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EXPANSION OF USSR RETAIL TRADE;  
CRITICISM OF TRADE ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES  
MARCH - AUGUST 1953

The following report represents a compilation by republics of articles concerning retail trade in consumer goods in the USSR as they appeared in the Soviet press over the period March-August 1953.

While reporting large increases in USSR retail trade and further expansion of trade enterprises, newspapers continued to criticize the trade organizations for poor service, inadequate selection of goods, and fraudulent treatment of customers.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.<sup>7</sup>

According to Izvestiya, there were more than 254,000 enterprises in the USSR retail trade network at the beginning of 1953.(1) Soviet consumer cooperatives in 1952 constructed more than 5,000 stores and shops, and more than 1,300 public eating enterprises, with an expenditure of 800 million rubles, according to Pravda. The planned expenditure for the construction of trading enterprises in 1953 was one billion rubles.(2) Moskovskaya Pravda reported in August that consumer cooperatives in 1953 were putting into operation 140 new warehouses and 300 new stores for the sale of construction materials, since they planned to sell four times more construction materials than in 1952.(3)

According to the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the 1955 production of consumer goods is to be 65 percent over that of 1950, Trud reported. The light and food industries have received their assignments to increase the production of textiles, styled footwear, sewn articles, and various food products. During the period April - December 1953, the trade network was to receive 32 billion rubles' worth of goods more than the 312 billion initially allotted

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for sale to the people.(4) Moskovskiy Komsomlets stressed the urgent task in the next 2 to 3 years of increasing the supply of food and industrial commodities such as meat and meat products, fish and fish products, confectionery goods, textiles, clothing, footwear, dishware, and cultural and household goods. It stated that this task could be fulfilled only if the greatest possible increases in production were achieved by light industry and agriculture.(5)

RSFSR, General

During the first 6 months of 1953, the Ministry of Trade RSFSR put into operation 246 large food and industrial goods stores on the ground floors of new residential buildings, Izvestiya reported on 4 July. Other stores were being prepared for operation on the ground floors of 249 additional buildings. In many RSFSR cities specialized stores were also being opened. In all, more than 1,500 such stores were to be in operation by the end of 1953.(6)

In certain oblasts and cities of the RSFSR, exclusive of Moscow and Leningrad, the following information on the retail trade network was reported.

Pravda stated on 25 March that 48 food and industrial goods stores had been opened in Stalingrad since the beginning of the year. The commodity turnover of the Stalingrad trade network had increased 25 percent over 1950. One department store was selling 500,000 rubles' worth of goods daily.(7) In Gor'kiy, more than 5 million rubles were to be spent for the construction of new stores and dining rooms [during 1953], a July issue of Pravda indicated. By the end of 1953, it was proposed to put into operation 24 new stores and dining enterprises.(8) Trud reported in July that the trade network in Molotov City was expanded each month. In the first 6 months of 1953, the sale of industrial and food commodities amounted to 160 million rubles more than during the same period in 1952.(9)

In cities and villages of Arkhangel'skaya Oblast, the demand for industrial goods increases constantly, according to Pravda. In the first quarter 1953, 2 million rubles' worth of goods more were sold than in the same period in 1952. During 1952, the oblast consumers union opened 62 new rural stores.(10)

In August, Moskovskaya Pravda reported on the expanding turnover of goods in state and rural cooperative stores and shops in the city of Mytishchi [Moskovskaya Oblast]. In the first half of 1953, the commodity turnover in the Mytishchi trading center increased 13 million rubles in comparison with the same period in 1952. The demand for literature has increased greatly; in the first half of 1953, the Mytishchi Department of the Moscow Book Trading Center sold 950,000 rubles' worth of books. The number of radio receiving sets sold in Mytishchinskiy Rayon increased by 5,488 sets, and the number of television sets by 2,570, in comparison with 1952 [presumably over the first half year].(11)

In 1953, enterprises of local industry and industrial cooperatives of the RSFSR were to produce more than 25 billion rubles' worth of various commodities for trading organizations, according to a May issue of Izvestiya. The paper cited, as products of RSFSR local and cooperative industry, home refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, floor-polishing machines, fluorescent lamps, plastic products, and new equipment for their own enterprises. However, it made the following criticisms: The potential for increasing consumer goods production is poorly utilized, and the production plans remain unfulfilled in Krasnodarskiy and Primorskiy krays. As a result of a study of reserves in RSFSR local and cooperative industry, additional goals for 1953 were set before the enterprises for the production of more than 1.6 billion rubles' worth of consumer goods, including approximately 450 million rubles' worth of commodities from local raw materials.

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State industry and industrial cooperatives are not satisfying the needs of kolkhozes and sovkhoses for construction materials, since plants still use primitive methods without mechanization. The production of furniture must be increased, and its quality improved. In 1955, furniture production is to increase threefold in comparison with 1950.

The same article reported that it had been decided to combine industrial cooperatives, timber cooperatives, and invalids cooperatives into one system of industrial cooperatives, in order to bring about a more efficient utilization of industrial equipment and local raw materials, resulting in an increased output of consumer goods and in a reduction of costs.(12)

Press reports on rural and kolkhoz trade indicated an increased interest by the rural population in cultural goods and in high-quality clothing, fabric, and footwear.

An article in Pravda reported considerable trade expansion in Primorskiy Kray, where cooperative stores of distant villages are selling a wide assortment of high-grade fabrics, footwear, electrical appliances, and carpets. The population purchased 500,000 rubles' worth of commodities during the first 6 months of 1953.(13) In over 5 months of 1953, kolkhozes in Primorskiy Kray purchased about 8,000 radio loud-speakers and more than 200 trucks; they also purchased more than twice as much dishware as during the same period of 1952, Sovetskaya Litva indicated.(14)

In Kurgan, Timochev, Korenov, and other points in Krasnodarskiy Kray in the Kuban region, construction was started on special stores for the sale of silk fabrics, clothing, and footwear, according to Vechernyaya Moskva of 3 March 1953. During 1952, 120 new stores were put into operation in villages of this kray. During the 1953 summer season, 350 mobile stores were scheduled to operate.(15)

Along with press reports on progress made in the retail trade network, other articles reported shortcomings with regard to goods shortages, mismanagement, and poor disposition of trading enterprises.

In August 1953, Pravda reported that stores of the Kuznetsk Basin were deficient in furniture, dishes, household articles, and children's toys, although they were well supplied with fabrics, ready-to-wear clothing, and cultural goods. Local and cooperative industry in the Kuznetsk region was criticized for turning out insufficient furniture of poor quality at high prices. A poorly made birch chair of a Kemerovo furniture plant cost 10 rubles more than a fine chair imported from Maykop [Krasnodarskiy Kray].(16)

Izvestiya reported in August that 200 populated points in Novosibirskaya Oblast had no trading enterprises and that people had to travel 10 to 15 kilometers to get supplies.(17) Criticism of consumers' cooperatives of Irkutskaya Oblast appeared in a May issue of Izvestiya, which pointed out that the commodity turnover plan was not fulfilled, expenditures were great, and organization of the trade network was poor. The oblast consumers union was criticized for laxness in administration. Locally produced goods made up only 7.8 percent of the turnover of consumer cooperatives in Irkutskaya Oblast. Carts, shaft bows, harnesses, and other articles necessary to the population sometimes had to be imported from points thousands of kilometers away.(18)

#### Moscow

Vechernyaya Moskva, on 29 August, announced the proposed 1 November opening of the new state department store (gosudarstvennyy universal'nyy magazin) in Moscow, to be the largest trading enterprise in the country, with a trading

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area of 47,000 square meters. (The Central Univermag in Moscow occupies only 18,000 square meters.) The following arrangement of departments was planned: first floor -- fabrics, perfumes, musical instruments, housewares, photographic equipment, radios, stationery, and sports goods; second floor -- ready-to-wear clothing, underwear, footwear, millinery, knitwear, and children's clothing; third floor -- a large shop for made-to-order dresses, millinery, and footwear, as well as a dining room, dispensary, clubroom for 600 spectators, a gymnasium for sales personnel, and the administrative offices.

