all political decisions. But the key pillars of Stalinism were being gradually destroyed in all areas of life in Soviet society – in agriculture, public safety and, of course, in healthcare.

The liberalization policy increased the number of proposals and opinions, which were recorded in notes and letters to the authorities emanating

from public figures as well as from ordinary citizens. In this regard, the letter published by us from the president of the Academy of Medical Sciences, academic A.N. Bakulev, is illustrative (Fig. 1). The document, dated September 5, 1955, is addressed to the first secretary of the Central Committee (CC) of the CPSU, N.S. Khrushchev, in which it is proposed to reform the healthcare system that developed during “late Stalinism”. The main focus of the academic’s criticism was the results of the infamous decree No.3244 of the USSR Council of Ministers dated September 17, 1947, “On staff standards for hospitals, maternity homes and clinics”.<sup>1</sup>

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Received: 01.12.15

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<sup>1</sup> The USSR Council of Ministers of September 1947, BM and BG, p. 423.

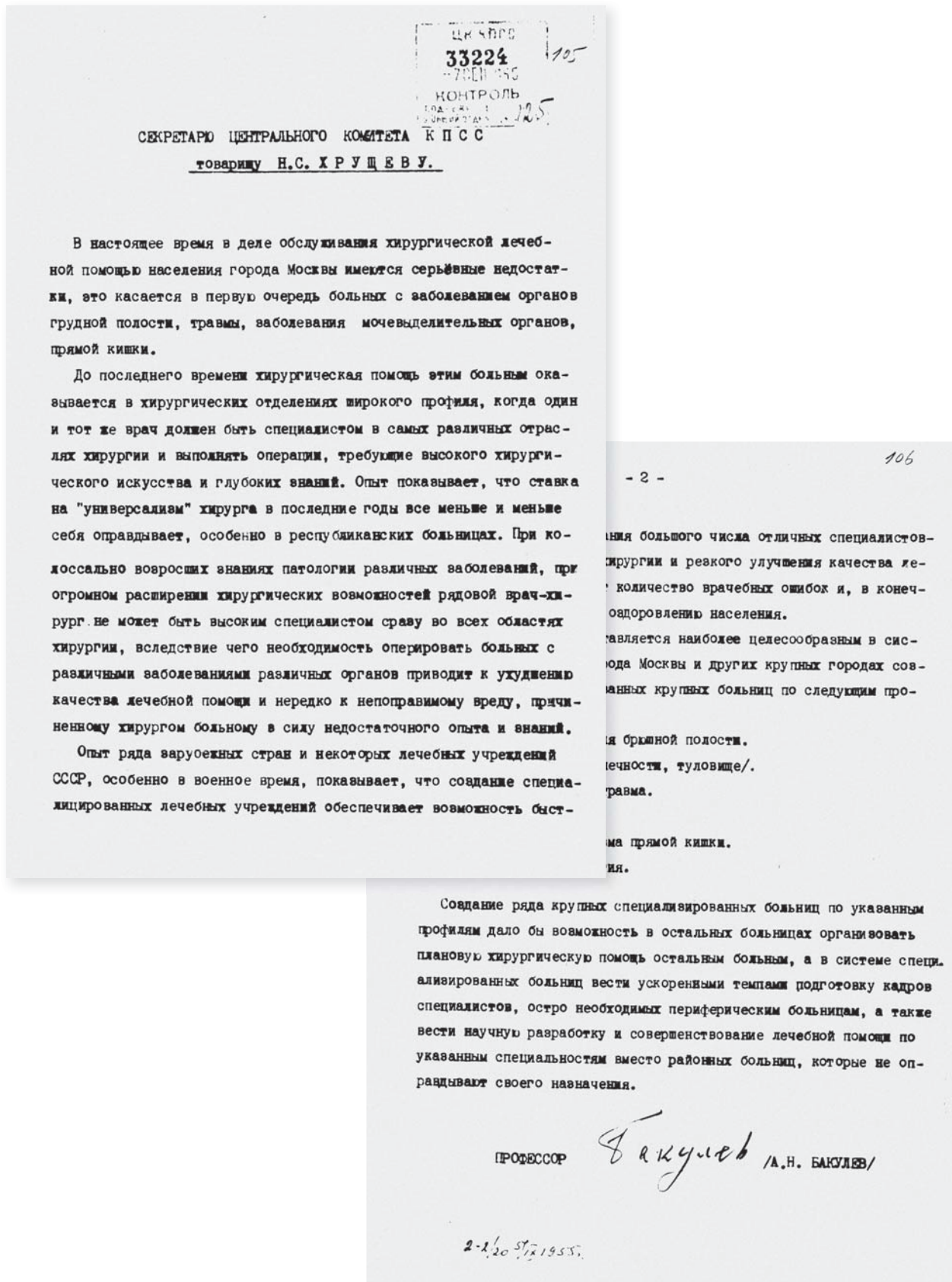


Fig. 1. A.N. Bakulev's letter to N.S. Khrushchev.

It should be recalled that in May 1947, the new minister of health of the USSR, E.I. Smirnov, issued a statement at the conference of health managers and practicing doctors in the 2nd Moscow Medical Institute. He said a large number of errors were taking place in medical practice. Smirnov drew attention to a discrepancy in the diagnoses by doctors at clinics and hospitals. The poor training and low competence of postwar-era physicians were associated with a lack of funding. There was simply not enough money for additional training of doctors, and during the famine of 1946–1947 they could hardly expect an increase in healthcare funding. Smirnov suggested a different approach. He said there needed to be a link between staff at hospitals and clinics, in order for doctors of both institutions to work together. In such a situation, doctors at clinics would eventually learn to give accurate diagnoses and better treat patients. [1, p. 543–544] At the same time, as was noted by researcher Vincent Navarro, Smirnov's ideas from 1947 were quite consistent with international practice, aimed at the integration of public hospitals and clinics [2, p. 76]. In the same year, Smirnov's plan was issued in the form of legislation as the USSR Council of Minister's resolution: The USSR Ministry of Health permitted the unification of outpatient clinics and hospitals. The unification was planned to be completed by 1954.

