

NSC BRIEFING

11 March 1954

*Decision (Plenum - Cent. Com CPSU)*

SOVIET ~~DECREE~~ INDICTS AGRICULTURAL  
FAILURES AND ATTACKS LAGGING  
GRAIN PRODUCTION

I. Major points in 2 March ~~decree~~ *Decision*.

~~A. Criticism of new agricultural  
program.~~

B. ~~Attack~~ attack on inadequate grain  
production. *+*

*A* Reverses Malenkov and Khrushchev  
*ON GRAIN*  
position of last fall.

II. Decree lists failings of general agri-  
cultural program.

A. Livestock and fodder program lagging.

B. Industry fails to produce sufficient  
agricultural equipment.

C. State Planning Commission censured  
for misguiding agricultural pro-  
duction.

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- III. Decree specifies failures in grain production.
  - A. Yields are deficient and acreages less than in 1940.
  - B. Production behind requirements of population and "growing export needs."
- IV. Grain deficiency reflected in shifting Soviet trade pattern.
  - A. Grain exports fell sharply in 1953.
    - 1. Shipments to UK only 10 percent of 1952 but USSR substitutes large gold sales.
  - B. Export of grain counted upon to play major role in a projected Soviet trade expansion with the West.

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V. Remedies proposed by decree.

- A. Planting of over 30,000,000 acres of marginal land in next two years.
- B. Transfer of technicians and at least 100,000 laborers to new lands this year.
- C. *Plans to increase State procurement by 35-40% over 1954*
- D. But success of these measures limited by unfavorable soil and climate conditions.

VI. Implications

- A. Disappointing progress of agricultural program threatens entire consumer goods program.
- B. New emphasis on grain production indicates difficulty in supplying alternative exports to finance increased imports.

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C. Criticism directed both at Gosplan, headed by Saburov, considered Malenkov protege, and party mechanism, headed by First Secretary Khrushchev.

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