Salons for the sale of women's silk dresses, furs, styled footwear, and antiques were also planned for this store, the same source indicated. Self-service in piece goods was to be provided, as well as automatic machines dispensing matches, envelopes, and writing paper. It was also planned to organize a service bureau to deliver purchases and to install radios, television sets, and refrigerators.(19)

There is a continuing emphasis on specialization in the trade network, and the number of specialized stores is increasing significantly, according to Pravda Ukrainy. About 200 large specialized stores were in operation in various rayons of Moscow in April 1953.(20) During 1953, it was planned to put into operation 70 stores and 17 dining establishments in newly constructed buildings in Moscow.(21)

In July 1953, "Mosmoloko," a new specialized organization for the sale of milk and dairy products was reported operating in Moscow. There will be 94 stores in the system of this new trading organization. It was planned to put into operation ten new dairy stores in the second half of 1953 and the first half of 1954.(22)

In answer to the increased demand for fruits and vegetables, Vechernyaya Moskva reported, a large new specialized store for the sale of fruits and vegetables was established in Moscow in June. It is supplied by food enterprises in Moldavia, the Crimea, Central Asia, and Belorussia.(23) In this connection, the press has given increased attention to the procurement and sale of fruits and vegetables, pointing out deficiencies in supply and trading organizations, both in Moscow and Leningrad.(24,25)

Vechernyaya Moskva reported that 21 "ZIM" automobiles were sold to Moscow workers by the specialized store of the Moscow Glavmashsbyt (Main Administration of Sales Ministry of Machine-Building Industry) during 2 weeks in July 1953. It mentioned the growing demand for other automobiles also. During the same period, the store sold 395 "Pobeda" and 300 "Moskvich" cars.(26)

With regard to specialized stores, Sovetskaya Belorussiya stated that a new demonstration store had been established in Moscow for the sale of apparatus and machines used for high-speed cutting and welding with the aid of oxygen. This is the only trading enterprise in the country where various mechanisms can be observed in operation. At the beginning of 1953, this store delivered hundreds of machines and apparatus to builders in Kiev, Baku, and Tbilisi, to Donbass miners, and to Ural metallurgists.(27)

During the first half of May, a store of Glavmashpriborsbyt (Main Administration for the Sale of Machines and Instruments) sold 1,100 manual and treadle sewing machines, and 5,100 clocks and watches of various types, it was reported in Vechernyaya Moskva.(28)

Shortcomings in trade were discussed as follows at the third session of the Moscow City Soviet of Workers' Deputies, as reported by Izvestiya: Despite over-all increases in production, it is not easy for the consumer to find good-quality furniture, footwear, attractive suits, coats, and any kind of

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household equipment. Local and cooperative industry does not give sufficient attention to the manufacture of children's clothing and footwear. In 1952, enterprises of local and cooperative industry chose 1/2 samples from the exhibit of the chamber of commerce, in order to put them into mass production, but only 52 of these were used.(29)

In addition, an article by the director of the Moscow Central Department Store which appeared in Vechernyaya Moskva in May 1953, also indicated that industrial enterprises were not producing the necessary quality and quantity of goods. Furniture factories were not manufacturing screens, chaise lounges, bookcases, stands for clothes, kitchen shelves, and piano stools, all of which were in demand.(30)

#### Leningrad

According to Leningradskaya Pravda, more than 90 stores, dining rooms, and tea houses were opened in 1952 in Leningradskaya Oblast.(31) In May, Sovetskaya Belorussiya reported that some 4,000 trading enterprises were in operation in rayon centers and villages of this oblast. Also, about 400 specialized stores were reported to be operating, and in 1953, 12 more specialized stores were to be opened for the sale of ready-to-wear clothing, footwear, furniture, books, and musical instruments.(32)

According to Leningradskaya Pravda, the special store of Glavavtotraktorosbyt (Main Administration for the Sale of Automobiles and Tractors) in 1952 sold nearly 1,300 "Pobeda" and "Moskvich" automobiles. During the first quarter 1953, almost twice as many automobiles were sold as in the same period in 1952.

The same source singled out the DLT department store in Leningrad as exemplary in its quality of consumer goods: good furniture is sold at this department store, as well as dishware, beautiful fabrics, fine footwear, and quality sewn goods. The daily turnover at this store in April 1953 was over 1 1/2 million rubles. During 1952, the people of Leningrad purchased 55 million rubles' worth of goods more than in 1951 at this store.(33)

In March, at an exhibition of styled spring and summer goods at the Leningrad House of Culture, over 5,000 samples were exhibited, including many new types of china, musical instruments, haberdashery, fabrics, and new styles in clothing, Leningradskaya Pravda reported. Although the article praised Leningrad enterprises for a fine exhibition, it pointed out that there was much room for improvement, since the potential for increased production and high quality had not been realized because of poor management.(34) An August issue of the paper listed other shortcomings in Leningrad trade as poor assortment, poor analysis of consumer demand, unskilled personnel, and dishonesty among workers. The paper asserted that the consumer wants, and is not getting, high-quality goods. The insufficient supply of footwear was particularly emphasized.(35)

#### Belorussian SSR

Sovetskaya Belorussiya, in August 1953, reported that more than 9,700 rayon and rural stores were in operation in the Belorussian SSR. During 1953, 127 additional stores were scheduled to be put into operation. Commodity assortment for the rural population was increasing. In 1953 /presumably the first half year/, the delivery of woollen fabric to rayon and rural stores increased 30 percent, and that of sewn goods, 30.8 percent, over 1952. In 1953, rayon and rural stores of the republic were to be supplied with 14,000 radio receiving sets, 31,000 bicycles, 12,400 sewing machines, and 900 motor-cycles.(36)

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According to Pravda Vostoka, 15 large well-equipped stores were opened in Minsk during the first 5 months of 1953.(37) In May, Sovetskaya Belorussiya reported an expansion of trade in Baranovichskaya Oblast. New stores were in operation in Baranovichi, and a network of public dining enterprises was being developed in the city of Slonim. During 1952, eight trading enterprises were put into operation in Novogrudok. It was planned to increase the number of specialized stores for the sale of knitwear, fabrics, ready-to-wear clothing, footwear, and household articles in the oblast.(38)

During 6 months of 1953, the Polotsk City food and industrial goods trading center sold food and industrial goods valued at 4.5 million rubles more than the amount sold during the same period in 1952, according to Sovetskaya Belorussiya. The sale of sugar and vegetable oil doubled in comparison with the same period in 1952, and the sale of macaroni products, metal dishware, and cultural goods increased threefold. However, the city party committee criticized the Ministry of Trade Belorussian SSR for providing Polotsk trading organizations with inferior haberdashery, construction materials, and cultural goods.(39)

With respect to shortcomings in Belorussian trade, a July issue of the same paper criticized the lack of coordination between the Mogilev Bread Combine and Mogilev trading enterprises. It charged that the bread combine was not fulfilling its assortment plan, and that the distribution and supply network was poorly organized. The sales organization of bread products in Molodechnenskaya Oblast was also termed unsatisfactory.(40)

Trud criticized the fact that trading organizations had no plan for packaging and weighing goods, as follows: Since goods are neither weighed nor packaged beforehand in warehouses, much time is consumed in the stores in these operations. The Borisovskiy Macaroni Factory has been urged to put out packaged goods, but macaroni and vermicelli continue to arrive at trading outlets in large crates. The "Zarya" Plant supplies yeast and salt in kilogram packages. There are agreements between the Ministry of Light and Food Industry and the Ministry of Trade Belorussian SSR, concerning the supply of confectionery goods in packages, but the norms specified in the agreements are clearly insufficient.(41)

#### Ukrainian SSR

According to Pravda Ukrainy, the production program in the Ukraine for the first half of 1953 was fulfilled 101 percent. Tens of millions of rubles' worth of goods were produced above plan. The output of consumer goods was increased considerably. In enterprises of local and cooperative industry alone, twice as many goods were manufactured in 1952 as in 1950.(42)

With regard to cooperative trade in rural areas, Pravda Ukrainy in April 1953 reported that Ukrainian consumer cooperatives in 1952 sold 874 million rubles' worth of industrial and food products more than in 1951 (at comparable prices). In 1953 (January - April), the retail network of consumer cooperatives was increased by 812 trading enterprises. Before the end of 1953, 63 rayon stores were to be constructed, as well as 450 rural stores (sel'magi), 30 cultural goods stores, and 25 stores for the sale of housewares. In 15 rayon centers, specialized footwear stores were to be put into operation, and clothing stores were to be established in 28 rayon centers.(43) In addition, a June issue of Pravda indicated the increased sale of such materials as cement, nails, glass, roofing paper, and slate in Ukrainian consumer cooperatives.(44)