However, the project's disadvantages quickly became clear. Upon unifying the planning and financial bodies, budget calculations – based on the needs of hospitals – were reflected in the resource base and economic needs of the clinics. In practice, polyclinics began to be financed on the money left over after hospitals' needs were filled. Furthermore, some hospitals were combined with several clinics, including those located far from each other. Polyclinic physicians experienced serious difficulties because of the need to travel long distances between the clinic and the hospital [3, p. 167]. But most importantly (something which in many respects led to the proposed reform) was the number of medical errors did not decrease, but increased. Researcher Christopher Barton wrote that in some cities, hospital specialists overturned the diagnoses of clinic doctors in 20 to 30 percent of cases, even

for diseases such as malaria and rheumatism [1, p. 553–554]. These errors were caused by enormous loads and the inability to obtain additional training. But the number of medical errors in hospitals also increased due to the increased loads and lack of specialization. One and the same surgeon had to be versatile and to conduct operations of entirely different profiles, which hardly reflected favorably on the health of the population.

Bakulev was against such “universalism” among surgeons. He proposed the establishment of specialized hospitals in Moscow and a number of major cities, with the following departments – emergency abdominal surgery, traumatology, cranial trauma, urology, diseases and injuries of the rectum and thoracic surgery. In the same letter, he pointed to the sources that led him to such an idea – “the experience of foreign countries and some medical institutions of the USSR, especially in wartime”. Most likely it is the latter circumstance that played a key role in the letter's preparation. It should be recalled that Bakulev was one of the leading surgeons at the Reserve Front and evacuation hospitals of Moscow during World War II and from 1941 to 1953 he was the chief surgeon of the Medical-Sanitary Department at the Kremlin. During the war, while studying injuries of different parts of Red Army soldiers' bodies, Bakulev developed fundamentally new methods of treatment, in particular – in the early and late treatment of wounds with blind sutures, surgery of the lung, heart and blood vessels. [4, p. 872] During the war, under Bakulev's supervision, surgeons began to specialize in specific areas of injury, which allowed for positive recovery dynamics to be significantly increased. But one must admit that foreign post-war developments prompted the idea of the need for specialization in surgery. From 1945, medical institutions specializing in certain diseases emerged, particularly in the US. For example, a Cleveland clinic gained fame, having begun to specialize in cardiovascular disease in the post-war years. Bakulev closely followed this clinic's activities.

