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ACADEMICIAN V.I. VERNADSKYI ABOUT THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY

Summary

The article describes views of a famous academician V.I. Vernadskyi on the role of science in the development of social and political relationships. He was particularly concerned about the scientific support of agricultural development, as an important condition for increasing the efficiency of agricultural production.

Obviously, it was no coincidence that V.I. Vernadskyi was an initiator and an organizer of the Agricultural Scientific Committee of Ukraine in November 1918. In fact, the Committee became a leading methodological and coordinating centre of the national agricultural science. When heading this institution, V.Vernadskyi took part

in designing of a regulation, a structure, and a staffing plan of the Committee. He elaborated the main directions for the development of agricultural science in Ukraine, the expansion of research in a number of agricultural sectors. In its scientific and organizational essence, as well as according to its main functions, the Agricultural Scientific Committee was actually a forerunner of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

In his writings, V. Vernadskyi substantiated and made practical efforts for the organization of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. He considered the Academy of Sciences as a special social institution, revealed the importance of the academic scientific organization, showed the advantages and progressive features of academies as important research centres. He believed that the Academy should be based on democratic principles, have broad autonomy and independence. He insisted that it was necessary to strive for the introduction of scientific-based training, the education of future professional staff who would take care of the development of science, including the agricultural.

An important page in the scientific heritage of Vernadskyi are his works on the history and the philosophy of science. In some works he wrote about his attitude to the development of science in monarchical Russia, during the rule of the Provisional Government, and after the Bolsheviks' coming to power in Russia and Ukraine. In this context, Vernadskyi's work «Science in the era of the revolutionary crisis» is still relevant. Standing up for the comprehensive development of science in many fields of knowledge, he argued that scientific institutions and high schools have their own lives, their own tasks and goals, regardless the forms of government in which they were

V. Vernadskyi was concerned with the fate of scientists who had been neglected by the state, and only through their own enthusiasm they made efforts for the development of science, including the agricultural. He thought that in the conditions of the revolutionary crisis, when the old forms of state and social life were destroyed, the condition of scientists and workers of the high school was extremely difficult, and sometimes tragic. Scientists had to preserve the scientific heritage of their

predecessors, to ensure the continuity of the scientific process. They should also increase the intensity of scientific work and organization of higher education in the times of revolutionary upheavals, because both of these aspects of the human spiritual activity required continuous development and improvement.

According to the scientist's opinion, with all the danger of revolutionary upheaval to science and high school, this period opens up new opportunities and new ways for scientific activity and the high school, which are closed to them during ordinary periods of public life. The achievements of scientific research in revolutionary times will become crucial in the future, especially when these fields of human activity will be supported by the state.

Analyzing the activities of the Soviet government in the development of science, including in the field of agriculture, V. Vernadskyi noted that in the ruling circles of the new government there were figures who understood the importance of science and facilitated the organization of a network of scientific institutions. The state allocated funds for expansion of scientific research, whenever possible, improved living conditions of scientists.

Nevertheless, Vernadskyi noted that government agencies interfered in the activities of scientific institutions, contrary to the basic principles of freedom and autonomy of scientific work. Yet, the Soviet government has created favorable conditions for the activities of scientists. The downside was that research institutions concentrated mainly in urban areas. This, to some extent, influenced the development of scientific research in the periphery.

Key words: *academician V.I. Vernadskyi, revolutionary crisis, scientific institutions, agricultural field, research work.*