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The following information on trade expansion in certain cities and oblasts of the Ukraine was reported by the press between March and August 1953. In 1952, about 800 new stores and 126 public dining enterprises were put into operation in cities and workers' settlements of Stalinskaya Oblast; in April 1953, 317 trading locations were under construction, 98 of them in the city of Stalino, Pravda Ukrainy reported.(45) According to Pravda, 200 large specialized stores were put into operation during 1952 in Stalinskaya Oblast.(47) Izvestiya stated on 2 June that commodity turnover during the preceding 2 years in the city of Stalino had increased by more than 100 million rubles. In 1951-1952 alone, the city trade network increased by 451 stores, stalls, pavilions, and public dining enterprises.(46)

Kolkhozes of Stalinskaya Oblast have considerably expanded their trade in agricultural products in Stalino markets, Pravda Ukrainy reported in May. Since the beginning of 1953, 45 kolkhozes had established permanent trade in city markets, and administrations had concluded 135 contracts with kolkhozes concerning the delivery of products to city and kolkhoz markets. In markets of the city 126 stores and stalls were being assigned for kolkhoz trade.(47)

In Kiev, 16 specialized stores were put into operation at the beginning of 1953, according to Sovetskaya Pelorussiya. It was planned to double in size the Kiev Department Store, which is one of the largest in the country. This store, which has 79 sections, sells rugs from Central Asia, styled footwear from Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev factories, fur from Moldavia, and lace from Vologda. In April and May, 30 percent more woolen fabric and 70 percent more silk were sold at this store than during the same 2 months in 1952.(48)

According to Leninskoye Znaniya of 23 May 1953, 30 trading enterprises had been opened in rayon centers and villages of L'vovskaya Oblast since the beginning of 1953, and 40 stores were under construction. In all, 1,330 stores, shops, and stalls were in operation in this oblast.(49)

Pravda Ukrainy in June pointed out the growing commodity turnover in Nikolayevskaya Oblast. During the first 5 months of 1953, the population of this oblast bought 27 percent more meat than during the same period in 1952, as well as 20 percent more fat, 21 percent more dairy products, 11 percent more sugar, and 45 percent more wine. In 5 months of 1953, 85 percent more silk fabrics were sold than in the same period of 1952, as well as 50 percent more hosiery, 94 percent more bicycles, and three times as many pianos.(50)

In the city of Poltava [Poltavskaya Oblast], Pravda Ukrainy in July reported six stores in operation, including an "Ukrtekstil" specialized store for the sale of textiles. Large perfumery, hubcandashery, industrial goods, and bread stores were to be established in 1953 in buildings which were under construction in July.(51) Turkmenkaya Iskra in August reported the completion of the 20th rural store in Kirovogradskaya Oblast. Before the end of 1953, it was planned to complete construction of stores in 50 villages and rayon centers of the oblast.(52)

In Drogobych, a new textile store was in operation in March 1953; and new dining rooms, tearooms, and stores selling food, industrial goods, and cultural goods were being put into operation in other cities and villages of the Transcarpathian region, according to Pravda.(7) In August, Izvestiya reported that the rural trade network of Zakarpatskaya Oblast was expanding considerably. Five million rubles had been allocated by the oblast consumers union for the construction of new stores in villages.(53)

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With regard to shortcomings in the trade network, examples of mismanagement and careless planning were cited in several issues of Pravda Ukrainy. The Stalino base of Glavshveytorg (Main Administration of Sewing Industry Trade) in June 1953 sent to Gorlovka 400,000 rubles' worth of winter clothes, and only 20,000 rubles' worth of summer clothing.(54) The opening of new stores on first floors of newly constructed buildings was extremely delayed, another issue of Pravda Ukrainy indicated. The practice of above-plan remodeling was sharply criticized, since it required a dispersal of additional expenditures. These expenditures were particularly great in Kharkov, it was reported, where 993,400 rubles were spent on remodeling, and 91,100 rubles on excessive planning in the construction of 16 stores on the first floors of new houses.(55)

In April, Pravda Ukrainy reported a deficiency in the production of local construction materials, particularly brick and tile, which are in great demand in connection with large-scale construction throughout the country. The Ministry of Local Industry and the industrial cooperatives were blamed for this deficiency.(43)

Pravda Ukrainy in another April article severely criticized Ukrainian trading organizations for not reducing distribution expenditures, since if these expenditures were cut by only one percent of the total turnover, the national economy would have an additional income of 4 billion rubles a year. In 1952, local trading organizations of the Ukrainian SSR spent 16.5 billion rubles for the payment of bank credits. This huge expenditure was the result of an accumulation of above-norm commodity stocks, which in turn resulted from an unsatisfactory analysis of consumer demand and incorrect planning of commodity funds. The article pointed out that trading organizations have the potential to lower their distribution expenditures. In fact, 52 Ukrainian trading organizations decreased their distribution expenditures below the plan, but many others continue to operate from year to year at a loss. Glavtorg (Main Administration of Trade) Ukrainian SSR, was sharply criticized for not popularizing the practical experience of more efficient organizations.(56)

#### Moldavian SSR

Sovetskaya Moldaviya in March 1953 estimated that 2,555 stores, booths, and stalls were in operation in rural communities of the Moldavian SSR, as well as 656 public dining enterprises. The rural stores alone numbered 230; in 1947 there were only 74 of these. In 1953, it was planned to put 77 specialized stores in operation in the villages. Rural consumer cooperatives were scheduled to sell 1,350,000,000 rubles' worth of goods to kolkhozes and kolkhoz farmers in 1953.

During 1953, rural cooperatives sold 3,400 phonographs, 27,000 phonograph records, 4,200 radio receiving sets, 3,680 bicycles and motorcycles, 3,500 sewing machines, and 5,000 pocket and wrist watches.(57)

Another issue of Sovetskaya Moldaviya pointed out that hundreds of stores sell footwear in the Moldavian SSR, including 28 specialized stores. In the first half of 1953, trading organizations received 12.5 million pairs of footwear from Leningrad, Moscow, Kiev, Rostov, and from local factories. Footwear enterprises in Moldavia in 1953 were manufacturing almost 3 million pairs of footwear, 700,000 more than they produced in 1952.(58)

According to a March 1953 issue of Pravda, the number of stores in Moldavia increased more than 50 percent during the preceding 2 years, and the number of dining enterprises increased 150 percent. New large food stores had recently been set up in Kishinev, Bendery, and other Moldavian cities, and refrigeration had been installed in 700 stores and dining establishments. In 1952, the sale

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of silk fabric increased 34.5 percent  $\sqrt{\text{presumably over 1951}}$ ; footwear, 50 percent; furniture, 36 percent; watches, 150 percent; and bicycles, 200 percent.(7)

Sovetskaya Moldaviya in August reported a significant expansion of the trading network, but made the following criticisms: The network is still small and unable to satisfy the growing demands of the people. New stores and stalls are often put into operation without an organized plan. In addition, although there are many stores in large population centers, few are found in outlying areas. Frequently such items as cheap cigarettes, candy and other confectionery goods are not available in rural stores. Wool and silk fabrics and styled footwear are delivered to these stores irregularly, and the stock of good clothing is insufficient, although frequently there are surpluses of these goods in warehouses.

Trade workers are lax in analyzing popular demand. Consumer demand and suggestion books are seldom found in stores. Many trade workers sell only the goods which are sent to them, and do not take into account that they should influence the production of goods which are in greatest demand. Further, the lack of proper coordination between the Moldavian Ministry of Trade and the Moldavian Consumers Union makes it impossible to organize a correct distribution of goods.

The supply of fruit, vegetables, and potatoes to the city population is poor. In many cities there are practically no vegetables for sale. Despite the great demand for vegetables, the director of the city food trading center in Kishinev did not accept a large quantity of cabbages and cucumbers which were delivered by kolkhozes to one of the city food stores.

