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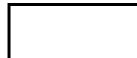
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OPW Report No. 47 -- USSR

(29 July - 11 August 1952)

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## SUMMARY

In agriculture, there is continued concentration of attention on every aspect of the current harvesting campaign, including the prevention of grain theft on the fields and in transit. There is evidence that combine-harvesting will not cover the acreage specified in the plan, between 75% and 90% of the total grain area. Wider use of draft animals is already being urged in places where equipment failures threaten to jeopardize field operations. Evidence of damages to crops from natural causes is seen in the frequent references to "downed grain crops" (polegshie khleba), and in the insistence on equipping machinery with stalk-raising devices in order to salvage as much of the grain as possible. Uzbek manpower must be augmented by a large number of women, if the cotton-picking campaign is to be successful, according to a report from Tashkent. Manpower shortage also appears to be responsible for the sad state of affairs on some of the Kazakhstan cotton fields, although "insufficient ardor" is vaguely referred to as the chief reason.

The training for and promotion to leading Party and other positions of young men and women from among the local population is urged by the Ukrainian and Lithuanian press. This policy is urged in view of the admitted tendency among local officials to enlist the services of executive workers from other parts of the country. That the regional radio and press are treading on safe ground in pursuing this line is evidenced from occasional PRAVDA items (not usually broadcast) advocating more trained cadres among the local and presumably non-Russian population of the various Republics. References to corrupt practices in Party activities are made in context of criticism and self-criticism, neither of which is as "popular" with Communist officials as the Government would like it to be.

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## AGRICULTURE

Discussion of agricultural statute violations accounts for a substantial part of the output on agriculture. Although, as one paper puts it, the interests of the State are identical with those of the collective farmers, statute violations have not yet been stamped out. In a long RADYANSKA UKRAINA article on the subject (31 July), scientist Radchenko discusses agricultural crimes from the Marxian viewpoint, and says that one of the explanations for the mentioned felonies in the rural areas are "the surviving private-property attitude" (privatno-vlasnyiyski perezhytty) among the farmers and "the political immaturity" (politychna nezriilist) of the officials. (What the scientist does not make clear, however, is how such private-property ideas could have survived among farm workers, the majority of whom were born or educated under the Soviet regime.) Radchenko also hints at a "similarity of interests" between the State and the individual collective farmers, a circumstance which should theoretically eliminate statute violations, but he does not pursue the theme. On the other hand, he inveighs against the liberal attitude toward criminal farmers which, he says, encourages further crimes: "Unpunished statute violations set a very bad example for other farmers" (Bezkarne porushchannya Statutu podaye duzhe poganyi pryklad inshym kolkospnikam). The extent of the theft of public property in the Ukraine may be judged from the example of Zhitomir Oblast alone, as cited by Radchenko. The following properties, it is revealed, have been recovered and returned to their rightful owners between 1 January 1951, and 1 July 1952:

140.9 hectares of land, 1,350 head of various types of cattle, 10,988 fowl and 10 buildings. Reclaimed also were large quantities of lumber, produce, fodder and over 350,000 rubles in cash.

## Ukrainian version:

Zemli--140.9 ga, pogoliyya khudoby riznykh vydiv--1.350 goliv, ptytsi--10.988 sztuk, budiveli--10. Povernuto bulo bagato lisomaterialiv, riznykh produktiv, furazha i groshey ponad 350 tysyach karbovantsiv.

Shady collective farm operations in Sumy Oblast are discussed in a Sumnyy dispatch carried by RADYANSKA PRAVDA on 2 August (not broadcast). What unscrupulous leadership and mismanagement can do to agriculture, says the author, may be seen by comparing the operations of the two neighboring enlarged collective farms, Ilyich and Lenin, in Lipova Dolina Rayon. The Ilyich farm with 2,100 hectares of land managed to get an income of 1,031,000 rubles in 1951, while the Lenin farm which owns an area of 2,150 hectares was barely able to account for 302,547 rubles during the same period. The reason for this discrepancy is very simple, says Sumnyy: in one farm the statute is rigidly observed while in the other the officials are running amok. Public pastures are used for privately-owned cattle, and certain socialist properties are in the habit of vanishing without a trace. In a third collective farm, the Kirov, the chairman is said to "have drowned his authority in vodka" (vtopyv u goriltsi sviy avtorytet), and the result is even a smaller income than in the above-named farms. But the drunken chairman, the article concludes, is still in power and still "issues orders" (daye komandu).

