

CONVERTING OF SOVIET ECONOMY TO WARTIME STATUS EXAMINED

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[Article by Hero of the Soviet Union, MSU S. Kurkotkin, deputy minister of defense and chief of the rear services of the USSR Armed Forces: "Converting the National Economy From Peacetime to Wartime Status During the Years of the Great Patriotic War"]

[Text] Converting the national economy from a peacetime to wartime status (mobilizing the economy) consists, as is known, in reorganizing all the economic sectors and appropriate state institutions in the nation for organizing mass production of weapons, military equipment, ammunition, uniforms, supplies and other materiel for the all-round support of the Armed Forces, the activities of the state and the population in the course of the war.

The mobilizing of the Soviet economy started fully only with the outbreak of the Great Patriotic War. However, during the prewar years, the Soviet people, under the leadership of the Communist Party, successfully carried out the tasks of increasing the nation's military-economic potential, broadening military production, preparing the economy for a military reorganization and increasing its survivability.

The Communist Party and the Soviet government saw the approaching threat of war and took proper measures to strengthen the state's defense capability.

During the years of the first five-year plans, the Communist Party, in consistently following the instructions of V. I. Lenin that a war must be prepared for "over a long period of time, seriously, starting from an economic upswing in the nation"<sup>1</sup> did everything to more rapidly surmount its technical and economic backwardness inherited from Tsarist Russia. The industrialization of the country, the collectivization of agriculture and the cultural revolution played an enormous role in strengthening the Soviet state's economic and defense might. As a result of the measures taken, Soviet national income over the period from 1928 through 1940 increased by more than 5-fold, electric power production rose by 9.7-fold, coal mining by 4.7-fold, steel casting by more than 4-fold, oil output by 2.7-fold, while machine products increased by 20-fold.<sup>2</sup>

A characteristic feature in Soviet economic development during the prewar years was that military production developed at a higher pace than industry as a

whole. Thus, while during the years of the Second Five-Year Plan, all industrial product increased by 2.2-fold, defense products rose by 3.9-fold. The average annual production of airplanes and tanks in 1935-1937 rose by over 4-fold in comparison with 1930-1931, for artillery pieces it was 2.6-fold and for rifles by almost 2.3-fold.<sup>3</sup>

In line with the greater immediate threat of attack by Nazi Germany on the Soviet Union, measures were taken to increase the state food reserves and major strategic materials. Just from January 1939 through January 1941, the state reserves and mobilization supplies were increased by 5-fold for iron, 2-fold for rolled product, more than 2-fold for copper and 2.2-fold for zinc.<sup>4</sup> The Politburo of the VKP(b) [All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik)] Central Committee at this time adopted a number of decrees to broaden military production, including: "On the Production of T-34 Tanks in 1940," "On the Reconstruction of Existing Aircraft Plants and the Construction of New Ones" and others.

Time was of the essence. In the West the flames of World War II had already broken out. Their glow was approaching the frontiers of the USSR. The nation, in straining every muscle, strengthened its economic and defense might. In just 3½ years of the Third Five-Year Plan, 3,000 new large industrial enterprises were built, including: metallurgical and copper smelting, oil refineries and automotive plants as well as pulp-paper combines and building materials plants. Tank, aviation and artillery plants as well as plants producing ammunition went into operation.<sup>5</sup>

In creating the industrial potential, the necessity of the rational placement and military-economic dispersement of national economic capacity was taken into account. Industry was brought closer to the raw material and fuel sources located largely in the Eastern regions of the USSR. During the years of the Third Five-Year Plan, the basic emphasis was put on establishing military-industry facilities in the Volga, the Urals and Siberia.

Of major importance for increasing the viability of the economy was the duplicating of unique enterprises located in the European USSR in the East of the nation. Thus, ferroalloy plants, aluminum-magnesium enterprises and so forth were built in Kuznetsk (now Novokuznetsk) and in the Urals.

Due to the comprehensive program for improving military-economic potential, by the summer of 1941, the industrial enterprises of the Urals, the Volga, Western and Eastern Siberia as well as Central Asia and the Far East were producing 18.5 percent of the military product but for the basic types this figure surpassed 34 percent.<sup>6</sup> In building new plants, production envisaged the possibility of rapidly converting them to turning out military products. Many enterprises received mobilization plans.

As a result of the successful fulfillment of the plans of the prewar five-year plans, the economic and defense might of the nation increased immeasurably. The Soviet Union emerged in first place in Europe and second in the world for the volume of machine building products, for tractor production, oil production, for the volume of railroad shipments, and second place in Europe for the production of electric power, steel, iron and aluminum. The nation established its own aviation, tank and artillery industries. The defense industry developed

particularly intensely during the 3 prewar years with the production level in this sector rising by more than 4-fold.

However, it was impossible to fully carry out the complex military-economic tasks confronting the nation from the threat of the initiating of a war by the Nazi bloc against the world's first socialist state. History had left too little time for the Soviet people to prepare to repel aggression. Nevertheless, the measures undertaken by the Communist Party and the Soviet government to strengthen national defense might made it possible to significantly shorten the time for switching the nation's economy to a war footing.