Stores and stalls in many villages and cities are located in unsanitary and unattractive buildings. Sales personnel open and close stores at random, and treat customers rudely.(59)

#### Latvian SSR

In the Latvian SSR, 220 stores and stalls, and 78 dining rooms, tearooms, and lunch counters were put into operation from March to August 1953, according to Sovetskaya Estoniya of 30 August. During 1953, more than 20 specialized stores had been established in Riga, Daugavpils, Lielvaya, Yelgava, and other cities. Between 1950 and 1953, the number of cold-storage units in stores and dining rooms of the republic increased 550 percent. By December 1953, tens of new stores were to be established.(60)

A March issue of Pravda reported the establishment of "Latodezhda" and "Latobuv", two specialized enterprises for trade in clothing and footwear, respectively.(7)

A large delicatessen store is one of many new stores recently put into operation in the city of Daugavpils, Sovetskaya Latvija reported in June. Discussing the constant expansion of the trading network, the paper stated that ten new trading points had been established by the city trading organization; the ORS (Workers' Supply Divisions) of rail transport, of the butter industry trust, and of other organizations. In comparison with June 1952, the network of stores and booths in Daugavpils and its suburbs had increased by 41 trading points in June 1953, and the commodity turnover had risen more than 10 percent.(61) During March and April 1953, a number of specialized stores were put into operation in Yekabpils for the sale of jewelry, millinery, footwear, household and building materials, and silk fabrics, Sovetskaya Latvija reported in May.(62)

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Criticism appeared in Sovetskaya Latvija in June and August concerning goods shortages, lack of assortment, and poor distribution of goods, as well as bad management by the Ministry of Trade Latvian SSR. In June, the paper mentioned shortages in footwear in Riga stores. Latvian footwear factories were producing only black leather shoes, although consumers demand a variety. There was an insufficient quantity of men's and children's tennis shirts, and of light-colored silk fabric. Some industrial artels and combines continued to put out inferior products, such as very ordinary woolen dresses, and knitted blouses of faded colors.

Further, the same article states that a number of products which could be successfully manufactured by cooperative and local industry were not produced in the republic, but were procured from Moscow, Leningrad, and cities of the Urals. It charged that the production of ordinary furniture was not well organized, although Latvian furniture workers are famous, and that it was difficult to find wicker furniture, kitchen tables, and cabinets.(63)

During the first half of 1953, goods valued at 50 million rubles less than planned were received by trading enterprises from Latvian factories and plants; Sovetskaya Latvija reported in August. In addition, 6 million rubles' worth of various articles were rejected by trading bases and stores and returned to suppliers. The demand for school children's clothing, footwear, textbooks, and writing materials was not satisfied.(64)

A criticism of the same type appeared in Sovetskaya Latvija on 15 August, which reported that the Riga Main Department Store, largest store in the Latvian SSR, was having considerable difficulty in satisfying the needs of workers for better-quality footwear and clothes because of lack of cooperation from industry.(65)

Further shortcomings in Latvian industry and production were pointed out in a Sovetskaya Latvija article of 12 August, which described errors in the production process. As of 1 April 1953, enterprises of the Ministry of Light and Food Industry and the Ministry of Local and Fuel Industry had on hand almost 38 million rubles' worth of above-plan material stocks. The indebtedness of a number of industrial enterprises was large. Enterprises of the light and food industry, timber and paper industry, local and fuel industry, and construction materials industry were reported to be 35 million rubles in debt.(66)

Lithuanian SSR

A May 1953 issue of Sovetskaya Litva reported that new stores were being set up, and existing stores repaired and enlarged, in Vil'nyus. After completion of capital repairs, a specialized store for the sale of dairy products and a new cafe were put in operation. The following stores were to be established: stores of Glavbumsbyt (Main Administration for the Sale of Products of Paper Industry Enterprises), two bread stores, one haberdashery and perfume store, two industrial commodity stores, and a new food store operating during lunch and evening hours. A confectionery store was being enlarged. In all, over 45 large trading enterprises were to be remodeled in the city of Vil'nyus in 1953.(67) In addition, Pravda in June reported that a large specialized furniture store, a specialized food store, and some pharmacies would be put into operation during 1953 on the ground floors of newly constructed buildings.(68)

Sovetskaya Litva in March 1953 reported the expansion of specialized trade in the city of Klaypeda, where specialized stores were established for the sale of footwear, silk fabrics, and ready-to-wear clothing. Ten specialized stores were scheduled to be put into operation for the sale of confectionery goods,

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wine, tobacco, preserves, linen, perfume, utensils, and construction materials. In the area of a cellulose and paper combine, a large pavilion was being constructed for the sale of foodstuffs. The reconstruction and enlargement of a department store was scheduled to be started shortly.(69)

On 10 April, Sovetskaya Litva stated that 59 rural stores were put into operation in Klaypedskaya Oblast in 1952. In rayon centers and rural communities [presumably throughout Lithuania], 64 new trading enterprises were to be put into operation before the end of 1953. It was planned to organize 22 specialized stores.(70)

In the preceding 3 years, more than 1,400 trading points, including 800 stores, were established in the Lithuanian SSR, Sovetskaya Litva reported on 10 July.(71) With regard to consumer cooperatives, 40 stores and stalls were in operation as of 11 July 1953 for the sale of food and manufactured goods and construction materials, according to another article in Sovetskaya Litva.(72)

Reports of serious shortcomings in Lithuanian trading organizations continued to appear in the press. Sovetskaya Litva charged in June 1953 that consumer demand was not being analyzed, and the needs of the people were not satisfied. An example cited was the difficulty of finding stationery in stores and shops of Kalvariyskiy Rayon, although trade bases had large quantities of this commodity. Also, despite a large supply of cotton knitwear at the Vil'nyus department store base, such goods were greatly needed by rural trading organizations.(73)

Other irregularities reported in a July issue, with regard to footwear, were that the "Yel'nyas" Combine was manufacturing attractive and durable sandals for men, but very unsatisfactory children's footwear and attractive but poorly made footwear for women. In the second quarter 1953, one department store found 685 pairs of very low-grade shoes out of 3,981 pairs, and returned 98 pairs to the manufacturing enterprises. Other shortcomings reported by this source included old-fashioned styles and lack of regard for seasonal demand.(74)

#### Estonian SSR

In April 1953, there were nearly 470 stores operating in Tallin, including 154 specialized stores according to Sovetskaya Estoriya. In 1952, 94 stores were put into operation in the Estonian SSR.(75)

Pravda reported on 17 August that 14 new stores had been put into operation in Tallin in 1953, and that many of the old stores had been expanded and reconstructed. By the end of 1953, six more stores were to be established, and all grocery stores trading in perishable goods were to be equipped with refrigeration installations.(76)

On 17 June, Sovetskaya Estoniya indicated that 12 million rubles' worth more goods had been sold in stores of the Tallin food trading organization since the beginning of 1953 than in the same period in 1952.(77)

Trade statistics, as indicated in Sovetskaya Estoniya, placed the commodity turnover of Ryapinaskiy Rayon for the first 6 months of 1953 at 10,914,000 rubles. A total of 2,811,000 rubles' worth of foodstuffs was sold to consumers in the second quarter 1953 in Ryapinaskiy Rayon. Trade in industrial goods expanded considerably. In the second quarter 1953, 5,793,000 rubles' worth of manufactured goods were sold; this included 391,000 rubles' worth of woolen and semi-woolen fabrics, 189,000 rubles' worth of silk fabrics, 118,000 rubles' worth of leather footwear, and 109,000 rubles' worth of bicycles and motorcycles.(78)

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According to an April Sovetskaya Estoniya article, industrial combines in Tallinskaya Oblast were not fulfilling their plans for consumer goods output. An industrial combine of Loosay Rayon, Tallinskaya Oblast, fulfilled only 34.9 percent of its plan. Another combine in 1952 had a loss of 10,000 rubles instead of a planned profit of 44,000 rubles. The blame for these deficiencies was placed on the executive committees of the rayon soviets and the rayon financial division.