Bakulev's letter, addressed to Khrushchev, was handed to the secretariat of M.A. Suslov, a few months prior to it being reintroduced to the main body of political power in the Soviet Union – the Presidium of the Central Committee of the

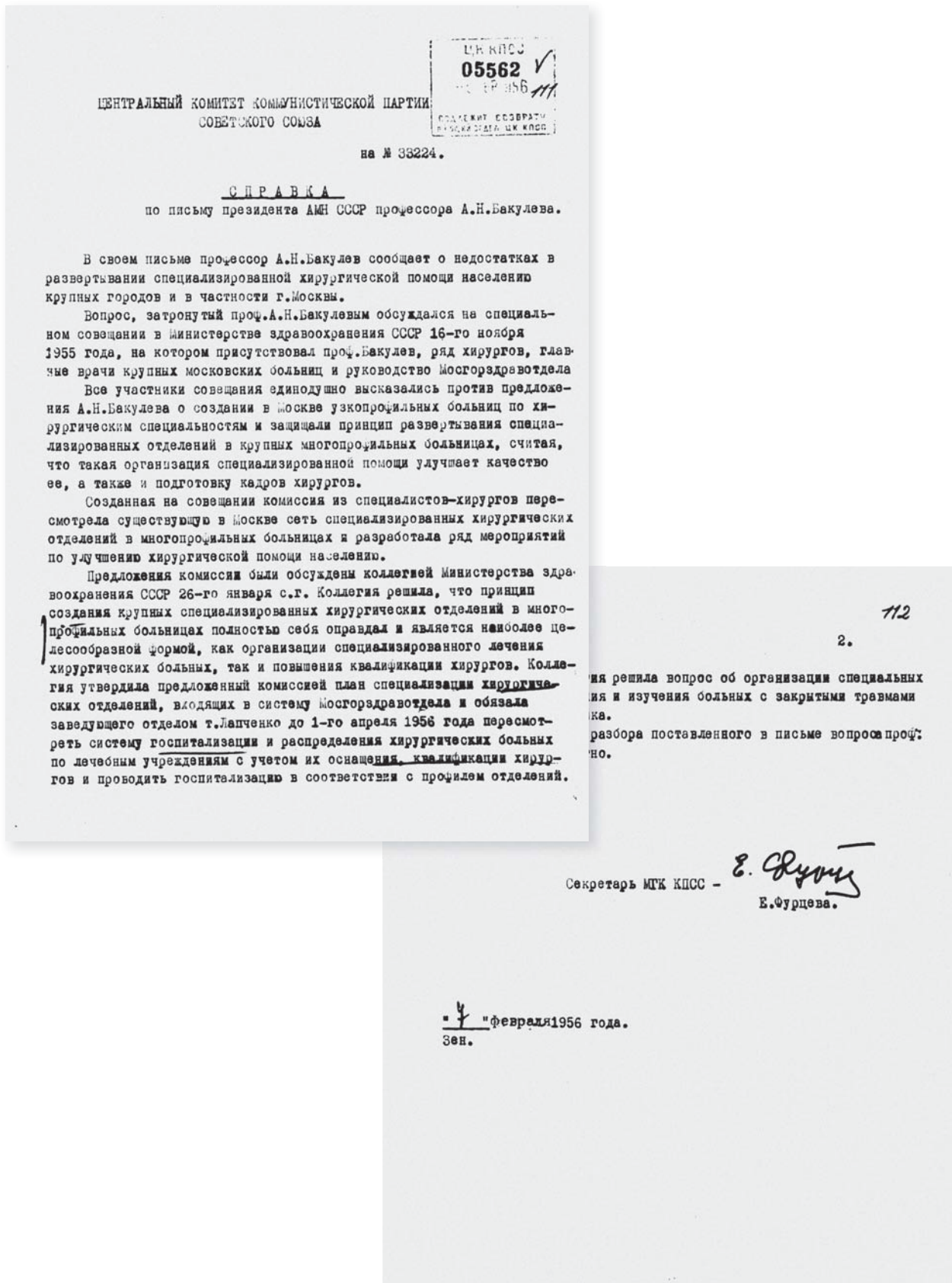


Fig. 2. E.A. Furtseva's official document for the Central Committee of the CPSU.