CHERNOMORSKA KOMUNA (7 August) insists on severe punishment for those "who infringe the basic law" of kolkhoz life. The interests of the State, says the paper, "coincide" with the general welfare of the people, and only utter ignorance of the country's social structure may explain the theft of collective farm property which undermines the vitality of the kolkhoz system. There is no reference to any specific places or organizations, but the paper's editorial strictures appear to apply to Odessa Oblast as a whole. The official attitude toward the continuing incidence of agricultural crime is expressed in a quotation from Stalin who said that

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the thief who steals the people's property and undermines the interests of the national economy is the same as a spy and a traitor, if not worse.

A summarized RADIANSKA UKRAINA editorial (7 August) says that whatever the object of concentration is at any given moment, the Soviet people must always bear in mind that the agricultural statute is "the inviolable cornerstone of the Soviet system." The protection of socialist property must therefore take precedence over every other aspect of agricultural activities, and all the efforts of the Party, Komsomol and trade union organizations must be directed toward "educating" the farmers in that spirit. There is no further amplification of this point.

An article by Chernichenko and Ryaboklyach carried by PRAVDA on 30 July (not broadcast) lists six Ukrainian oblasts where grain losses are still unchecked. They are: Kirovograd, Poltava, Kiev, Odessa, Voroshilovgrad and Nikolayev. Losses, says the article, have already been incurred through the flattening of the grain crops by the elements (polegshiy klieb, literally "downed grain"). This situation could have been remedied to some extent if all the harvesters were equipped with stalk-lifting attachments. But this, says Chernichenko, is not being done and the losses continue to multiply, amounting in some places to 100 pounds per hectare. Grain losses are also said to be sustained in transit where the grain is not sufficiently guarded. Another source of agricultural weakness in the mentioned oblasts is the inefficient utilization of the combine harvesters. Technical defects keep a large number of them off the fields while the productivity of those in operation is often below average. In Odessa Oblast, for example, the average output per combine is 80% of the prescribed norm, while in Kirovograd Oblast the daily performance is even lower--only 4.2 hectares per machine.

Odessa Oblast is also the object of criticism by RADIANSKA UKRAINA of 1 August. The first in the Republic to begin harvesting, the oblast is now reported to be among the slowest, with only 39.3% of the total grain crops harvested by 25 July. Unfortunately, says the editorial, Odessa is not alone in the Republic. Kirovograd, Nikolayev, Stalino, Kiev and a number of other unnamed oblasts are not much better. Although between 75% and 90% of the cultivated area is to be harvested by machinery, under the 1952 plan, the actual performance in the mentioned oblasts is not anywhere near those figures. In Kiev Oblast, for example, the combine-harvested area amounts to 11.7% of the total, in Kirovograd 12.3% and in Stalino 30.8%. Idle machinery, inefficient utilization of working equipment and failure to prevent grain losses by employing stalk-raising devices (koloropidnyach) have combined to produce a situation requiring drastic measures:

It is a sad fact that ... only 33.6% of the grain cultures have been harvested in the Ukraine, despite the fact that harvesting was started almost three weeks ago.

Ukrainian version:

Khaba ne povchalymy ye toy fakt, shcho ... po Ukraini zibrano tilky 33.6% positiv koloskovykh, khoch chryva vane tryvayut mayzhe try tyzhni.

Criticism of familiar technical breakdowns, idle machinery and excessive grain losses is contained in a KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA editorial of 5 August. Every combine operator must know, the paper insists, that harvesting without grain-catching devices or above the prescribed height from the ground will entail incalculable losses. None of these regulations is said to be followed by many collective farms in Aktyubinsk Oblast. Reference is made also to cases when the harvested grain is dumped on the ground which has not been prepared properly for it, and much of the grain deteriorates before it is removed. A short report from Stavropol (5 August) says that the krai Party Committee had to call a special session to devise means of fighting

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against grain losses throughout the year. No further information is offered on the point except for the remark that in addition to the "struggle against grain losses," something will have to be done about intensifying the harvesting tempo in general which is still much too slow. STAVROPOLSKAYA PRAVDA (5 August) says that the irresponsible attitude of the management toward equipment and work in general is responsible for "the serious delays" in harvesting in a number of rayons, particularly in Novo-Alexandrovskiy, Voronilovskiy, Dmitrievskiy, Krylovskiy and Blagodarnenskiy. What is more, the rayon Party leaders "are not taking decisive action" to improve the utilization of harvesting facilities. The paper urges the setting up of "a daily control system" (sistema povsednennogo kontrolya) whereby the performance of every man and machine could be supervised.