The same source indicated shortcomings in the work of supply and procurement. The Main Administration of Supply and Sales, Ministry of Local Industry and Shale and Chemical Industry Estonian SSR, was supplying industrial combines with materials on an irregular basis, thus contributing to an increase in above-norm accumulations. Workers of this administration forced the combines to purchase excessive quantities of material stocks. For example, they requested the Tartu City Combine in November 1952 to buy 4 tons of oleic acid, whereas the yearly demand for this product was only 1.6 tons.(79)

A July issue of Sovetskaya Estoniya indicated that more than 1½ million rubles' worth of manufactured goods for the seasonal trade was not delivered to trade organizations by enterprises of the Ministry of Local Industry and Shale and Chemical Industry Estonian SSR and by the Estonian Council of Industrial Cooperatives during the first half of 1953. Trade organizations failed to receive from these supply networks 593,000 rubles' worth of rubberized silk raincoats, 370,000 rubles' worth of women's dresses, 193,000 rubles' worth of men's sandals, and 131,000 rubles' worth of children's sandals.(80)

Also with respect to problems of supply, another July issue of Sovetskaya Estoniya reported that the Ministry of Trade Estonian SSR and the Ministry of Agriculture and Procurement Estonian SSR had not organized proper coordination between kolkhozes and trading organizations in the supply and distribution of vegetables and potatoes. The Estonian Republic Union of Consumer Cooperatives in July had not begun to fulfill its 1953 plan for potato supply, and the supply plan for early vegetables was fulfilled by only 4 percent.(81)

According to an August article in Sovetskaya Estoniya, stores in Tallin had been importing large quantities of commodities from Moscow, Leningrad, and Riga. During the third quarter 1953 [sic], the Estonian SSR received 10 million rubles' worth of cotton fabrics from factories of Ivanovo, Leningrad, and the Latvian SSR. In all, about 25 million rubles' worth of cotton fabrics alone were imported from other republics.(82)

#### Karelo-Finnish SSR

More than 2,000 stores and stalls were in operation in the Karelo-Finnish SSR in August 1953, and their number was continually increasing, according to Leninskoye Znamya of 30 August. In 1953 alone, the network of stores had been increased by 83 units.(83) In Petrozavodsk, capital city of the Karelo-Finnish SSR, 471 trading enterprises were in operation according to another August issue of Leninskoye Znamya.(84) In rural communities of the republic, 730 stores and stalls, and 95 dining rooms, shops, and cafes were reported operating in April by Leninskoye Znamya.(85)

However, there were numerous shortcomings and deficiencies in the Karelo-Finnish production system, according to another article in Leninskoye Znamya. The Minister of Trade Karelo-Finnish SSR was strongly criticized for not exerting proper control over enterprises of local industry and industrial cooperatives. Production of consumer goods from local raw materials was not organized in the republic. Even the simplest wooden articles, such as ax handles, cooper's implements, toys, and wicker baskets were being purchased from Moskovskaya,

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Vologodskaya, and Kirovskaya oblasts, although according to the article it would be possible to manufacture these articles within the Karelo-Finnish Republic.(86)

Although the Karelo-Finnish SSR is rich in forests, Petrozavodsk manufactures little furniture, Izvestiya pointed out in May.(87) Two furniture factories were scheduled for construction in Petrozavodsk, but over a 2-year period no funds had been allotted for this purpose, it was indicated in Leninskoye Znanya. The paper added that furniture is imported from distant points in insufficient quantity.(84)

Armenian SSR

In the first 6 months of 1953, 20 large stores were established in Yerevan, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya stated in July. In cities and villages of Armenia 250 specialized industrial and food stores, and over 3,400 public dining enterprises were in operation in July 1953.(88)

According to a May article in Kommunist, 36 new stores and public dining enterprises were opened during 1952 - 1953 in Stalinskiy Rayon. The total number of stores and public dining enterprises in this rayon was reported to be over 360. Kommunist, in the same article, reported that a permanent commission of deputies had been appointed at the second session of the Stalinskiy Rayon Soviet of Yerevan, for the purpose of organizing work in trading locations and improving the supply system. After investigating operations in trade networks, the deputies recommended measures for trade improvement, particularly in worker's settlements, and more centralized control over trading locations. Deputies reported that consumer demand was not being analyzed, the minimum assortment of goods was not provided, and complaints of consumers were carelessly treated.(89)

Other issues of Kommunist from April through August sharply criticized the Armenian trade system for serious deficiencies. As a result of poor analysis of consumer demand and errors in delivery and distribution of goods in the republic, the Ministry of Trade, the Armenian Council of Industrial Cooperatives, and "Aykoop" (Armenian Consumer Cooperatives) regularly failed to fulfill their commodity turnover plans, Kommunist indicated in April. In the first quarter 1953, not one of the principal trading organizations nor the ministry as a whole fulfilled the turnover plan. A large number of complaints were received from consumers about low-quality goods and poor assortment. The quality of sewn goods, shoes, and fabric produced by Armenian enterprises was reported to be far from satisfactory. In rural stores of outlying rayons, great deficiencies in cultural goods, furniture, and building materials were reported.(90)

In another article, Kommunist reported that consumer cooperatives and three consumers societies in Aparanskiy Rayon failed to fulfill the retail commodity turnover plans for both the first quarter and the first half of 1953, and suffered losses. As a result, unsold commodities accumulated in many villages and stores. The paper charged that managers of consumers unions were not coping with violations of trade regulations, that the indebtedness of certain societies was very great, that many stores were located on unsuitable premises, and that industrial and food commodities were carelessly stored.(91)

Serious defects in the organization of summer trade were pointed out in June by Kommunist. State and cooperative stores had very few fresh greens, early vegetables, fruit, and eggs for sale, and industrial goods stores had a small assortment of summer clothing and fabrics. Yerevan and Leninakan sewing factories of the Ministry of Light and Food Industry were criticized for completing only 27.3 percent of the second-quarter plan for 1953. Footwear factories of the Ministry of Light and Food Industry failed to deliver more than 14 million rubles' worth of various footwear.(92)

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In August, Kommunist again reported deficiencies and serious shortcomings. It described the situation as follows:

The Ministry of Trade, the Armenian Trading Organization, and "Aykoop" fail to study consumer demands. For this reason there are deficiencies in the distribution of goods. Villages are not promptly supplied with the goods they need, although there is a sufficient quantity of everyday goods at warehouses and bases. Consumers frequently are not able to find the most ordinary commodities. For example, consumers in one village were not able to find rock salt, vegetable oils, macaroni, children's footwear, cotton fabric, and thread, although these goods were stocked by warehouses. During the first 10 days of August, the Armenian Trading Organization in the Sevan settlement had only 46 of 84 items which were listed in their catalog. Customers complained that cotton and wool fabrics, towels, women's dresses, haberdashery, and dishware have not been available for a long time.

In almost all stores of even the most remote villages there is a demand for stylish furniture, good-quality clothing and footwear, and a varied assortment of cultural goods. However, trading organization personnel fail to take this into account, and try to sell outmoded products of low quality which have been stored in warehouses. Negligence on the part of trade workers and managers with respect to rural consumer demand is largely responsible for the failure to fulfill the commodity turnover plan.(93)

#### Azerbaydzhan SSR

Stores of the URS (Workers' Supply Administrations) in 1952 sold 1,090,000,000 rubles' worth of industrial goods and foodstuffs, according to Bakinskiy Rabochiy. (94) In the first half of 1953, a Trud article indicated, state and cooperative trade sold 15 percent more commodities than during the first half of 1952. In 1953, the retail commodity turnover of the petroleum industry ORS increased 27 percent over 1952 [for the first half year]. The ORS of the Baku Petroleum Plant imeni Stalin opened 12 stores and shops, repaired 54 stores and dining rooms and 49 lunchrooms and tents, and installed three new refrigerators.(95)

Sixteen stores for the sale of industrial and food products were put into operation on first floors of remodeled stores in Bakinskiy Rayon, and seven stores in Molotovskiy, Duvanninskiy, and other petroleum rayons of Baku, according to Bakinskiy Rabochiy on 29 March. The total commodity turnover of the new stores was valued at one million rubles a year. It was planned to open 19 additional industrial goods and food stores [in Baku] in 1953.(96)

Pravda, in August, reported an expansion of the trade network in Azerbaydzhan. A footwear store in Kirovskiy Rayon of Baku had recently been opened, and a large grocery and delicatessen store and a ready-to-wear store were to be put into operation soon. The URS of "Azneft" organized 25 specialized stores within a short time. In addition to funds allotted to it for the second half of 1953, the URS was to receive additional goods valued at almost 60 million rubles: The sale of meat, sausages, butter, and sugar had increased considerably in Baku, it was reported. Wool fabrics were to be received [from production centers] in an amount valued at 10 million rubles more than had been anticipated earlier.(76)

