

## UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

**Date of Elections:** June 16, 1974

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of the USSR, the Supreme Soviet, consists of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities.

The Soviet of the Union is composed of 767 members elected by citizens of the USSR voting by election districts, on the basis of one Deputy for every 300,000 inhabitants.

The Soviet of Nationalities is composed of 750 members elected by citizens of the USSR, voting by Union Republics, Autonomous Republics, Autonomous Regions and National Areas on the basis of 32 Deputies from each Union Republic, 11 Deputies from each Autonomous Republic, 5 members from each Autonomous Region and one Deputy from each National Area.

Both Houses are elected for a term of 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens of either sex who have reached the age of 18 have the right to vote, with the exception of prisoners and persons who have been legally certified insane.

Electoral registers are drawn up at the level of cities, city districts, townships and villages by the corresponding executive committee of Soviets; they are revised before each election. Voting is not made compulsory by law.

Every elector who has reached the age of 23 is eligible for candidature to the Supreme Soviet. If elected, he carries on his regular profession.

Candidates may be nominated by central, republican, regional and district bodies of public organizations (party, trade union, cooperative, youth, etc.), by societies of working people, by general meetings of employees of enterprises and offices, by farmers at State farms, and by servicemen in military units. Nomination is marked by a discussion of the ability of the proposed candidates. Pre-election conferences are held in each constituency, at which representatives of the working people and public organizations reach agree-

ment to support a single candidate from amongst those nominated. Candidates who do not get the support of the pre-election constituency conference withdraw their candidatures, or have them withdrawn, by the organizations that put them forward. The best candidates are thus selected and presented to the electorate by the Communist Party and the organizations working together. In this way, candidates are assured massive popular support.

Deputies of the Supreme Soviet are elected from single-member constituencies by majority vote. To be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes cast in his constituency by at least one-half of the registered voters.

Should a seat of the Supreme Soviet become vacant between general elections, a by-election is held within 2 months in the constituency concerned.

### General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

On March 23, 1974, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet fixed election day for June 16, 1974. In accordance with Regulations, the electoral campaign must begin no later than 2 months before election day.

Pursuant to the popular mode of nominations, individual contestants for parliamentary seats were screened at local levels in a process lasting several months. Due note was taken therein to designate women, non-party candidates and persons of diverse vocations who would enhance the representativeness of the Supreme Soviet. By June 10, one candidate had been chosen for each one of the 1517 constituencies.

In an address published in all Soviet newspapers on May 18, 1974, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union called for a massive turnout of voters, observing that such participation would prove a vivid expression of approval and support for the domestic and foreign policies of the Party and the Soviet Government. In assessing its record of achievements since the previous elections (1970), it stressed that the course worked out by the Party in domestic policy, the Ninth Five-Year Plan and the Peace Programme adopted by the Party Congress were being successfully carried out. Advances made in agriculture and the rise in *per capita* incomes were among developments underlined.

Among members of the Communist Party's Politburo, Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, deemed detente and peaceful co-existence in foreign affairs as significant issues of the campaign, and Mr. Alexander Shelepin, chairman of the Soviet Trades Union Council, felt that while Soviet efforts had laid a good basis for detente, the forces opposing it were still active and "our party will do everything to strengthen our defence capacity". Mr. Andrei

Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, praised recent success in foreign policy and emphasized the paramount importance of Soviet-American detente and of ongoing negotiations. A number of speeches, such as the above, were given wide coverage in the mass media during the course of the campaign.

All candidates were elected on June 16. Of these, 421 (27,8 %) were without party affiliation. At its summer session, the new Supreme Soviet was to meet in order to approve the formation of the new Government.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Supreme Soviet

Number of registered voters . . . . .	161,724,222
Voters. . . . .	161,689,612 (99.98 %)

*Soviet of the Union*

	Votes obtained by Candidates		Negative Votes	Void Ballot Papers	Number elected
	Numbers	%			
SFSR of Russia . . . . .	88,965,136	99.68	286,514	17	423
SSR of Ukraine . . . . .	33,913,825	99.95	16,686		150
SSR of Kazakh . . . . .	7,712,219	99.83	13,001	2	39
SSR of Byelorussia . . . . .	6,166,609	99.95	3,215		28
SSR of Uzbek . . . . .	6,163,173	99.93	4,229	<b>a</b>	35
SSR of Georgia. . . . .	2,946,871	99.99	380	(i)	15
SSR of Azerbaijan . . . . .	2,647,762	99.98	549	4	15
SSR of Moldavia . . . . .	2,350,773	99.95	1,160		11
SSR of Lithuania . . . . .	2,135,628	99.98	416	5	10
SSR of Latvia . . . . .	1,734,917	99.96	681	4	7
SSR of Kirghiz. . . . .	1,609,576	99.87	2,096	1	9
SSR of Tajik. . . . .	1,504,984	99.92	1,201		5
SSR of Armenia . . . . .	1,386,568	99.98	336		7
SSR of Turkmen . . . . .	1,132,007	99.83	803		6
SSR of Estonia. . . . .	985,911	99.86	1,397	<u>19</u>	4
USSR. . . . .	161,355,959	99.79	332,664	84	7<17

*Soviet of Nationalities*

	Votes obtained by Candidates		Negatives Votes	„ .. Papers	Number elected
	Numbers				
15 Union Republics. . . . .	161,443,605	99.85	245,750	89	480
20 Autonomous Republics. . . . .	12,146,943	99.68	38,661	4	220
8 Autonomous Regions . . . . .	1,187,822	99.72	3,293	1	40
10 National Areas . . . . .	667,085	99.72	1,892	—	<b>10</b>
					750

*2. Distribution of Parliamentarians according to Professional Category*

Factory Workers. . . . .	498
Collective farmers. . . . .	271
Intellectuals. . . . .	748
	1,517

*3. Distribution of Parliamentarians according to Sex*

	Soviet of the Union	Soviet of Nationalities	Total
Men. . . . .	533	509	1,042
Women. . . . .	234	241	475
	767	750	1,517

*4. Distribution of Parliamentarians according to Age Group*

23-30. . . . .	279
31-40. . . . .	280
41-50. . . . .	426
51-60. . . . .	331
Over 60 years. . . . .	<b>201</b>
	1517