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SUMMARY

The erstwhile extreme concentration of attention on the Volga-Don Canal has been considerably reduced except in the Ukraine where it is still heavily publicized. Usual heavy publicity also is accorded to Air Force Day which this year coincides with the opening of the Canal (27 July). Railwaymen's Day (28 July) gets little attention beyond the traditional talk on that occasion by the Deputy Minister of the Railroad Industry.

The output of agriculture has been growing in volume and intensity, as the harvesting area is expanding northward from the Ukraine to the southern oblasts of the RSFSR. Official attention is now concentrated on speedy harvesting, scheduled grain deliveries to the State, and prevention of grain losses. Soft-pedaled are a variety of lesser agricultural shortcomings such as inadequate farm-building construction, lagging rural housing program, insufficient care of livestock, and so forth. Discussion of fodder procurement, hitherto a target of frequent criticism, is now confined to a comparatively small area, mostly in Kazakhstan. The chronic inefficiency in the utilization and maintenance of farm machinery still claims considerable attention.

Much of the discussion of Party activities appears in the context of agricultural propaganda. There are scattered references to the familiar lack of "intraparty democracy" (vnutripartijnaya demokratia), aversion to criticism and the "family-circle atmosphere" (semeistvennost), which are said to breed corruption, nepotism, and an assortment of related anti-State activities.

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