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METALLURGY MINISTRY REORGANIZED, NEW MINISTERS APPOINTED; STEEL INDUSTRY EXCEEDS 1950 PLAN

/Numbers in parentheses refer to appended list of sources./

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet USSR issued a ukase dated 28 December 1950 which ordered the division of the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry USSR into two ministries, Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy USSR and Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy USSR, and the transfer of enterprises and organizations to the respective ministries, according to a list approved by the Council of Ministers USSR. The Presidium appointed Ivan Fedorovich Tevosyan, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers USSR, as Minister of Ferrous Metallurgy and Petr Fadeyevich Lomako as Minister of Nonferrous Metallurgy USSR. The Council of Ministers appointed Anatoliy Nikolayevich Kuz'min as First Deputy Minister of Ferrous Metallurgy and Ivan Vasil'yevich Arkhipov as First Deputy Minister of Nonferrous Metallurgy.(1)

On 6 January, Tevosyan, Minister of Ferrous Metallurgy, reported to Stalin that the Ministry has reached the goal for 1950, as set forth in the Five-Year Plan, in the production of pig iron, steel, rolled metal, and iron pipe. In 1950, the following items were produced above the Five-Year Plan goal: 2,200,000 tons of steel, 2,630,000 tons of pig iron, and 440,000 tons of iron pipe.(1a)

> Throughout the month of December, individual ferrous metallurgy enterprises reported completion of the 1950 year plan and of the Five-Year Plan. There was less stress toward the end of the month on fulfillment of orders for the new power projects, but there was continued reports of new production records and intraplant mechanization and improvement.

By 30 December, the plants subordinated to "Glavuralmet" (Main Administration of the Ural Metallurgical Industry) completed the 1950 plan for production of pig iron and rolled metal. Ten plants of the administration completed the 1950 plan for the entire production cycle. Among them are the Lys'va and Verkh-Isetskiy metallurgical plants.(2) In 1950, the volume of gross production at the latter plant increased 10.4 percent over the same period of 1949.(3)

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The Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine imeni Stalin in Chelyabinsk Oblast completed ahead of schedule the 1950 plan for the entire metallurgical cycle. Miners of the Magnitnaya Mine led the competition in the combine and completed the 1950 plan for ore mining on 24 November. The blast-furnace shop completed the plan on 14 December. The combine's blast-furnace workers are producing the cheapest pig iron in the USSR.(4) In 11 months of 1950, these workers increased output and saved more than 3 million rubles above plan.(5) The combine as a whole has given the state some 70 million rubles in profits above plan.(4) The combine's steelworkers have also realized considerable savings. The three Stakhanovite shift foremen, operating furnace No 3, who proposed to save one million rubles in 1950 by saving on materials, power, and fuel, and to produce above the 1950 plan 12,000 tons of steel, have exceeded their pledge. In 11 months, they produced above plan 16,089 tons of steel and saved one million rubles.(6)

Blast-furnace workers at furnace No 1 of the Chusovoy Metallurgical Plant considerably improved the coefficient for capacity furnace utilization, producing one ton of pig iron per 0.89 cubic meter of useful furnace volume as compared with the norm of one ton per 0.92 cubic meter.(7)

The Chelyabinsk Pipe-Rolling Plant has completed ahead of schedule the 1950 production plan. In 1950, steel smelting increased 12.4 percent over 1949 and pipe production increased 48.5 percent. Labor productivity is above plan. In 11 months of 1950, the pipe rollers have gained more than 10 million rubles in accumulations above plan by decreasing production costs.(8)

The Sinarskiy Pipe Plant (director, S. Korepanov) has made great strides in recent years by widely extending the use of Stakhanovite methods throughout the plant. The enterprise has been able to make a steady increase in production rate and a considerable increase in output. Labor productivity per worker increased in 1948 by 9.2 percent, in 1949 by 29.1 percent, and in 1950 by 38.4 percent. Production costs decreased 22.2 percent over the actual production cost in 1947.

In the postwar plan, the plant was scheduled to increase considerably its output of pipe. At the end of 1947, the plant had developed a new methodology for studying and introducing generalized Stakhanovite experience. Thus, on the basis of achievements of individual Stakhanovites, a single, uniform system of organization of each industrial process was developed and put into effect. The use of this methodolgy in the cold-drawing sector had the result of increasing labor productivity of workers on pipe-drawing mills by 19.3 percent in 1948. In the pipe-casting shop, output of six-inch pipe increased 17.8 percent even though the same equipment and the same number of workers were used. This year, the work of the pipe-rolling workers was organized anew, with the result that labor productivity among pipe rollers increased 12.3 percent.