CPSU.<sup>2</sup> The “grey cardinal of Soviet policy”, as Suslov is often called in historiography, was in charge of ideology and security in the Central Committee. It should be noted that problems of healthcare had always been a focus for Suslov. For example, after Khrushchev’s resignation, at a meeting of the Secretariat of the Central Committee on September 1, 1966, he expressed harsh criticism of the USSR Ministry of Health over the failure to fulfill the Party Central Committee decree on the production of blood substitutes by 1963.<sup>3</sup>

The administrative department of the Central Committee, in charge of the key issues concerning security and defense issues, was directly subordinate to Suslov. By 1955, the department included the following sectors: the army, air force, the navy,<sup>4</sup> state security bodies, the Ministry of the Interior, the courts and the prosecutor’s office<sup>5</sup> and, finally, authorities for public health, social security, physical culture and sports. It was to this last sector that Suslov sent Bakulev’s letter. In accordance with established practice at the Central Committee, the letter was sent to the relevant agencies – the ministries of health of the USSR, of the RSFSR, of the Ukrainian SSR and of the Belorussian SSR, as well as a number of prominent medical figures: N.N. Elansky – head of the department of surgery at the First Medical Institute, and more recently, chief surgeon of the Ministry of Defense, P.A. Kupriyanov – vice-president of the Academy of Medical Sciences and head of the department of surgery at the S.M. Kirov Order of Lenin Military

Medical Academy, G.A. Miterev – chairman of the Executive Committee of the Union of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR and previously first minister of health of the Soviet Union, and E.I. Smirnov, the ideas of whom Bakulev opposed.

At the direction of the Administrative Department of the USSR Ministry of Health, a special meeting was held to discuss Bakulev’s letter on November 16. The meeting was attended by professors, surgeons and doctors of Moscow’s main hospitals, representatives of the Moscow City Party Committee, the Moscow Soviet, as well as the head of the Moscow city health department. All these measures indicate that the Party Central Committee attempted to use Bakulev’s letter as one of the grounds for starting Soviet healthcare reforms. But the Central Committee received a negative reaction from the local party leadership and the USSR Ministry of Health. The letter prepared for Suslov by the acting minister P.L. Shupyk said that “the Ministry of Health does not consider the organization of large single-profile specialized hospitals as appropriate”. The ministry argued for the idea of developing a network of specialized medical departments on the basis of the strongest and largest hospitals. The same idea was supported by the first secretary of the Moscow City Party Committee, and from February 1956, by the secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU – E.A. Furtseva. Apparently, it was her response, recorded a little later in an official document for the Central Committee of the CPSU (Fig. 2), that was decisive. Therefore, it was acknowledged in an administration department note that regions could decide which way to approach healthcare development – to build specialized hospitals or open specialized departments in hospitals.

A complete reform of the Soviet healthcare, created in the era of late Stalinism, was never implemented. However, in some large cities (Moscow, and a little later in Leningrad and Novosibirsk) specialized surgical departments were set up in hospitals, which significantly increased the quality of medical care provided to the population. Bakulev’s letter became a key initiating document in the creation of the Institute of Cardiovascular Surgery, formed a year later on the basis of Surgery Clinic of the 2nd

<sup>2</sup> Suslov was appointed secretary of the Central Committee in 1947, and was elected to the Presidium in October 1952 (from the end of 1952 it became known as the Politburo). But in March 1953, after the death of Stalin, like all the other “young” members and candidate members of the Presidium (among who, for example, were A.B. Aristov, L.I. Brezhnev, A.N. Kosygin, and many others), he was excluded from the Presidium. However, Suslov’s essential qualities (he was a talented administrator and ideologue) were soon in demand by Khrushchev, and in July 1955 he once again became a member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

<sup>3</sup> Fund 4 op. 44., v. 1, pp. 138–139.

