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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF INFORMATION 22 July - 4 Aug. 1952

SUBJECT INDICATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL VULNERABILITIES

HOW PUBLISHED

DATE DIST.

WHERE PUBLISHED

NO. OF PAGES 7

DATE PUBLISHED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE

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SOURCE Monitored Broadcasts

CPW Report No. 46-A -- USSR

(22 July - 4 August 1952)

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INDUSTRY

A long STALINSKOYE ZNAMYA editorial (22 July) declares that the production of building materials, particularly brick, in Ryazan Oblast has deteriorated to such an extent as to make the successful outcome of the plan highly doubtful. The plan for unkilned brick is already a failure while the production of the other varieties of brick is 5 million units short of the specified figure. This situation, says the paper, has been brought about by a combination of "low labor productivity" and frequent breakdowns of machinery, and there is no excuse for either. The available machines are said to be utilized from 30% to 40% of their capacity, new equipment is not installed on time, and not a single factory has yet introduced the three-shift work day.

Another irritant is the poorly-organized factory transportation system. Summarizing its discussion of this branch of the oblast industry, the paper says that nothing short of a "radical revision of the leadership" will reestablish order and efficiency in the production of bricks the demand for which is constantly growing. The editorial winds up with an appeal to the brick workers' Communist conscience and Soviet patriotism: "You have no right to lag while the other branches of economy and culture of Ryazan Oblast progress at a fast tempo."

Despite the "really huge successes" achieved by the Kostroma Oblast industries, says SEVERNAYA PRAVDA editorially on 22 July, violations of labor discipline continue as heretofore. Such violations are said to be still unchecked at the enterprises of transport machine-building and other branches of industry. Nor are they uncommon at the Kostroma textile machine-building plant, the Lenin Flax Kombinat, the Sharya industrial logging camp and other places. What happens to production when management and labor "do not have the interests of the State at heart" (ne v dukhe sobludeniya interesov gosudarstva) is told in a Kuzmichev article carried by PRAVDA on 22 July (not broadcast). The Kharkov Transsvyaz plant (telephone apparatus and other communication facilities), says the author, is a typical example of low labor discipline and poor performance:

The trouble is that efficient daily leadership in the plant is replaced by conference hustle-bustle, by writing numerous orders, long letters and directives.

Russian version:

Delo v tom, chto na zavode Transsvyaz povsednevnoye operativnoye rukovodstvo podmeneno zasedatelskoy suyetney, izdaniem mnogochislennik prikazov, prostrannikh pism i rasporyazheniy.

The monthly production plans, continues Kuzmichev, are left unfulfilled till the last few days when the long condemned "shturmovshchina" (fits-and-jerks) methods is resorted to in order to meet the production deadline. The result is that uncompleted jobs are frequently included in the plan-fulfillment figures to cover up the existing shortcomings. The plant leadership is also reported to exert pressure on the Technical Control Department to "approve" defective goods for shipment to consumers even though it is no secret to anyone that such products will sooner or later have to be junked. The Kharkov Rayon Party Committee whose duty it is to supervise the operations of that plant is, in Kuzmichev's words, "manifesting an amazing ignorance of the situation at the Transsvyaz plant" (obnaruzhivayet porazitelnuyu neosvedomlennost o polozhenii del na zavode Transsvyaz).

A Home Service broadcast of 31 July quotes IZVESTIA as urging the immediate elimination of the serious shortcomings in the country's communications services. More rigid control is urged over the work of telephone operators, telegraphists, sorting clerks, and post men who, it is implicitly admitted, are having a difficult time "maintaining the enormous communications machine."

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The slow preparations of the food industry enterprises for the coming season "are arousing great alarm" (vyzavayut bolshuyu trevogu), according to KURSKAYA PRAVDA of 26 July. The paper's version of the situation is that great losses of raw material and higher production costs are inevitable if something is not done to improve the preparations for the coming production season. There is no specific reference to the type or location of the mentioned industrial units beyond the hint that their continued unenviable performance will have an adverse effect on the average consumer. STAVROPOLSKAYA PRAVDA (31 July) is somewhat more specific in its reference to the consumer who, it says, deserves a better break. The trouble with some of the plant managers, particularly in the footwear industry, says the paper, is that they are not responsible to the "demands of the consumers," on the one hand, and are indifferent to the "honor of the factory trademark," on the other. The output of the Stavropol Krai furniture industry, for example, is so poor that the people prefer to buy furniture imported from other parts of the country. Large stocks of shoes have already accumulated at the warehouses of the Central Footwear Distribution Agency (Glavobuvshyt) and on the shelves of the krai shoe stores, but there is no demand for them. The same is said to be true of the output of the Pyatigorsk Garment Factory:

The production of bad quality products is a crime.
The producers of poor products must be punished in
accordance with the decree of the Presidium of the
Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR.