Bakinskiy Rabochiy, in August, stressed the necessity of ending the lag of enterprises which do not regularly fulfill production plans, and which operate at a loss. The Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry, the Ministry of the Light and Food Industry, the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Procurement, and the Azerbaydzhan Council of Industrial Cooperatives were sharply criticized in this respect. In 1952, 23 enterprises of the light, food, meat and dairy, and fish industries ended the fiscal year with large deficits. They failed to pay into the budget 14 million rubles,

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and failed to provide the population with several million meters of cotton and wool textiles, and tens of thousands of pairs of footwear. In the first half of 1953, enterprises under these ministries produced considerably less cotton goods, butter, cheese, cigarettes, and other consumer goods than planned.(97)

A particularly sharp criticism of trade in Zangelanskiy Rayon appeared in Bakinskiy Rabochiy on 24 April. The 1952 commodity turnover plan in this rayon was fulfilled only 60.5 percent. Two million rubles' worth of wool and silk fabrics, sugar, cigarettes and matches, ready-to-wear clothes, footwear, tea, and confectionery goods accumulated in warehouses of the rayon consumers union in Pirchevan at a time of great need for these products in the rayon.(98)

#### Georgian SSR

Sovetskaya Latvija, in May 1953, reported that 250 new stores had been established in cities and villages of the Georgian SSR since the beginning of 1953.(99)

According to Izvestiya in June, more than 100 stores had been put into operation in Tbilisi, Batumi, Sukhumi, Rustavi, and other Georgian cities since the beginning of 1953, including 30 specialized stores for the sale of footwear, fabrics, and ready-to-wear clothing. Urban and rural workers were said to be demanding more cultural goods, silk fabrics, sewn and knitted articles, leather footwear, stylish furniture, and automobiles.(100) Zarya Vostoka indicated that in the first 6 months of 1953, Tbilisi stores sold industrial and food products worth 5 billion rubles more than planned.(101) An August article in Pravda reported that 27 specialized stores had been established in Tbilisi since the beginning of 1953, and in all, 70 stores, pavilions, booths, and stalls were to be constructed in 1953 in this city.(102)

Two articles in Zarya Vostoka, in June and August, discussed the importance of expanding the network of specialized stores dealing in cultural goods. The June article stated that, unfortunately, the specialized trade system was not properly organized. A store in Tbilisi which sells photographic equipment and sports goods was transferred to Glavelektrosvyaz'sbyt (Main Administration for the Sale of Products of the Communications Equipment Industry), and another store of the same type was transferred to Glavlegsbyt (Main Administration of Sales, Ministry of Light Industry).(103) In August, Zarya Vostoka reported that the Ministry of Trade Georgian SSR had ordered trading organizations to establish specialized phonograph record divisions in all large-scale industrial goods stores and to provide them with necessary equipment for storing and listening to phonograph records. To improve consumer service, these stores were required to stock record catalogs and a sufficient number of record players. In addition, the Ministry of Trade ordered the Tbilisi Industrial Trading Organization to establish in Tbilisi a specialized record store with an assortment of 2,000 records, and special booths for listening.(104)

Criticism was directed at the Georgian consumer cooperatives, in another August issue of Zarya Vostoka. Very large distribution expenditures resulted in large monetary losses. As a result of the unfulfilled commodity turnover plan and the existence of above-plan commodity surpluses, the Abkhaz consumer cooperatives, and the Akhalsikhskiy and Tsitelitskeroyiskiy rayon consumers unions permitted overexpenditures in distribution outlays. Because of excessive transshipments of goods through wholesale warehouses, the Abkhaz consumer cooperatives permitted additional expenditures in 1952 amounting to 275,000 rubles. The Dushetskiy Rayon Consumers Union had additional expenditures amounting to 179,600 rubles, and the Marneulskiy Rayon Consumers Union, 130,000 rubles.(105)

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Kazakh SSR

A further increase in the production of consumer goods is projected in the Fifth Five-Year Plan in the Kazakh SSR, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda pointed out in August. Twice as much footwear is to be produced in 1955 as in 1950, and the production of yarn is to increase over 300 percent. Footwear production in 1953 was to increase 68.6 percent over the 1950 output.(106)

In April 1953, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda indicated that 1,200 specialized stores were in operation in Kazakhstan for the sale of bread and baked goods, meat and fish, fabrics, sewn articles, and footwear. In 1953, about 700 new trading and public dining enterprises were to be established.(107) As of 3 April 1953, 18 new stores had been opened in Alma-Ata alone since the beginning of the year.(108)

In Karaganda, city of coal miners, 200 new stores and 96 specialized enterprises were put into operation in 1952, according to Izvestiya.(12) During 6 months of 1953, stores of the URS of the Karagandaugol' Combine sold 32 million rubles' worth more industrial and food commodities than during the same period in 1952, and the sale of furniture, motorcycles, and radio receiving sets more than doubled, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda reported.(109)

An article on trade expansion in the city of Dzhambul appeared in Kazakhstanskaya Pravda in August. In the first 6 months of 1953, it was indicated, city trading enterprises sold over 5 million rubles' worth more of commodities than during the same period in 1952. Consumers bought 3 million rubles' worth of silk fabric. During 7 months of 1953, 16 trading points were opened. A specialized industrial commodity store and a store for the sale of sewn goods were to be put into operation during the second half of 1953.(110)

According to Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, on 1 April 1953, there were 10,000 consumer cooperative stores and shops in the republic, and, in the rest of 1953, 70 more stores and 50 shops were to be put into operation. The demand for cultural goods in rural communities had increased sharply.(111)

Despite the expansion in rural trade, reporting of shortcomings continued. In July, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda pointed to insufficient analysis of consumer demand, poor organization of distribution, and improper training of workers. Alma-Ata in particular was said to have a retail shortage of vegetables, fruits, and berries. Further, it was reported that bases of consumer cooperatives had accumulated 600 million rubles' worth of goods, and that the commodity turnover for 5½ months of 1953 had not been fulfilled by one oblast consumers union.(112)

The following trade shortcomings in several Kazakh cities and oblasts were reported by Kazakhstanskaya Pravda in August:

In Alma-Ata, the bread trading organizations do not satisfy the demands of consumers for assortment, and fail to fulfill the commodity turnover plan. The city bread combine does not fulfill the output plan, and the retail outlets are tolerant of disruptions in output.(113) Vostochno-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast is extremely backward in trade development. Salt, matches, tea, soap, and kerosene are not to be found at retail trade centers, although these products are stocked by trading bases. One trading organization is unable to organize trade in bread. The manager of the Oblast Trade Division permits interruptions in deliveries of industrial and food commodities.(114) Planning and management are poor in the Akmolinskaya Oblast trade network. The ORS of the Akmolinsk-Pavlodar Railroad Construction Administration expanded its trade network in Akmolinsk, where the URS of the Karaganda Railroad System has a

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large trade network for the railroad workers. In Akmolinsk, the only department store is still under construction. The refurbishing of a footwear store continues for the eighth month.(110)

A Kazakhstanskaya Pravda article in May indicated that trade in workers' settlements in Ust'Kamenogorsk was not progressing satisfactorily. The settlements had no specialized stores or small shops and had a shortage of necessary goods. One store had only a small assortment of fabrics, and another had no salt.(115)

In a July article, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda criticized trade in workers' settlements in Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast, as follows:

In a number of stores in certain workers' settlements there has been no kerosene or window glass on sale for a long time. There is no salt or dishwear available, and the assortment of footwear, sewn goods, knitwear, hosiery, and cotton fabric is limited. However, these goods are to be found in storage bases. More than 4 million rubles' worth of industrial and food products are stored in bases of the Bostandaykskiy Rayon Consumers Union, including 22 carloads of salt, 263,000 rubles' worth of shoes, 745,000 rubles' worth of cotton fabric, and 500,000 rubles' worth of sewn goods.(116)

Kirgiz SSR

In April 1953, Izvestiya stated that, in the preceding 3 years, nearly 500 new stores, dining rooms, and restaurants had been put into operation in the Kirgiz SSR. In 1952 alone, 211 trading enterprises were added. Tens of new specialized stores for trade in food products, textiles, footwear, ready-to-wear clothing, and perfumery goods started operation in the first quarter 1953. A sevenfold increase in refrigeration installations was reported in comparison with 1949.(117) More than 60 new trading enterprises were to be established during 1953 in the Kirgiz SSR, another Izvestiya article indicated.(118)