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with the decision of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the CPSU on October 1, 1955, the land forces, air force and navy sector were unified into one sector – the Ministry of Defense authorities.

<sup>5</sup> By the same decision of October 1, 1955, the justice department and the prosecutor’s office sector were renamed the sector for prosecution, court and justice authorities.

Moscow Medical Institute. It was namely here that academic Bakulev materialized his idea of surgical specialization.

Bakulev's letter and supporting documents were found in the archive of the Central Committee of the CPSU in the Administration Department. All these materials were in the

former current archive of the CPSU Central Committee, also known as the archive of the General Department of the Central Committee or the VII sector archive (the present-day Russian State Archive of Contemporary History). The documents are published preserving stylistic features. Abbreviations are disclosed in brackets.

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APPENDIX

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**A.N. Bakulev's letter<sup>6</sup> to N.S. Khrushchev<sup>7</sup>**

[Moscow] September 5, 1955

To the secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU  
Comrade N.S. Khrushchev

Currently, there are serious flaws in the surgical therapy service for the Moscow population, which primarily concerns patients with diseases of the chest cavity, injuries, diseases of urinary organs and the rectum.

Until recently, surgical care for these patients was provided in general surgical wards, where the same physician had to be a specialist in various fields of surgery and perform operations that required high levels of surgical skill and deep knowledge. Experience shows that focusing on surgical "universalism" is less and less justified in recent years, especially in national hospitals. With a tremendous increase in knowledge of the pathology of various diseases and with a vast expansion of surgical possibilities, an ordinary surgeon may not be a high-level specialist in all areas of surgery at once. The resulting need to operate on patients with various diseases of different organs leads to a deterioration of medical care quality and often irreparable harm, caused by the surgeon to the patient due to lack of experience and knowledge.

The experience of some foreign countries and some medical institutions of the USSR, especially during wartime, shows that the creation of specialized medical institutions enables rapid staff growth, creating a large number of excellent specialist experts in their surgical fields and a drastic improvement in medical care quality; it reduces the number of medical errors and, ultimately, it contributes to the population's improved health.

In connection with this, the establishment of several large specialized hospitals with the following departments would be most beneficial in the Moscow health system and other major cities:

1. Emergency surgery of the abdominal cavity.
2. Trauma / limbs, trunk /.
3. Traumatic brain injury.
4. Urology.
5. Diseases and injuries of the rectum.
6. Thoracic surgery.

Creating a number of large specialized hospitals with these profiles would allow the remaining hospitals to organize for planned surgical care of other patients, and to conduct accelerated training in the system of specialized hospitals for specialists who are desperately needed for peripheral hospitals, as well as to conduct research to develop and improve medical care on the specified specializations instead of this taking place at regional hospitals, which do not warrant this purpose.

Professor A. N. Bakulev.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Bakulev, Alexander Nikolaevich (1890–1967) – 1955–1956 – president of the Academy of Medical Sciences, academic, director of the Institute of Cardiovascular Surgery, head of the Department of Surgery of the I. V. Stalin Second Moscow Medical Institute, professor.

<sup>7</sup> Khrushchev, Nikita Sergeevich (1894–1971) – 1955–1956 – first secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

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<sup>8</sup> RGANI, fund 5, op. 47, vol. 93, pp. 105–106. Typewritten script. Signature. On the first page of the document in the upper right corner is the stamp of the General Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU with the number 33224 from September 7, 1955. Under A. Bakulev's signature on the second page of the document is the archive index of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the CPSU 2-2/20 and the date – September 5, 1955. The document includes an accompanied note: "1) Comrades M. D. Kovrigina, E.A. Furtseva, M. A. Yasnov, I ask you to consider Comrade Bakulev's proposal. M. Suslov 09.09.1955 2) To Comrade V.V. Zolotukhin, M. Suslov 09.09.1955" [RGANI, fund 5, F. 5, op. 47, v. 93, p. 104].

**P.L. Shupik's letter<sup>9</sup> to M.A. Suslov**

The USSR Ministry of Health.  
November 28, 1955  
No. 7174s  
Moscow

Secret  
Copies No. ...