The treacherous attack by Nazi Germany on the USSR forced the Soviet people to shift from peaceful labor to waging a holy war to defend their motherland. During its very first days the Communist Party worked out a program for mobilizing all the forces to defeat the Nazi invaders. It was based upon the immortal ideas of V. I. Lenin on the defense of the socialist fatherland. The party was guided by the leader's instructions that once things had reached the point of a war, everything should be subordinate to the war and the slightest hesitation on this score cannot be tolerated. For this reason, as during the years of the Civil War, Lenin's slogan "Everything for the Front, Everything for Victory!" became the determinant in organizing the entire Soviet economy.

The advantages of the planned socialist economic system made it possible to quickly carry out a number of major measures to convert the nation's economy from a peacetime to a wartime status, namely:

- a) To initiate military production on an ever-increasing scale and provide the front with the necessary amount of weapons and military equipment;
- b) To shift the economic proportions in the interests of the greatest possible increase in the production of military products, to strengthen the military industry having shifted to it enterprises from other national economic sectors;
- c) To reorganize the operation of transport, the communications agencies and equipment and strengthen the capacity of the railroads;
- d) To mobilize the material and labor resources of agriculture to continuously supply the Armed Forces and the population of the cities with food and industry with raw materials;
- e) To reallocate the human resources to ensure the mobilization requirements of the Armed Forces and the operation of industry and the other economic sectors;
- f) To change the activities of the scientific and experimental-design institutions in the aim of meeting the needs of the Armed Forces and attaining military-technical superiority over the enemy;
- g) To utilize the financial system, trade and enterprises in the service sphere in accord with the needs of the war;
- h) To increase the centralization of economic management in the aim of concentrating resources to meet the needs of the war and so forth.

The economy was mobilized in an organized manner, according to a specific plan. Under those very difficult conditions for the country, precise and efficient planning was of special importance. This was carried out considering the changes in the national economic proportions brought about by the needs of the front. This made it possible to successfully carry out the very complex tasks of supplying the operational army with combat equipment, weapons and other materiel. Thus, even on the second day of the war a mobilization plan was put into effect for the production of ammunition, a week later a mobilization national economic plan was approved for the third quarter of 1941, and in August, a military-economic plan which reflected the questions of mobilizing the economy for the fourth quarter of 1941 and for 1942 for the regions of the Volga, Urals, Western Siberia, Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

The military-economic plans played a major role in mobilizing the economy. They became a major implement for converting our national economy to a wartime footing and in mobilizing USSR production potential for defeating the enemy.

The grandiosness of the tasks confronting the nation demanded changes in the forms and methods of leading and organizing economic management. For this reason the entire burden of authority was concentrated in the hands of the State Defense Committee [GKO] established on 30 June 1941. The GKO decrees and decisions had the force of wartime laws for all the state, party, Komsomol and public bodies as well as for all citizens. Later on the Operations Bureau of the GKO was established and this supervised the routine activities of all the people's commissariats. This made it possible to pool the efforts of the front and the rear and more effectively utilize the resources for mobilizing the economy. Particular attention was paid to the questions of producing combat equipment, weapons, ammunition and fuel.

The situation during the first months of the war was exceptionally complex. But under these conditions socialist industry demonstrated its ability to rapidly satisfy the arising demand. Entire sectors of the national economy were converted to a wartime status. The plants of heavy, transport and agricultural machine building were converted to tank production while the medium machine building enterprises were to begin producing artillery pieces and mortar. The repair shops of plants and local industry and artisan cooperative enterprises were also converted to producing weapons and ammunition. For example, during the first days of the war 40 plants were involved in producing heavy tanks in Leningrad, 60 plants were producing regimental cannons, 15 were turning out medium machine guns, 16 were producing mortars while 7 plants were producing submachine guns. Some 116 enterprises were involved in the machining of shells and projectiles.<sup>7</sup>

The Communist Party and the Soviet government undertook decisive measures aimed at developing military production on an ever-increasing scale. Upon a decision of the party Central Committee, just during the last 4 months of 1941, 8 tank plants, 6 hull and 3 diesel tank plants were set up in the Volga and particularly in the Urals. The People's Commissariat of Ferrous Metallurgy from 1 August 1941 promised to begin producing armored plate at the Kuznetsk Metallurgical Plant. The people's commissariats of medium machine building and ferrous metallurgy were to immediately move the armor rolling mill from the Kirov to the Nizhniy Tagil Metallurgical Plant. The front needed airplanes, guns and mortars and ammunition just as much as tanks. At a price of enormous effort the workers

of the rear during the second half of 1941 increased the production of artillery pieces by almost 3-fold in comparison with the prewar 6 months, by 2.8-fold for tanks and 1.6-fold for airplanes.<sup>8</sup> Military production rose significantly in the first half of 1942.

During the war years, the organization and starting up of the production of new types of weapons were carried out several times faster than prior to the war. Military production was widened by an unprecedented acceleration in its development rate. Thus, while prior to the war it took 2 or 3 years to build a blast furnace, during the war it took 7-8 months.