In July 1948, the pipe-casting shop was the first in the plant to be put on the regulated schedule. This new schedule was based on a careful study which determined the length of time required for each operation at each machine. Dispatcher control was introduced and telephone communication from the shop's dispatcher point to each boring and turning machine was installed. This new regulated schedule was drawn up into a strict technological and production instruction. The new regime in the shop had the following results: production of pipe increased 38.2 percent and labor productivity increased 34.3 percent. In 1949, the schedule was revised three times and again changed in 1950. As a result of these further improvements, the shop in 1950 produced 94 percent more than it had in 1947.(5) By 14 December, the plant's pipe-casting shop had completed the 1950 plan for production of cast-iron pipe.(9)

The Novo-Tagil'skiy Metallurgical Plant completed ahead of schedule the 1950 plan for smelting pig iron. In 1950, pig iron output increased 6.8 percent over 1949 and labor productivity of blast-furnace workers increased 11.1 percent.(10)

In honor of its 225th Anniversary, the Metallurgical Plant imeni Kuybyshev in Nizhniy Tagil completed the 1950 plan for the production of steel and rolled products.(11)

At the Nizhniy Tagil Metallurgical Plant, the leading steel brigade is striving to reach an average yield of 8 tons of steel per square meter of furnace hearth.(12)

The open-hearth shop of the Izhevsk Metallurgical Plant, Udmurt ASSR, completed its 1950 plan on 9 December. The average recovery of steel per square meter of hearth in 1950 was 7.24 tons, almost one ton above the norm and considerably more than the 1949 average. In 3½ months, the shop has saved 120 tons of ferromanganese, 1,200 tons of converter pig iron, 140 tons of magnesite brick and powder, and 20 tons of nickel, 1,500 tons of dolomite, etc. By the end of the year, the shop has plans for exceeding the second 6-month steel plan by 20 percent and to produce above plan in 1951 as much metal as is produced annually by one open-hearth furnace.

The shop has introduced a new combined brick checkerwork which has improved the furnace heating system, a new type of ingot mold which enables the plant to save 3,000 tons of metal annually, an improved method of drawing off the slag from the furnace, and various changes in design of different units of the open-hearth furnace. The charging system has been improved, helping to speed the process by one hour. Two additional pouring beds have been added to the pouring room. The time for holding the ingots in the molds has been cut in half without any impairment in quality. Some of the steelworkers are now completing melts in the record time of 4½-5 hours.(13)

In the Kuzbass, the Kuznetsk Metallurgical Combine imeni Stalin has completed the 1950 plan for the entire production cycle. In 11 months of 1950, the combine has saved more than 19 million rubles by decreasing costs. In December, the output of pig iron increased 9.3 percent over 1949.(14) On 23 December, blast-furnace workers completed the 1950 plan for pig-iron smelting. In 1950, blast-furnace workers have achieved a new coefficient for capacity utilization of the furnaces. This coefficient is now 0.85 on the average for the shop, as compared with the mean progressive norm of 0.86. Furnace No 1 has achieved 0.79, as compared with the norm of 0.84.(15)

The Petrovsko-Zabaykal'skiy Metallurgical Plant, Chita Oblast, completed ahead of schedule its 1950 plan for the entire metallurgical cycle.(16)

By September 1948, steelworkers and rolling-mill workers at the Kazakh Metallurgical Plant in Temir-Tau had achieved the production level planned for the end of the Five-Year Plan. This level has now been exceeded almost 100 percent in steel and more than 50 percent in rolled products. The planned capacity of the open-hearth furnaces has been exceeded by 60 percent and the productivity of the "400" rolling mill by one third.(17)

The Aktyubinsk Ferroalloy Plant in the Kazakh SSR completed the 1950 plan 5 days ahead of schedule. In comparison with 1946, output of production has increased 2½ times.(18)

In 9 months of 1950, the volume of steel production in the Uzbek SSR was 347.5 percent of the production volume for the same period of 1947 and the volume of rolled metal, 350.4 percent.(19)

The sheet section of the rolling shop of the Uzbek Metallurgical Plant (director, I. F. Mukhamedov) is preparing to start production of fine-gauge sheet and ½-millimeter roofing tin.(20)

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In the South, on 20 December, blast-furnace workers at the Metallurgical Plant imeni Dzerzhinskiy completed the 1950 plan for smelting pig iron. The workers completed the Five-Year Plan for pig iron one month ago.(21)

A steelworker in the plant's open-hearth shop No 2 recently exceeded the mean progressive norm almost 1½ times by producing 10.92 tons of steel per square meter of hearth, and completed the heavy-weight melt in the record time of 5 hours 20 minutes. One of the shop's Stakhanovites has made an important contribution to the shop's operation by improving the quality of the charge. Formerly, metal scrap was charged into the furnace without taking into account the grade of steel. Much time was consumed in bringing the melt to the specified composition. This Stakhanovite was the first to begin to choose a charge, the chemical composition of which would meet the necessary specifications. In this way, he cut the length of the process of final melting in half. This operation can now be done in 35-40 minutes as compared with the former 60-90 minutes. All steelworkers in the shop are now following this method and it has been adopted in a technological instruction for the shop.(22)