To the secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU  
Comrade P.L. Shupik to M.A. Suslov

The USSR Ministry of Health reports that a letter of the president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, Professor A.N. Bakulev on the shortcomings in the organization of surgical care for the population of Moscow was discussed at a special meeting with the deputy minister<sup>10</sup>, which was attended by secretary of the Moscow Soviet, Comrade P.S. Rodionov, representative of the Moscow City Party Committee, Comrade Litvintseva, head of the Moscow city health department Comrade N.S. Lapchenko<sup>11</sup>, a number of prominent professor-surgeons and chief physicians of Moscow hospitals, and Professor A.N. Bakulev.

At the meeting, it was noted that the state of surgical care in Moscow requires considerable improvement. However, Professor Bakulev's proposal cannot be fully approved.

The Ministry of Health does not consider it appropriate to organization large single-profile specialized hospitals.

It would be more correct to organize large specialized units (100 beds or more) based on the strong multi-profile hospitals, these hospitals should have a total number of beds ranging from 600 to 800.

The presence of large specialized units will ensure the provision of high-quality care to patients and allow physicians to train personnel in relevant fields.

The Ministry of Health could not agree with the position expressed by Professor Bakulev that the district hospitals of Moscow do not warrant this purpose.

There are a significant number of shortcomings in the activities of these hospitals, but mostly they provide for the day-to-day needs of the region. District hospitals should be strengthened, in some of them the composition of the medical departments should be reviewed and referral of patients for hospital treatment should be regulated, etc.

The ministry's conclusions on the proposals of Professor Bakulev are in full agreement with the opinion of the participants of that meeting.

The USSR Ministry of Health entrusted a commission composed of the head of the Moscow health department Comrade Lapchenko, chief surgeons of the ministries of health of the USSR and the RSFSR and Moscow City Health Department with enlisting the necessary specialists, as well as the commission, elected by the Board of Surgeons Society, to develop proposals for the planning and deployment of a network of hospitals in Moscow – the upcoming construction of a larger number of new healthcare facilities.

The commission's proposals will be discussed at a meeting of the Collegium of the USSR Ministry of Health.

Acting Minister  
of Health of the USSR  
P. Shupik<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Shupik Platon Lukich (1907–1986) – 1955–1956 – deputy minister of healthcare of the USSR, minister of healthcare of the USSR.

<sup>10</sup> Records of the meeting were not found.

<sup>11</sup> Lapchenko, Nikifor Sergeevich (1904–1983) – 1955–1956 – head of the Moscow City Health Department.

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<sup>12</sup> RGANI, fund 5, op. 47., vol. 93, pp. 107–108. Typewritten script produced on a printed form. Signature. On the first page of the document in the upper right corner is the stamp of the General Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU with the number 44262 from November 29, 1955. Close to the stamp number is handwritten notation "v".



**Official document of the Administration Department  
of the Central Committee of the CPSU**

[Moscow]

January, [14], 1956

Central Committee of the CPSU

Comrade A.N. Bakulev reported on the unsatisfactory organization of specialized surgical care for the population of Moscow. He proposes to create in Moscow and other major cities single-profile specialized hospitals to provide skilled medical care to patients with injuries to the skull, limbs, abdominal organs, and other diseases that require special treatment.

The USSR Ministry of Health reviewed the proposal with the participation of Comrade Bakulev, prominent specialist surgeons and chief physicians of Moscow hospitals. The discussion was attended by staff of the Moscow City Party Committee and Executive Committee of the City Council. The board of the All-Union Scientific Society of Surgeons discussed the issue.

Raising Comrade Bakulev's issue on the need for a radical improvement in specialized medical care for the population has been recognized as timely.

To solve this problem, the USSR Ministry of Health considers it appropriate to create large specialized departments on the foundations of general hospitals.

The presence of large specialized units in general hospitals will give an opportunity to provide qualified medical care to patients and raise physician-surgeons' qualifications, in accordance with medical-science developments and its practice in all areas.