According to Kommunist Tadzhikistana in August, the 1953 volume of retail commodity turnover in the Kirgiz SSR was three times that of 1940. The trading network was expanded by more than 1,500 stores and shops. Since the beginning of 1953, commodity sales had increased by tens of millions of rubles over the corresponding period of 1952. Special attention was being given to trade organizations in high mountain areas. In 7 months of 1953, more than 30 stores were established in remote regions. The rural population of Kirgizia according to the article, has been demanding high-quality clothing, silk and woolen fabrics, furniture, and dishware, and the sale of radio receiving sets and phonographs has increased several times in kolkhoz settlements. During the remainder of 1953, 136 additional trading enterprises were to be established in cities and villages.(119)

A June article in Sovetskaya Kirgiziya also reported increased commodity turnover in rural areas, especially through consumer cooperatives. More than 250 stores and shops of consumer cooperatives were selling books. A specialized network for the sale of construction materials was in operation. These materials were needed for the construction of new residential houses, as well as electric power plants, and animal husbandry stations.(120) The same paper stated on 30 August that construction materials stores had been opened in Oktyabr'skiy, Bazar-Kurganskiy, Toktogul'skiy, and Ala-Bukinskiy rayons of the Kirgiz SSR, and that construction of such stores was being completed in Leninskiy and Karavanskiy rayons.(121)

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In another article, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya indicated an expansion of the trading network and commodity turnover in consumer cooperatives of Dzhahalal-Abad. The Suzal Rural Consumers Society, which sells many cultural goods, increased its commodity turnover in the second quarter 1953 by almost 2 million rubles, in comparison with the same period in 1952.(122)

However, the Kirgiz SSR commodity turnover as a whole over 7 months of 1953 was deficient by 115 million rubles, according to a speech by Deputy Chukeyev at a conference of the Supreme Soviet Kirgiz SSR, reported by Sovetskaya Kirgiziya on 25 August. According to the article, Deputy Chukeyev also stated that the plan of commodity turnover in consumer cooperatives was carried out unsatisfactorily. In Dzhahalal-Abadskaya Oblast it was fulfilled only 82.6 percent, and in Talasskaya Oblast, 85.4 percent.

The deputy also revealed that in 1953 alone, 1,131 tons more meat were to be sold to people of the republic than in 1952; 468 tons more herring; 338 tons more animal fats; 1,047 tons more vegetable oil; 2,300 tons more sugar; 900 tons more confectionery goods; 28,168,000 rubles' worth more cotton fabric; 1.5 million rubles' worth more woolen fabric; 17,760,000 rubles' worth more silk fabric; 720 tons more kerosene; 4,174 more bicycles; and 5,150 more phonographs. He added that the volume of retail trade in 1952, in comparison with 1951, increased 7.7 percent; and that the retail commodity turnover in 1953, was to increase 6.2 percent in comparison with 1952.(123)

With regard to shortcomings and deficiencies, the following information was reported by Sovetskaya Kirgiziya from May through August.

A May article indicated that unsatisfactory management in trading and public dining enterprises had resulted in serious shortcomings in their activities. Sales personnel were criticized for not considering popular demand, for poorly organizing the sale of goods, and for allowing goods to pile up in warehouses. Incorrect distribution of goods contributed to the accumulation of above-norm stocks. Distribution expenditures and waste were said to be great in the republic.(124)

Among shortcomings in the work of consumer cooperatives in the Kirgiz SSR, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya reported the following in June 1953:

The distribution of goods is very poor. For example in some consumer cooperatives of Talasskaya Oblast a shortage of wine was reported, while stores of a certain rural consumers society had a year's supply on hand. Sales bases have not been coping with their tasks. The republic office of Glavkhimsbyt (Main Administration for the Sale of Chemical Industry Products) in 1953 failed to deliver 100,000 rubles' worth of rubber footwear, and often ignored the prescribed assortment of commodities. The trading base of Glavrybsbyt (Main Administration of Sales, Ministry of the Fish Industry) is reportedly a very poor supplier. Consumer cooperatives in the first quarter 1953 failed to deliver quantities of canned goods, and tens of tons of fish and herring.(120)

The distribution network was also criticized in a Sovetskaya Kirgiziya article of 29 May, which pointed out that goods shortages should be blamed not on production but on distribution channels. For example, stores of Oshskaya Oblast had no galoshes, electric light bulbs, or soap for sale, although these goods were in the warehouses in sufficient quantity. The stores of the Rybachinskiy Rayon Consumers Union for a long time had no tea, eau de cologne, or window glass. Meanwhile, the Oshskaya Oblast trading organization had enough cloth footwear for 620 days and a year's supply of underwear.(125)

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With regard to production shortcomings, it was reported on 19 August by Sovetskaya Kirgiziya that such essential goods as shovels and clothespins must be imported into the republic, despite the fact that these articles could be put out by local and cooperative industry. The paper added that footwear manufactured by local enterprises does not sell well, and the quality of children's shoes is very low.(126)

Tadzhik SSR

In June, Kommunist Tadzhikistana reported a constant increase in the quantity of goods delivered to the Tadzhik SSR from other parts of the USSR. The Tadzhik trade network was expanding in response to popular demand for commodities. In 1953, the Tadzhik Ministry of Trade established new stores in Stalinabad, Kurgan Tyube, and Leninabad. The number of specialized stores was also increasing. In Kulyab, Leninabad, Kurgan Tyube, Ura-Tyube, and Stalinabad, stores were scheduled to be put into operation for the sale of bread and baked goods, fruit and vegetables, footwear, sewn articles, haberdashery, cultural goods, and cotton and silk fabrics. In addition, the Tadzhik Consumers Union was providing for a considerable expansion of the rural trade network.(127)

In another article, Kommunist Tadzhikistana reported that during the first 5 months of 1953, people of Stalinabad bought 50 electric refrigerators, over 200 radios, 156,000 meters of electrical wire, 800 electric irons, 2,000 electric hot plates, and tens of thousands of phonographs, loud-speakers, and small batteries, at a single specialized store of Glavelektrosbyt (Main Administration for the Sale of Electrical Products). This store fulfilled its plan for the first 6 months of 1953 ahead of schedule.(128)

In the second quarter 1953, the retail commodity turnover of Stalinbad increased 22.4 percent over the same period in 1952, as reported by Kommunist Tadzhikistana in August. In the second half of 1953, as compared with the first half, more products were to be sold as follows: 139.2 percent more meat; 31 percent more sausage products; 54.2 percent more animal fats; and 32.3 percent more vegetable oil. The demand for flour was expected to be completely satisfied.(129)

The following criticisms of the Tadzhik consumer cooperatives were made by Kommunist Tadzhikistana in a Merch article.

Consumer cooperatives in Kulyabskaya, Garm'skaya, and Leninabad'skaya oblasts are isolated from the consumers, and there is little concern for the timely delivery of the necessary assortment of goods. The planning division of the Tadzhik consumer cooperatives is operating poorly. Personnel often permit errors in good distribution, and daily control over incoming goods from supply bases is not maintained. Some sales organizations in 1952 failed to supply tens of thousands of rubles' worth of manufactured goods to their outlets. During 1952, almost 20 million rubles' worth of above-norm surpluses remained in bases and stores of the Kulyabskaya Oblast Consumers Union.

The same source criticized the managements of trading organizations for selecting inefficient personnel. In 1952, 50 percent of the workers responsible for material stocks in Kulyabskaya Oblast cooperatives were replaced. The Ministry of Trade Tadzhik SSR was blamed for the unseasonable delivery of allocated commodities, which considerably lowered the commodity turnover of trading enterprises. The Tadzhik consumer cooperatives were also criticized for often delivering goods on the basis of personal friendship.(130)

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In another article on consumer cooperatives, Kommunist Tadzhikistana reported that the State Trade Inspectorate discovered that 87 stores had marked up prices on many consumer goods. Some rayon consumers societies in Kulyabskaya Oblast failed to conform to list prices, and in the Moskovskiy Rayon Consumer Cooperative, 68 different commodities were priced incorrectly. In one cooperative, men's half shoes (polubotinki) were sold at 60 rubles over the list price, and women's slippers at 50 rubles over the list price. The Stalinabadskiy Rayon Consumers Union was selling women's overshoes at 37 to 72 rubles over the list price, and the Kanibadamskiy Rayon Consumers Union was selling 36 commodities at marked-up prices, and 26 commodities at lower prices.

