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KAO KANG OUTLINES STEPS FOR INCREASED SOCIALIZATION OF AGRICULTURE IN NORTHEAST CHINA

Summary: At a Northeast Rural Work Conference held in October - November 1952 a five-year goal of agricultural socialization was adopted calling for up to 80 percent of all peasants to be enrolled in agricultural production cooperatives by 1957, with a crop production increase of 80 to 100 percent over 1952. The increase in the number of wealthy peasants was regarded as a dangerous development. Kao Kang, Secretary of the Northeast Branch Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party pointed out that there was a distinction between the Soviet and Chinese rural socialization movement but called for the gradual acquirement of communal property by mutual aid teams and agricultural production cooperatives.

The 1953 agricultural goals of Anhwei Province were announced at a conference of model rural laborers held 7 January 1953 at Ho-fei.

FIVE-YEAR AGRICULTURAL PLAN FOR NORTHEAST -- Ho-fei, Anhwei Jih-pao, 15 Jan 53

Mukden, 13 January (Hsin-hua) -- At a Northeast Rural Work Conference held 27 October - 10 November 1952, Kao Kang, Secretary of the Northeast Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Committee, announced a five-year goal for agricultural organization moving in the direction of socialization. He called this a historic program.

The conference set a goal calling for advancement to the point where agricultural production cooperatives would be the basic agricultural organization by 1957. In the more advanced areas, from 70 to 80 percent of all farmers should be members of agricultural production cooperatives and 60 percent in less advanced areas by that year. During the same period an increase in the number of experimental collectives is called for. More state farms should be established and state farms should become tractor stations.

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The conference called for production increases by 1957 of from 80 to 100 percent over 1952. Various means, including resettlement of peasants in undeveloped areas, are to be employed in reaching the goal.

The conference learned that the value of the 1952 agricultural production was 48 percent above the value of the 1943 production. Approximately 80 percent of all peasant families are members of some type of agricultural production organization. Twelve hundred key point experimental agricultural production cooperatives and six experimental collective villages are in existence in the Northeast. State farms are prospering.

The conference viewed with alarm the fact that in the Northeast approximately one percent of the peasants are in the wealthy peasant class. While the proportion of these that have emerged from among the small farmer class is not large, their influence on the thinking of many of the peasants whose livelihood is improving to the stage of abundance is not negligible. Wealthy peasants use all sorts of methods to combat the policy of the party for promoting the cooperative movement among the peasants and for preventing exploitation. The conference called for continued efforts to organize the poor peasants in order to forestall the exploitative activities of the wealthy peasants.

The conference called for a party rectification movement in the rural areas of the Northeast during the winter and spring of 1952 - 1953. Many of the cadres are affected by the example of the "nouveaux riches" among the peasants and adopt their exploitative policies. Authoritarianism is also markedly present among the cadres. Many of them are mercenary and covetous and engage in corrupt practices. The rural party members must be reeducated in party principles and again taught the doctrine of the two ways old and new. There must be examination, censure, and correction.

Kao Kang emphasized that while land reform has long been completed and feudalism essentially smashed in the Northeast, the peasants are lagging behind economically. He said they were unable to use modern farming machinery, not only the mechanically powered machinery, but also the new-type horse-drawn implements. He charged that they do not profit by modern technical production developments or scientific division of labor and, consequently, they are unable to raise production. Kao Kang believes this situation can and must be remedied by cooperative effort to displace individual farming. Experience has already demonstrated the success that can be achieved through the cooperative program. If the agricultural production cooperatives can be made the main type of cooperative effort and more experimental state-operated and collective farms be established, a great change can be effected in the rural economy of the Northeast.

Kao Kang offered the following suggestions to help accomplish the plan he advocated:

1. The rural cooperative endeavor movement must be recognized as a longer term movement than the land-reform movement. It must be regarded as a program for reforming the agriculturists. To this end it must move forward steadily, but without deviations or manifestations of authoritarianism.

2. The difference between the Chinese mutual aid team and agricultural production cooperative system and the Soviet collective village system should be recognized. The Chinese system is based on private ownership of land. In this system, the first emphasis must be on collective labor as a means of developing collective thinking among the farmers. The next step is the gradual acquirement of communal property by mutual aid teams and agricultural production cooperatives. The whole program must be geared to the degree of progress the peasants are able to make, while persistently preserving the principle of wholly voluntary membership in these organizations.

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3. Since the newness of the cooperative movement results in many problems, cadres responsible for promotion of the movement must strengthen their study program, especially the study of agricultural techniques. They must elevate the level of their leadership, reform their practices, increase research, exchange experiences, solve problems, and prevent recrudescence of outmoded ideas.

ANHWEI 1953 AGRICULTURAL GOALS -- Ho-fei, Anhwei Jih-pao, 15 Jan 52

Official plans for agricultural operations in Anhwei during 1953 were announced by Jen Chen-hsiu, Deputy Chief of the Agriculture and Forestry Department of the Anhwei Provincial Government, at a conference of delegates of model rural laborers from all over the province that opened on 7 January 1953.

The 1953 goal includes a general production increase of 20 to 30 percent over 1952 in rice and wheat, 20 to 30 percent in cotton, 20 percent in tea and tobacco, and 200 to 300 percent in silk. The planting of mulberry trees should be expanded by making use of waste land and mountain slopes.

North of the Huai Ho raising of horses and mules should be increased to meet the need for more animal power for use with the new types of animal-drawn agricultural implements. A goal of one pig for each family is projected. Emphasis is placed on the raising of cows, and fowl. The increase of old-type implements and promotion of the use of new types are important in the 1953 agricultural program.

In addition to work on the over-all Huai Ho control program in hilly areas, such water conservation projects as digging ponds and wells, construction of antierosion dams, and sealing off mountain slopes to promote forest growth should be actively promoted. In level areas, digging of canals, ditches, and wells, afforestation and repairs of field dikes should be promoted as a means of preserving ground water supplies and preventing damage from heavy rainfall.

Fresh water pisciculture in ponds and ditches should be promoted as a general program for all villages. All phases of forestry practice should be promoted.

Deputy Chief Jen emphasized the importance of building on past successful experience to reach the 1953 agricultural aims of the provincial government.

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