The department of administrative bodies of the CPSU in the consideration of this issue consulted with the ministers of health of the RSFSR, the Belarusian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR, comrades S.V. Kurashov,<sup>13</sup> I.A. Insarov<sup>14</sup> and V.D. Bratus<sup>15</sup>, and with national prominent surgeons N.N. Elansky<sup>16</sup>,

P.A. Kupriyanov<sup>17</sup> and comrades E.I. Smirnov<sup>18</sup> and G.A. Miterev.<sup>19</sup>

We consider it appropriate to support Comrade Bakulev's proposal for the improvement of specialized surgical care to the population through the establishment of specialized hospitals and the Ministry of Health's point of view on the organization of specialized departments at major hospitals. The choice of one or the other option depends on the specific healthcare situation in a particular city or region – the availability of specialists in this or that area of surgery and the number of hospital beds.

Currently, the USSR Ministry of Health is reviewing the existing specialized surgical departments network in Moscow, Leningrad and other major cities for the purpose of enlargement and developing measures to improve the supply of equipment and tools to these departments.

We have informed Comrade Bakulev of this.

Deputy head of the Administration Department  
of the Central Committee of the CPSU

Zolotukhin<sup>20</sup>

Deputy secretary of the Administration  
Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU

Danilov<sup>21 22</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Kurashov, Stepan Vladimirovich (1910–1965) – 1955–1956 – the RSFSR minister of health.

<sup>14</sup> Insarov, Ivan Anisimovich (1903–1983) – 1955–1956 – the Belarusian SSR minister of health.

<sup>15</sup> Bratus, Vasily Dmitriyevich (1917–2008) – state and party leader, doctor of medical sciences (1962), professor (1963), corresponding member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (1974), honored worker of science (1988). 1955–1956 – minister of health of the USSR.

<sup>16</sup> Elansky, Nikolai Nikolaevich (1894–1964) – 1955–1956 – chief surgeon of the Ministry of Defense, head of the department of surgery at the First Moscow Medical Institute, professor.

<sup>17</sup> Kupriyanov, Petr Andreyevich (1893–1963) – 1955–1956 – vice-president of the Academy of Medical Sciences, academic, head of the department of surgery at the S.M. Kirov Order of Lenin Military Medical Academy, professor.

<sup>18</sup> Smirnov, Efim Ivanovich (1904–1989) – 1955–1956 – academic, medical service lieutenant general, the chief of the Main Military Medical Directorate of the Ministry of Defense.

<sup>19</sup> Miterev, Georgiy Andreevich (1900–1977) – 1955–1956 – chairman of the Executive Committee of the Union of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, doctor of medical sciences, professor.

<sup>20</sup> Zolotukhin, Valentin Vasilyevich (1907–1976) – 1955–1956 – the first deputy head of the Administrative Department of the CPSU Central Committee.

<sup>21</sup> Danilov, Boris Petrovich (1918–1970) – 1955–1956 – head of the public health sector, social security, physical education and sports administration of the Administration Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

<sup>22</sup> RGANI, fund 5, op. 47, d. 93, p. 109–109. Typewritten script. Signatures. On the first page in the bottom left corner of the manuscript is a handwritten notation: "Archive. 17/05/1956. Gorbunov". On the second page beneath the signatures is a typewritten notation "for Nos. 33224 and 44262" and a handwritten notation "16.01.1956".

**E.A. Furtseva's<sup>23</sup> official document for the Central Committee of the CPSU**

Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

[Moscow] February 7, 1956

On No. 33224.

Official document

Regarding the letter of the president of the USSR Academy  
of Medical Sciences, Professor A.N. Bakulev

In his letter, Professor A.N. Bakulev reported on the shortcomings in the development of specialized surgical care for the population of large cities and especially Moscow.

The issue raised by Professor A.N. Bakulev was discussed at a special meeting of the USSR Ministry of Health on November 16, 1955, which was attended by Professor Bakulev, a number of surgeons, head physicians of large hospitals and the management Moscow City Health Department. All participants unanimously opposed A. Bakulev's proposal for the establishment in Moscow of narrow-profiled hospitals for surgical specializations and defended the principle of developing specialized departments in large general hospitals, believing that such organization of specialized care improves its quality, as well as the training of surgeons and staff.

The committee of specialist surgeons established at the meeting reviewed Moscow's existing specialized surgical department network at general hospitals in a number of activities designed to improve the surgical care.