The same article cited other examples of price violations. The republic trading base of Glavshveysbyt (Main Administration of Sales, Ministry of the Sewing Industry) issued large quantities of knitted goods at invalidated list prices, after the reduction of prices on industrial and food commodities in April. Managers of consumers societies accepted the goods without checking the correctness of prices.(131)

Shortcomings in trading organizations of Stalinabad City were also reported in an August issue of Kommunist Tadzhikistana, as follows:

Trade is concentrated in the center of the city, and although city enterprises have increased the output of consumers' commodities, there are many defects in the work of these enterprises. A number of plants utilized their productive capacities poorly, do not reduce production costs, often produce inferior goods, and disregard consumer demand.

The Ministry of Trade does not attempt to improve the operation of Stalinabad's public eating enterprises, which are unsanitary and sell food that is neither tasty nor varied. The city suburbs have an inadequate network of food stores. Shoe repair shops and dry cleaning and barber shops fail to use price lists.(129)

With regard to shortcomings in industrial cooperatives of the Tadzhik SSR, Kommunist Tadzhikistana reported in August that Tadzhik industry fulfilled its production plan for the first half of 1953 by 99 percent, but remained in arrears in the production of certain important products. Enterprises of the construction materials industry failed to supply the state with many important products; they fulfilled the plan for the first 6 months of 1953 by 75 percent. Industrial cooperatives worked on the same low level, and many enterprises of light and food industry, especially the meat and butter branches, did not cope with their plans.

The same source blamed the lag of several industrial enterprises on the low level of supervision over them by ministries and departments, and by local party organizations. Many enterprises were working irregularly with inadequate supplies of raw material. The assortment of products in several enterprises did not correspond with the plan. Many enterprises operated with obsolete equipment, and hindered the daily efforts for high productivity.(132)

#### Turkmen SSR

In an article on trade expansion in Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra reported that during the second quarter 1953, two new stores for the sale of manufactured commodities were put into operation in this city. In addition, three stores were scheduled to be put into operation on the ground floors of newly constructed buildings.(133)

High turnover expenditures in several organizations of the Turkmen SSR were criticized in another Turkmenskaya Iskra article. In the Turkmen Division of "Soyuzlestorg" (All-Union Office for Trade in Timber), 1952 expenditures exceeded a million rubles. Losses of the ORS of the Ashkhabad Railroad System amounted

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to 600,000 rubles, and in the Turkmen Office of Glavgastronom (Main Administration of Delicatessens and Groceries), the losses were 120,000 rubles. In addition, distribution expenditures in local trading organizations of the Ministry of Trade USSR have been very great. (134)

Uzbek SSR

The first quarter 1953 retail commodity turnover in the Uzbek SSR increased more than 10 percent in comparison with the same period of 1952, Pravda Vostoka reported in April. In 1952, twice as many commodities were sold to the people of Uzbekistan through state and cooperative trade as in 1948. The sale of meat products and animal fat increased 80 percent over 1948; sugar, 220 percent; vegetable oil, 140 percent; silk fabric, 150 percent; clothing, 80 percent; and leather footwear, 120 percent. In 1952, workers of the republic bought 44,000 radio receiving sets, 16,000 phonographs, 20,000 sewing machines, 72,000 bicycles, and 3,000 motorcycles. Great progress was made in kolkhoz trade. In 1952, city kolkhoz markets of Uzbekistan sold 115 percent more meat than in 1948, 48 percent more potatoes, and 71 percent more vegetables.

The same source reported that 150 new specialized stores and three specialized trading administrations -- "Tashkhlebtorg," "Uzbekodezhda," and "Uzbekobuv" -- were put into operation during 1952. In 1953, the government allotted more than 30 million rubles for the construction of stores, restaurants, cafes, dining rooms, and kolkhoz markets. In addition, it was planned to put into operation 57 additional specialized stores for the sale of fabrics, dishware, household goods, and furniture in cities of the republic. (135)

In June, it was reported by Pravda Vostoka that the Central Union of Consumer Cooperatives had approved a plan worked out by the Uzbek Union of Consumers Societies for developing a network of stores in rural areas and increasing the service to kolkhoz consumers. This plan called for the construction during 1953 and 1954 in rayon centers and kolkhozes of 40 cultural goods stores, 25 rayon stores, 39 construction materials and household goods stores, 48 food stores, 40 footwear stores, 48 ready-to-wear clothing stores, and 27 furniture stores. It also called for 166 rural stores to be in operation, and 165 stores to operate directly within the kolkhozes. Altogether, over a 2-year period, the plan provides for the construction of more than 700 different stores. The capital investment of the Uzbek Union of Consumers Cooperatives for these objectives is 42 million rubles.

The 11 June article added that the plan was already in operation. In Chinaz three specialized stores were established recently for trade in textiles, ready-to-wear clothing, footwear, and cultural items. A total of over 100 different stores were under construction. (136)

With regard to consumer cooperatives, Pravda Vostoka in August reported rural trade expansion in Samarkandskaya Oblast, where 23 specialized stores for the sale of housewares and hardware had been put into operation in rayon centers and kolkhozes. A few stores were also opened for the sale of footwear and ready-to-wear clothing. A total of 117 new stores and stalls had been established in rayons of Samarkandskaya Oblast, the article indicated. (137)

Criticisms of Uzbek trade in three separate articles in Pravda Vostoka pointed out poor distribution of necessary goods and insufficient and inferior production of consumer goods, with special emphasis on poor supervision by management over subordinate networks. An April article stated that individual types of footwear and hosiery were in short supply in Samarkand in the first quarter 1953, while trading organizations in Tashkent had a surplus of these goods. While all cities of the republic had a substantial supply of matches, this commodity was in short supply in Kara-Kalpakskaya ASSR.

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This article also pointed out that through the fault of trust supervisors, the republic suffered, in 1953, an acute shortage of ready-to-wear clothing, and that enterprises of Uzkozhobuv'trest /Uzbek Leather and Footwear Trust/ produced only small quantities of footwear with leather soles, and did not manufacture women's styled shoes. One cotton combine continued to produce cotton hosiery in a very limited assortment. The Uzbek Office of Glavshveytrest (Main Administration of the Sewing Trust) in January and February undersupplied trading organizations with sewn articles by 15 percent, knitted goods by 10 percent, and stockings by 31 percent. Over the same period, after a party inspection, over 15 percent of the footwear from a certain footwear factory was rejected and returned to the enterprise.

Enterprises of local and cooperative industry have been slow in developing commodity assortment, the article continued. Therefore, primus parts, washboards, clothespins, and children's toys must be brought in from other republics. (135)

A Pravda Vostoka article in June described the shortcomings of trade in Ferganskaya Oblast, where for 3 successive years the retail commodity turnover plan was not fulfilled. The amounts by which the plan was not fulfilled were 21 million rubles in 1951, 14 million rubles in 1952, and 68 million rubles in 4 months of 1953. The May plan was not fulfilled either. The reason given for this deficiency was unsatisfactory control by trading organizations over the work of subordinate trading networks, especially in rural areas.

The paper continued as follows: The Fergana city trading organizations and the oblast consumers union do not plan goods delivery skillfully, and are not concerned about consumer demands. The result is that quantities of goods remain in warehouses and bases, and commodity turnover is slowed down. For example, the Fergana city trading organizations stock a considerable supply of goods, but they do not sell well. The shelves of many stores are crammed with many years' supply of cotton fabric and handmade footwear. In stores of consumer cooperatives there is a large supply of saddlers' articles for camels' harnesses, but there are no camels in any of the kolkhozes of Ferganskaya Oblast. (138)

A July article in Pravda Vostoka indicated that in 1952 the Leninskiy Ravon Food Trading Organization in Tashkent caused a loss to the state of 21 million rubles because of its unfulfilled commodity turnover plan. (139)

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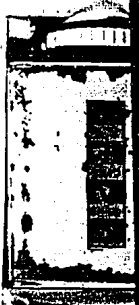
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