RADYANSKA DONETSHCHINA states (7 August) that despite the decision of the Ukrainian Communist Party that the land set aside for winter crops be plowed up not later than 30 days before the start of the autumn sowing campaign, a number of rayons in Stalino Oblast have not yet advanced beyond the initial stage of preparations. There is very little time left before the autumn sowing, says the paper, but the leadership of Pervomaiskiy, Yamskiy, Selidovskiy and Krasnarmayskiy rayons seems not to be aware of it. Socialist competition for high-quality plowing has not been organized, the hourly work schedule for machine operators has not been introduced and "large-scale political work" among the farmers is not even contemplated. Such a situation, the paper concludes, will not be tolerated any further, and it "strongly urges" the appropriate officials to do something without delay.

RADYANSKA UKRAINA admits (8 August) that the problem of winter crop sowing is still awaiting solution "in the majority of oblasts." Large-scale planting is scheduled to begin in Chernigov, Sumy, Kiev and Kharkov Oblasts within a few days but only part of the winter crop area has been plowed up. Chernigov, which was the first oblast in the Republic to begin winter planting, can account for only 27% of the plowing plan. Lagging behind in their winter plowing also are Kherson, Nikolayev, Odessa and "some other" oblasts of the Ukraine. In most of them technical unpreparedness is said to be the chief obstacle to better progress, but "thoughtlessness," "lack of initiative," and "irresponsible attitude" and similar descriptive phraseology is repeatedly used in the paper's criticisms.

Many tractors are idle or work only one shift per day. The kolхоз draft animal stock is not being utilized for plowing.

Radio discussion of other agricultural activities, such as fodder procurement, cotton picking, vegetable gathering and others is reduced to a minimum. Mention of them is made in context of the current grain harvesting. KRIMSKAYA PRAVDA (5 August) lists four rayons where the fodder situation is so bad as to jeopardize the progress of the cattle industry in the coming winter. In one of them, Krasnoperekopsk Rayon, the haymowing plan has been fulfilled by only 10% and the silaging plan is being "carried out most unsatisfactorily." One of the reasons for this near-chaotic situation, as the paper terms it, is that many haymowing machines "remain out of action" with an indifferent management just looking on. Another is that many machine-tractor stations "fail to carry out the terms of their agreements with the kolkhozes ...." A broadcast from Rostov (9 August) quotes MOLOT as declaring that the stockpiling of fodder in the oblast leaves much to be desired. In Romanovskiy Rayon, for example, the haymowing plan has been fulfilled by only 40%, and still less progress has been made in coping with the ensilage storage plan--33% of the target. A "particularly bad job" is being done also by Orlovskiy, Morozovskiy and several other rayons.

A report from Tashkent (8 August) speaks of the appeal made to Uzbek women by Moskanova, deputy chairman of the oblast Executive Committee, to speed up cotton picking and save some of the crops from deteriorating in the fields. In some districts she says, the cotton crops are "backward in development" and the situation is becoming alarming. Without referring to the nature of the failings, Moskanova appeals to the cotton farmers to "correct the mistakes which have already been allowed

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to occur." KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA asserts editorially (9 August) that the struggle for cotton in the southern oblasts of the Republic has "recently slackened." Crop maintenance in South Kazakhstan and Dzhambul Oblasts appears to exist largely on paper: irrigation schedules are not followed, most of the cotton plantations are overgrown with weeds while crop-maintenance brigades are being used for other work. The "premature drying off of the cotton crop" (prezhdevremennaya podsushka khlopchatnika), says the paper, "threatens to inflict serious losses" to the kolkhozes and the State.

Following are excerpts from some of the other broadcasts on agriculture, in chronological order, received during the period under review:

July 30--The work of the advanced kolkhozes, however, cannot hide the low rate and bad quality of harvesting work in most of ... the oblast. This applies above all to Tyshkivskiy, Malovyskovskiy, Dobrovelychkovskiy and Rivnyanskiy rayons (KIROVOGRADSKAYA PRAVDA).

July 31--In a number of rayons in our oblast, the practice of conducting work in separate stages is still persisting. In these rayons the utilization of machines ... labor power and other resources is very unsatisfactory (CHERNOMORSKA KOMUNA).