A letter to Stalin from the industrial and transportation workers of the Tartar ASSR (30 July) familiarly presents a long list of impressive production targets, ranging from higher efficiency per worker and better use of machinery to the training of additional professional workers and the production of above-plan cigarettes. The only shortcoming referred to by the Tartar workers is probably the most significant: "A great deal still remains undone in the matter of improving the material and cultural services of the toiling people." (Daleko ne vse eshche sdelano dlia uluchshenia materialno-bytovogo i kulturnogo obsluzhivania trudiashchikhnya).

A similar letter to the leader from all the railway workers of the Soviet Union (3 August) contains promises "not to be satisfied with the achievements already made." An indirect admission that the mentioned successes do not apply to every field of railroad operations is seen in the pledge to eliminate the shortcomings that still exist:

The railroad workers realize full well that many shortcomings still exist in the work of the railway transport. Much work is still needed to fulfill the freight-hauling plan for every type of goods, and to eliminate infringements of regulations regarding technical exploitation.

Admitted also is the fact that adherence to timetables is something to be achieved in the future, and that not all railroad enterprises are keeping up with the plan in general, and the "capital construction plan" (plan kapitalnogo stroitelstva) in particular.

Although the traditional letters to Stalin are usually motivated by actual or potential shortcomings, the latter are generally played down or referred to in passing. The achievements, actual or promised, on the other hand, are so phrased as to make the admitted failings small by comparison. Thus a previous article on the railroad situation by Chumachenko (Dictation to provincial press, 27 July) goes into more detail than was offered in the letter to Stalin. Some of the railroad lines, he says, are operating behind the freight-hauling plan, particularly in regard to timber, building materials, cement, grain, and cotton. This failure is especially pronounced on the Gorkovskaya, Severo-Kavkazskaya, Sverdlovskaya, and Tomskaya lines. Referring to other features of railroad operations, Chumachenko says that low labor discipline is making itself felt in a number of ways including the safekeeping of the freight itself:

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Gaps still exist in loading operations, and there is insufficient adherence to the schedules of engine and other brigades. Discipline is still lacking Large reserves remain unused at some engine repair works. Some tolerate outdated production technology At least half of the daily loading program should be carried out during the night. Grain should be well guarded during loading and transportation.

The quantitative output of the coal-mining industry, says PRAPOR PEREMOGI (29 July), is an essential feature of the plan but the production of high-grade coal is no less important. The paper notes that the continuing race for favorable quantitative indices tends to deflect attention from quality, and the result is often a substandard product. Reiterating the official line, however, the editorial also cautions against a switch to the other extreme by urging the familiar quantity-quality balance of production:

Leaders of certain mines and mining administrations fail to give due attention to the classification and standard specifications of coal It is necessary to fulfill the plan not merely in regard to quantity but also to quality.

Discussing the failure of some Republican Ministries and local industries to fulfill the second quarterly plan, as pointed out in the Bureau of Statistics report for that period, RAYANSKA UKRAINA declares (31 July) that the prevailing "low level of labor organization" (nizkiy riven organizatsiy pratsi) is at the bottom of all the troubles. Another snag is the fear of criticism and its suppression under one pretext or another. Criticism indeed is even interpreted as detrimental to the business:

Criticism of economic leaders from below is often attacked as an attempt to undermine their authority. It is understandable that this has nothing in common with Bolshevik methods of management. Amazing as it is, the Party organizations of these enterprises fail to note that similar behavior ... is nothing more nor less than suppression of criticism.

Ukrainian version:

Krytyka z nyzu, na adresu kerivnykiv tsikh pred-pryemstv, priymayetsya chasto yak proba pidirvaty avtoryten gospodarnykyv. Zrozumile, shcho tse ne maye nichogo spilnogo s bilshovytskyimy metodami kerivnytstva. Yak ne divno, ale partiyny organizatsii tsikh zavodiv ne pomiehayut shcho podobny dii gospodarskikh kerivnykiv ye ne shcho inshe yak zatysk krytyki.

