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LINGUO-CULTURAL SITUATION IN GEORGIA: IMPERIAL SCHEMES AND WAYS OF THEIR EVASION

The prime mission of the Georgian people in the post Soviet period is to strengthen its statehood. Considering the experiences of the modern states of the world we must fulfill the two most urgent demands to this direction:

1. Abandoning the ideological schemes imposed by the Soviet empire and restoring the lingual-cultural unity of the Georgian people;

2. Integration of various ethnic groups living in Georgia to the unified state.

Unfortunately, in the present day Georgia we witness the activation of forces eager to separate the country in the linguo-cultural aspects and the territory of Georgia into federal units. This is not a new phenomenon. It began in the 19th century and became particular active in the 70-80s when the Tsarist Russia exerted harsh power influence on the Georgian people starting with attempts of excluding the Georgian language from the historic churches, particularly, in Abkhazia, Svaneti, and Megrelia.

By the order of the Russian empire scholars were given special orders to prove by any means that Megrelian and Svan dialects are independent languages and after "determining" the statuses of the "languages" the next task was to replace Georgian with Russian. To this same purpose served "the questionnaire for the Speakers of Kartvelian Languages" spread by the Arn. Chikobava Institute of Linguistics and of some officials from the Ministry of Education of Georgia in 2007. The authors of the questionnaire meddle in the spheres of the Georgian Church and once again live up Vostorgov's wish to disintegrate the Church and eliminate the cultural unity of the Georgians.

Holy Fathers of the Georgian Church and the ancient annalists emphasize that that the foundation of the Georgians' cultural unity had been laid long before the advent of Christianity, the facts of which are approved by the evidences that King Farnavaz not only established the Georgian alphabet and literacy to create unified Georgian cultural space but also the foundation of this culture rested on the Georgian language presenting itself the only common language of the people, of the state and culture.

The Holy Apostles and the Saint Nino-the Enlightener saw the same language and cultural situation at their arrival in Georgia. "All the Georgian tribes, and Megrelians and Svans among them, had the same heathen religion and this religion had the same terminology and the same Georgian language" (Iv. Javakhishvili).

All the Georgian tribes participated equally in the creation and development of the Georgian culture, hence the manipulation for declaring Megrelians and Svans as uncultured people possessing unwritten languages is a historical unfairness as their ancestors had created their culture and national literature since the depth of thousands of centuries and have been using them in their everyday life and for worshipping to pagan deities or serving to the Christian faith.