August 1--In a number of places the Bolshevik struggle for the preservation of the fruit crop does not make itself felt. The struggle against fruit pests is organized in an unsatisfactory manner ... (KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA).

August 6--... the directors of the lagging sovkhoses must become fully conscious of their personal responsibility for providing vegetables, and must immediately correct the existing situation (SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DONBAS).

August 6--Some kolkhozes of the oblast have not organized properly the tobacco harvesting campaign. One of the most serious reasons for the lag in tobacco harvesting is the poor organization of labor ... harvesting with both hands is practically not practiced at all (KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA).

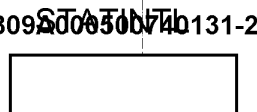
#### PARTY ACTIVITIES

The Party organizations of the Western Ukrainian oblasts do not show great enthusiasm about training and promoting local people to posts of Party leadership, says RADYANSKA UKRAINA editorially on 30 July. Nor are they too eager to advance women to executive positions. Such an attitude, says the paper, is frowned upon by the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party, which on previous occasions has emphasized the importance of training and selecting Party and other leaders from among the local population. Oddly enough, the paper provides no inkling of the reasons behind the prevalent reluctance to promote local people, though it is somewhat more specific about the reported discrimination against women:

There are many shortcomings in the matter of promoting local women cadres. The Party organizations are still not attaching enough importance to them, are not enlisting their active participation in social and political life and are afraid to promote them to leading positions.

#### Ukrainian version:

Bagato nedolikhiv u vysuvanni mistsevykh zhinchykh kadriv. Partiyny organizatsii shche malo pratsyuyut z nymy, ne zaluchayut ikh yak slid do aktyvnogo gromadsko-politychnogo zhyttya, boyatsya vysuvaty na kerivni posty.



In Droghyeh Oblast alone, the editorial states, the overwhelming majority of officials have come from other parts of the country and all the local population has produced are six Executive Committee secretaries and nine deputy chairmen. A similar situation is noted also in Stanislaw, Ternopol, Volhyn and Rovno Oblasts. A hint that the ideological element may have something to do with the lack of confidence in the population of the recently-annexed areas is contained in the paper's rebuke to overzealous local officials who "have no desire to treat the local people with patience" (nemayut bahannogru terpelivno "povozvytyysya" s nytry). What the local population in effect needs is a larger dose of proper orientation:

We must constantly raise the political and ideological level of our work with the cadres, by training them in the spirit of flaming Soviet patriotism, socialist internationalism and love for the great Russian people .... We must encourage a feeling of hatred for ... Ukrainian bourgeois nationalists ... an irreconcilable attitude toward any manifestations of hostile ideology.

Ukrainian version:

Treba nepovynno podnosyty riven ideino-politychnoy roboty z kadramy, vykhovuvayuchy ikhy dusi polumyanogo radyanskoho patriotyzmu i sotsialistychnoho internatsionalizmu, labovu do velykoho rosiyskoho narodu ... pryshcheplyvaty kadram pochutya nenavysti do ... ukrainskykh burzhuaznykh natsionalistiv ... neprymyrenna stavlyennya do lud-yakikh proyaviv vorozhoy ideologii.

More attention to local people by the Party in Lithuania is urged also in an unsigned PRAVDA article of 5 August (not broadcast). It has been revealed at a recent session of the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party that, just as in the Ukraine, far too few women are promoted to responsible Party, Soviet or agricultural posts. Nor is the local youth given a fair chance to participate in the political and social life of the Republic. As is the case in the Ukraine the paper counsels moderation in the treatment of local women and youth who are said to require more political enlightenment in view of the continued manifestations of bourgeois nationalist tendencies. It is also pointed out that some of the Lithuanian Party and Soviet officials themselves, as in Shauliai Oblast for example, "are showing slow ideological development" (slabo rastut v ideinoi otnoshenii). Passing reference is made also to the "grave shortcomings in the teaching of the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism" (krupnie nedostatki v prepodavanii osnov Marxizma-Leninizma) in the Republic's universities as well as in the Academy of Sciences. This theme, however, is not pursued beyond the quotation of the vague assurances of one Party official that all the mentioned shortcomings will be remedied.