The paper goes on to say that a number of Ministries whose quarterly plans have been fulfilled still include enterprises "which are lagging behind," and their fulfillment figures are merely averages for the particular period or industry "as a whole." There are still "very many" enterprises operating behind schedule, mostly in the local and light industries, that is those producing primarily consumer goods. Among them are the furniture industry, woodworking enterprises and a number of unnamed others.

PRAVDA's editorial comment on the Statistics Bureau report for the USSR as a whole (23 July) is less critical of the shortcomings than are the regional papers in regard to the failings in their respective areas. The paper expresses the view, however, that the well-founded satisfaction with the country's economic performance in the second quarter of this year should not blind anyone to the numerous weak spots which are yet to be eliminated:

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It must be admitted that serious shortcomings still exist in the operations of certain branches of our industry Certain enterprises and even entire branches of industry are not coping with their plan assignments.

Russian version:

Nado priznat, chto v rabote nekotorykh otrasley nashey promyshlennosti imeyutsya eshche seryoznie nedostatki Chast predpriyatiy i dazhe otdelnie otrasli promyshlennosti ne vypolnyayut planovikh zadaniy.

Disparaging reference is made also to the (unnamed) industries which, while achieving their production targets, failed to follow the itemized specifications of the plan. With few exceptions, such production short cuts are resorted to by the industries working for the consumers. The fluctuations in the production of consumer goods as compared to the steady rise registered by the ferrous metallurgical industry for example, may be seen from the following official figures for the first half of 1952:

Percent of plan fulfillment

	Meat and Dairy		Fish		Building Materials		Ferrous Metallurgy	
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr
USSR	102	94	197	97	100	102	102	103
RSFSR	110	96	112	100.8	108	96	not listed	
UKRAINE	96	94	128	114	103	99.4	102	103

IDEOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

A substantial part of the meager material available on ideological topics appeared in the press but was not broadcast. In an article in RADYANSKA UKRAINA on 22 July, two Kiev professors Tymofiiiv and Nelubov assert that the ideological orientation of the Lvov universities, particularly their social sciences departments, is off the officially-prescribed line. A study of the expositions in the mentioned departments and their libraries is said to have revealed that some of the most important events in the history of the Ukraine are not so popular with the Lvov universities as they should be:

One cannot see why the (university) leadership has evaded such important events in the life of our fatherland as ... the reunion of Western Ukraine with Soviet Ukraine ... the great and disinterested help of the Great Russian people...to the reconstruction and further development of the national economy of the Ukrainian SSR

Ukrainian version:

Nevidomo z yakykh prychnyn uporyadnyky obmynayut taki vazhlyvi podii v zhytti nashoy Batkivshchyny, yak ... voz'ednannya Zakhidnoy Ukrainy z Radyanskoyu Ukrainoyu ... pro velycheznu bezkoryslyvu dopomogu velykogo rosiyskogo narodu ... u vidbodovi i dalshomu rozvytku narodnogo gospodarstva Radyanskoy Ukrainy

The lack of publicity accorded to Stalin's "Marxism and Questions of Linguistics" is also branded by the authors as a serious ideological aberration. It is in fact

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referred to as a brake on the whole progress of higher learning in the Lvov University and its institutes. Without a profound study (bez glybokogo vyvchennya) of this book, says the article, progress in social sciences is impossible. But, "strange as it seems" (yak ne dyvno), even the University's Department of Russian and Ukrainian Languages has not seen fit to accommodate its activities to the great theory outlined in "Stalin's classical work" (klasychna pratsya tov. Stalina).

A KOMMUNISTI editorial broadcast from Tbilisi on 26 July says that the Georgian SSR's motion picture industry has been lagging ideologically "behind current events" for the past 10 years. The summarized editorial version does not offer any further details on that point beyond the reminder that the recent resolution of the Central Committee of Georgia's Communist Party has outlined the methods for the improvement of the film producers' work, and that the mentioned decision had better be heeded.

Discussing the same theme on 30 July, ZARYA VOSTOKA expresses the belief that "it is imperative to reconstruct all the work" of the Republic's Ministry of Cinematography so as to insure the implementation of the All-Union Communist Party's decision on ideological questions. Without identifying the nature of the ideological failings under discussion, the paper appeals to the Writers Union, individual dramatists, and script writers to help the film industry by directing attention to "modern subjects."