The proposals were discussed at the collegium of the USSR Ministry of Health on January 26 this year. The collegium decided that the principle of creating large specialized surgical departments in general hospitals was fully justified and was the most appropriate form for organizing specialized treatment for surgical patients and for improving surgical skills. The collegium confirmed the commission's proposed plan for specialized surgical departments to be included in the Moscow City Health Department system and ordered the head of the department, Comrade Lapchenko, to revise by April 1, 1956, the system of hospitalization and distribution of surgical patients among medical

institutions, taking into account their equipment and surgeons' qualifications, and conduct admissions in accordance with the departments' profiles.

At the same time, the collegium ruled on the issue of organizing special treatment and diagnosis of patients with closed injuries of the skull and spinal cord.

Professor A.N. Bakulev was informed of the results of the analysis of issues contained in his letter.

Secretary of the Moscow City Party  
Committee of the CPSU

E. Furtseva<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Furtseva, Ekaterina Alekseevna (1910–1974) – 1955–1956 – first secretary of the Moscow City Party Committee, secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

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<sup>24</sup> RGANI, fund 5, op. 47, vol. 93, p. 111–112. Typewritten script. Signature. On the first page of the document in the upper right corner is the stamp of the General Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU with the number 05562 from Wednesday, February 8, 1956. Close to the stamp number is handwritten notation "v". Also in the top left corner there is a notation "MS" (obviously – Mikhail Suslov) and the date – "8.02". E. A. Furtseva's official document is accompanied by a covering note: "To the General Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU. Please attach to the official document, produced on 14.01-1956, No. 33224, the Moscow City Party Committee reply to Comrade A. N. Bakulev's letter." The accompanying note was signed by the head of the sector of the Administration Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Danilov, and the instructor in the same department, Shishova. [RGANI, fund 5, op. 47, vol. 93, p. 113]

**N. I. Bobrovnikov's<sup>25</sup> letter to M. A. Suslov**

[Moscow]  
Copies No. 1

April 3, 1956  
Secret

From the Secretary of the Moscow City Party Committee of the CPSU  
To Comrade M. A. Suslov

As per your instructions, the Moscow Council Executive Committee considered the proposals of the president of the Academy of Medical Sciences A.N. Bakulev contained in a letter addressed to you.

In order to better serve the population of Moscow with specialized medical care, the Executive Committee of the Moscow Council City Executive Committee:

– instructed the head of the ambulance station to hospitalize emergency and elective surgical, trauma, urological and other patients in hospitals with specialized departments;

– organized special surgical departments for the treatment of patients with injuries of the skull and spine at the Sklifosovsky Institute with

100 beds, the Botkin Hospital with 60 beds and hospital No. 13 with 25 beds;

– organized a special septic surgical department with 50 beds for patients with acute and chronic periproctitis and other diseases of the rectum in the October Revolution City Hospital No. 18;

– is considering the opening of a department with 200 beds at a suburban hospital for follow-up care for patients after severe trauma diseases.

Appendix: on two pages pro. No.-179/165

Chairman of the Executive Committee of  
Moscow Council

N. Bobrovnikov.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Bobrovnikov, Nikolai Ivanovich (1909–1992) – 1955–1956 – first deputy chairman and chairman of the Moscow City Council.

<sup>26</sup> RGANI, fund 5, op. 47, vol. 93, p. 114. Typewritten script. Signature. On the first page of the document in the upper right corner is the stamp of the General Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU with the number 13090 from April 4, 1956. Under the number is a handwritten notation “v”. In the lower left corner there is a notation “№174/68c”, numbers written by hand. N. I. Bobrovnikov's letter is accompanied by a covering note: “To the General Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU. Please attach the answer of the executive committee of the Moscow Soviet of Workers' Deputies on 03/09-56, regarding the letter of the President of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR Comrade Bakulev, to the official document produced on 14/01-56 (see 33224 – the Academy of Medical Sciences – Bakulev)”, signed by the head of sector of the Administration Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU Danilov and instructor in the same department Shishova of April 27, 1956. [RGANI, fund 5, op. 47, vol. 93, p 115].