The current Party election-and-reporting meetings (otchetno-vybornoie sobrania) are the subject of editorial discussion by RADIANSKA UKRAINA (5 August) and PRAVDA (11 August). Violations of intraparty democracy, as noted in certain parts of Volhyn and Poltava Oblasts, says RADIANSKA UKRAINA, will inevitably lead to the deterioration of all other Party activities. The leaders who persistently ignore the voice of the Party masses, it declares, have no place in the Soviet scheme of things:

The incorrigible bureaucrats and haughty administrators who have broken away from the Party masses, who are deaf to criticism from below and are crudely violating the spirit of friendship and intraparty democracy must not be allowed to hold leading posts in Party organizations.

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## Ukrainian version:

Непопулярні і невдачі в зарозумілі адміністрації, які відівають від партійських мас, не прyslukhayutsya до критичкої уваги, грабо порашують kolegialnist, vnutri-partiyni doskonalistiv-ne porunni buty dopushchent do karinykh partiynykh organiv.

Criticism from below, says PRAVDA, is the most effective weapon of dealing with Party bureaucrats, the sworn enemies of the organization. To discourage such criticism "would be tantamount to destroying the independent activity" of the Party committees. The election-and-reporting meetings, says the paper, have revealed numerous instances of intraparty democracy violation, on the one hand, and unwarranted Party interference in economic affairs, on the other. Cited in this connection is the case of the Orlabr Rayon Party Committee (Sverdlovsk Oblast) whose officials appear to be more interested in running someone else's business than in tending to their own Party affairs. (The names of the officials in question are not mentioned.)

A Kuzmenko report from Zianchurinsky Rayon, Chkalov Oblast, (4 August) speaks of complicity between local Party and other officials to suppress criticism from below by branding any complaint against high-handed administration as "intrigues against the leadership" (klyany na rukovodstvo). The chairman of a collective farm in the mentioned rayon, who had "compromised himself" during his previous tenure of office, insisted on being renominated for the same post. Voted down by the majority of the Communists at an election-and-reporting meeting, he enlisted the aid of his friend, the first secretary of the rayon Party Committee, who overruled the votes and had him "reelected" as kolkhoz chairman. Strange as it may seem (kak ni stranno), concludes the dispatch, the Chkalov Oblast Party Committee which is well aware of the incident "is not reacting to the crude violation of intraparty democracy."

Correct Party leadership (pravilnoye partiynoye rukovodstvo), according to Kuznetsov's article in PRAVDA (7 August, and broadcast) means effective supervision and guidance without direct interference. This is said to apply equally to economic administration and in the field of art and music. The Odessa Philharmonic Society is mentioned as a case in point. Lack of proper Party supervision has resulted in the deterioration of its orchestral, choral and concert hall performance. The unsatisfactory level of the society's activities, says the author, may be explained by the fact that the Odessa Party "has lost sight" of this form of social endeavor. Criticism and self-criticism, for example, which are the sine qua non of progress anywhere "are not popular" (ne v pochete) among the Communist and non-Party members of the society. Characteristic of the relations among the various actors, musicians and literary critics of the "filarmonia" are "overlooking one another's faults and whitewashing grave failures and errors" (vzaimnoye amnistirovaniye i samazyvaniye krupnykh promakhov i oshibok). This situation, however, is not beyond repair, according to Kuznetsov; it merely requires a more discriminate approach to the Soviet intelligentsia on the part of the Party. Only wise Party guidance, it is pointed out, will help the society eliminate "cheap and vulgar performances" (nizkoprobnie i poshlie proizvedeniya) from its repertory, and will make it unnecessary for the actors to indulge in "uncalled for extemporizations" (otsebyatina).

Listed below are some of the other shortcomings in Party activities mentioned in broadcasts during the period reviewed:

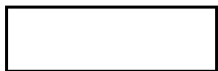
30 July--In Sevastopol, Kerch, Oshankoy, Primorskoye and other rayons shortcomings exist in the preparation and carrying out of election-and-reporting Party meetings. (KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA)

31 July--Some Party committees and primary Party organizations are assuming functions outside their field of activity, belonging to administrative organs ... (CHERNOMORSKA KOMUNA).

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1 August--The first secretaries of the rayon Party committees must personally supervise the rayon press and watch the quality of the newspapers (KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA).

6 August--Certain propagandists have not understood the importance of the study circles of a higher type ... they have not been able to organize studies according to the recommended works of Lenin and Stalin and the "Short History of the Bolshevik Party." (Skobeltsyne, in Ukrainian)

8 August--In some Party organs the leading Committee officials are not taking an active part in the solution of important problems. Some Party leaders are trying to avoid personal responsibility. This is a wrong attitude to take ... (NADNEPRIANSKA PRAVDA).

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