An unsigned PRAVDA article of 25 July (not broadcast) takes issue with PRAVDA UKRAINY, the second most important daily of the Ukraine, on matters of ideological vigilance. That paper, says PRAVDA, is not too responsible to "tip-offs" (signaly) on ideological and other irregularities--it frequently even prevents their publication. This is said to be borne out by some of its own correspondents:

Some of the correspondents, particularly at Kharkov, Odessa, and Kherson frankly assert that it does not pay to send in critical articles because they are either made sterile or filed away.

Russian version:

Nekotorie korrespondenty, v chastnosti kharkovskiy, odesskiy i khersonskiy, pryamo zayavlyayut, chto ne imeyet smysla posylat v redaktsiyu kriticheskie statyi oni tam vykholashchivayutsya ili sdayutsya v arkhiv.

PRAVDA UKRAINY is also blamed for having all but forgotten about the "nationalist perversions" (natsionalisticheskie izvrashchenia) that had been found in Ukrainian literature. It is said to devote much too little space to the activities of the Republic's Writers Union, and to show a tendency to "avoid controversial issues" (izbegat ostrie voprosy). Nor is the daily's attempt to take the line of least resistance by confining its editorial and other criticism to "safe areas," that is to officials long since dismissed for various misdemeanors, escape official notice. The newspaper's low ideological standard, it is pointed out, may also be accounted for by its practice of employing "jacks of all trades" (mastera na vse ruki) to write on anything from children's education to the care of beet roots.

A Chovba article (in Ukrainian, 26 July) discloses that the "Radyanska Shkola" publishing house which specializes in the publication of text books, dictionaries, and other study aids for lower schools is now under fire. It has been discovered, says the author, that some of its books are characterized by "politically harmful contents" (shkidlyviy politychniy zmist). It is also revealed that 130 errors have been found in one publication alone--the manual for art students published by the mentioned house. The nature of these as well as the school book errors is not revealed, however.

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KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA (31 July) calls for a decisive struggle against the "shameful feudal attitude" toward girls many of whom are still kept out of schools. The mistakes of previous years, noted for the large-scale withdrawals of girls from the secondary schools, must not be repeated, says the paper. Implicitly admitting that the school girls' parents themselves are mostly to blame for keeping them out of classes, the paper urges intensified "mass-enlightening work" (massovo-razyasnitelnaya robota) among the students' parents. All Komsomol and other organizations connected with public education are enjoined to greater efforts in order to make this campaign a success.

A Platkovskiy dispatch from Kazan published on 1 August (not broadcast), speaks of the dubious ideological contribution made by the so-called free-lancers (svobodnie strelki) employed as lecturers in the Tartar ASSR. The Tartar branch of the All-Union Society for the Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge numbers within its ranks 2,500 active and about 2,000 "competing members" (chleny-sorevnovateli), but only a small percentage of them ever bother to deliver lectures for the population. Among those who do go in for lecturing a large number is said to consist of individuals "who are not employed anywhere" (kotor'e nigde ne rabotayut) but are prepared to lecture on anything at any time--for a fee. Platkovskiy says that this "inadmissible liberalism" (nedopustimiy liberalizm) militates against every precept of ideological work, as outlined by the Central Committee of the Communist Party, and will therefore not be tolerated. Nor do the topics selected for the lectures always fall into the required classification. It is revealed, for example, that far too few of the lectures delivered in the Autonomous Republic "expose the aggressive nature" (razoblachayut aggressivniy kharakter) of American imperialism, the reactionary ideology of the American racialists, neo-Malthusians, geopoliticians, and so forth.

A summarized BOLSHEVISTSKOYE ZNAMYA editorial (1 August) makes the unusual statement that many of the Odessa Oblast writers, artists, and composers have been trying to approach "our Socialist reality" with more confidence but "are failing in their attempts." The paper lists superficial and inadequate knowledge of life and a low standard of artistic skill as "the main cause of their failures," but does not amplify the point. Literary, theatrical, and musical criticism in our oblast, the editorial concludes, is still not up to the required standard.

National Anniversaries Played Down: The traditional exchange of official greetings between Moscow and the constituent Republics on the latter's anniversaries must have been "overlooked" in the case of the Baltic Republics and Moldavian SSR whose 12th anniversaries occur at approximately the same time. PRAVDA carries short items (22 July, not broadcast) from Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian SSR's saying that the 12th anniversary of the "foundation" of these Republics were celebrated by their peoples. Reference to the Moldavian SSR's anniversary is contained in a Moscow broadcast in Polish (2 August) declaring that as a result of Soviet tutelage in that Republic during the past 12 years, "every fourth kolkhoz has an income of millions of rubles."