In the second half of December, the wheel-rolling shop of the Metallurgical Plant imeni K. Libknekht in Dnepropetrovsk has been working on saved metal and fuel. The shop has already produced enough seamless rolled wheel pairs from saved metal and fuel for a train of cars more than one kilometer in length.(23) The plant has completed ahead of schedule the first order for pipe for the Stalingrad power project.(24)

The Nikopol' Southern Pipe Plant, Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, fulfilled orders for pipe for the Tsimlyanskiy and Kuybyshev power projects almost one month ahead of schedule.(25)

Metallurgical workers in the city of Zhdanov have produced and shipped ahead of schedule a large consignment of railroad rails for the Kuybyshev project.(16) The Zhdanov Metallurgical Plant imeni Il'ich is scheduled to supply rolled metal to enterprises of the Ministry of Construction- and Road-Machine Building which are producing equipment for the new power and irrigation projects. These enterprises are experiencing a severe shortage of rolled metal supplies. A shortage of binding wire to pack the metal is the cause for the delay in shipment from the Plant imeni Il'ich, which has a great quantity of finished rolled products on hand ready for delivery.(26)

The Makeyevka Metallurgical Plant, Stalino Oblast, has delivered ahead of schedule an order of rail fasteners to the Kuybyshev project.(16) A correspondent of Pravda Ukrainy has previously reported that for a long time the Makeyevka Plant has failed to meet its plans and that the plant's low level of labor and production discipline is impairing technological procedures. Korenev, Secretary of the Makeyevka City Party Committee, has informed the editors of Pravda Ukrainy that their correspondent correctly analysed the causes for the lag at the plant. The Bureau of the Makeyevka City Party Committee has outlined a number of measures designed to improve the plant's operations. The committee is demanding of Lunina, secretary of the Plant Party Committee, a radical improvement in the management of mass political work at the plant.(27)

On 27 December, during the night shift, the Almaznaya Metallurgical Plant, Voroshilovgrad Oblast, completed the 1950 plant for smelting metal. On 28 December, the plant shipped out the first trainload of metal smelted toward the 1951 plan.(28)

Planned repair of open-hearth furance No 5 at the Taganrog Metallurgical Plant imeni Andreyev, Rostov Oblast, was completed in the record time of 62 working hours. Steelworkers were able to produce 500 tons of steel in the time saved in repair work.(29)

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On 24 December, foundry workers, rolling mill workers, welders, and steelworkers of the Moscow "Serp i molot" Plant reported completion of the 1950 plan for the entire production cycle.(30) Workers at the plant's "750" rolling mill are achieving record output. Recently, one shift rolled 610 billets in 8 hours, a record never achieved at the plant nor at many metallurgical plants in the USSR.(31)

Leading steelworkers in the steel shop of the Gor'kiy Metallurgical Plant recently achieved a yield of 7.25 tons of steel per square meter of furnace hearth as compared with the norm of 6.7 tons. The plant as a whole completed ahead of schedule the 1950 plan for gross production and finished goods production.(32)

In the mining industry, the Krivoy Rog Iron Ore Basin completed ahead of schedule the 1950 plan. Mining of iron ore increased 35.5 percent over 1949.(33)

Miners of the "Uralruda" Trust have completed ahead of schedule the 1950 plan for mining iron and manganese ores and fluxes. In comparison with 1949, labor productivity has increased 7 percent, and in 11 months the mines have approximately 4 million rubles by decreasing costs. The Vysokaya Gora, Lebyazhinskiy, Polunochnyy, and Alapayevsk mines have already shipped to metallurgical plants thousands of tons of iron and manganese ore above the 1950 plan.(23)

The Dzhezdy Manganese Mine, Karaganda Oblast, Kazakh SSR, has completed ahead of schedule its Five-Year Plan.(34)

The percent of mechanized mining of ore in the Mines imeni Lenin and imeni Stalin of the Chiatura Manganese Trust has risen considerably as a result of the use of scrapers in the stopes. The PML-4 loading machines are being used successfully in these mines.(35) Electric core drills, heavy-duty electric locomotives, and many other machines are being used ever more extensively in these mines. The entire process of bringing the ore from the stopes to the concentration plants and from there to the railroad loading bunkers is completely mechanized.

Bukhrashvili, a mechanic of the Mine Administration imeni Ordzhonikidze, has developed and built a winch for knocking out mine support pillars, and tests of the machine have had outstanding results. The support pillars can be reused several times. Engineers Dzhinchvelashvili, Modebadze, Gabechava, Akhvlediani and others have made valuable proposals for improving the technology of ore concentration.(36)

The Mine imeni Ordzhonikidze has developed a new field which will be mined by the open-pit method to decrease the cost of the mined ore and to make great savings in timbering material, as well as to facilitate labor conditions. For this work, the trust has obtained and put into operation a heavy-duty, 3-cubic-meter ESZ electric excavator produced by the "Uralmash" Plant. Excavators will be used both for mining and loading the ore.(35)

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