As is known, in the prewar years, the nation had begun building a large number of industrial enterprises. Under the conditions of the commenced war, a decision was taken to mothball the construction of certain enterprises and projects while others would be completed rapidly. The light industry sectors were significantly reorganized. Production was initiated widely of greatcoat cloth, as well as cotton and wool fabrics for the Armed Forces.

As a consequence of the occupation of a number of regions in the USSR, the national economy suffered enormous losses. Prior to the war, the territory temporarily occupied by the enemy by November 1941 had around 40 percent of the nation's population, it produced 63 percent of the coal, cast 68 percent of the iron, 58 percent of the steel, 60 percent of the aluminum, it produced 38 percent of the grain and had 41 percent of the total railroad length.<sup>9</sup>

From the very start of the war, the difficult task arose of shifting from the frontline areas the major enterprises, workers, engineers and technicians. Leadership over the implementing of these measures was entrusted to the Evacuation Council established on 24 June 1941 (chairman N. M. Shvernik, deputies A. N. Kosygin and M. G. Pervukhin).

Evacuation was carried out according to a precise plan. From July through November 1941, some 1,523 industrial enterprises were relocated to the East (667 to the Urals, 224 to Western Siberia, 78 to Eastern Siberia, 308 to Central Asia and Kazakhstan and 226 to the Volga). As a total during the second half of the year, according to incomplete data, the equipment of 2,593 industrial enterprises was moved from the threatened areas. The members of the VKP(b) Central Committee and government S. A. Akopov, B. L. Vannikov, V. V. Vakhrushev, A. N. Kosygin, V. A. Malyshev, M. G. Pervukhin, I. F. Tevosyan, D. F. Ustinov, A. I. Shakhurin and others were concerned with the questions of relocating and reestablishing the enterprises arriving in the rear of the nation.

Not only industrial enterprises were evacuated to the East. The kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the eastern regions of the nation during the second half of 1941 received 2,393,300 head of livestock shifted from the frontline zone.<sup>10</sup>

The shifting of the productive forces from the frontline areas deep into the rear made it possible to maintain a significant portion of national wealth and use this in the interests of carrying out the main tasks of increasing military production.

The moving over thousands of kilometers of what essentially was an entire industrial nation caused enormous strain in transport operations. The volume of operational shipments increased sharply. All of this necessitated a reorganization of transport operations and here a major element was to convert train traffic to a special military schedule called the "A" travel warrant. This envisaged the moving first of troop trains and freight involved with the strategic deployment of the Armed Forces. Other measures were also carried out envisaged by the mobilization plan. A special freight control system began to be employed in rail transport.

Due to the fact that transport was being evermore difficult tasks, its leadership had to be strengthened. In February 1942, under the GKO the Transport Committee was formed the membership of which included I. V. Stalin (chairman), A. A. Andreyev (deputy), A. I. Mikoyan, I. V. Kovalev, A. V. Khrulev, Z. A. Shashkov and others. With the aid of the Transport Committee, it was possible to achieve a greater coordination in the planning and carrying out of shipments and to coordinate the work of the means of transport. The GKO altered the management structure of the railroads and strengthened the leadership of the NKPS [People's Commissariat of Railroads]. On 25 March 1942, the USSR Deputy People's Commissar of Defense and Chief of the Main Directorate of Rear Services of the Soviet Army, Gen A. V. Khrulev, became the head of the NKPS. Under the fronts positions were established for representatives of the NKPS. Responsible party workers and representatives of the NKPS were sent to accelerate troop train traffic to many junctions through which the main flows of military cargo were moving. Here also were the representatives of the chief of the rear services of the Soviet Army.

Due to these measures and the unstinting work of the railroad workers, shipments for the army and the national economy increased significantly. For just the 10 main lines, the volume of loading and unloading by the beginning of May 1942 had increased by 50 percent, car stoppages had declined noticeably and railroad capacity had increased.<sup>11</sup>

Along with the measures taken to improve transport operations, the GKO and the USSR government gave great importance to mobilizing the material and labor resources in agriculture to continuously supply the Armed Forces with food and industry with raw materials. In order to carry out this task, it was essential to alter the procedure for distributing the food resources. The state channeled the existing food primarily to supply the Red Army and the population of the industrial centers. According to a decision of the Politburo of the VKP(b) Central Committee, from July 1941, a rationing system began to be introduced. The amounts were set depending upon the degree of importance of the work performed for defense purposes as well as the nature of the job and working conditions.

The most important conditions for solving the food problem were the rapid reorganization of agricultural production to a wartime footing and controlling the placement of the production of grain and other agricultural products. In the spring of 1942, the planted area of the kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the regions of the Center, Volga, Urals, Siberia, Kazakhstan, Central Asia, Transcaucasia and the Far East increased by 3.7 million hectares in comparison with 1940.<sup>12</sup>

The organizing of accelerated production and technical training became a major task. In a short period of time an extensive network of minimum technical knowledge circles had been established and the number of trade and railroad schools increased. The Soviet women made an enormous contribution to strengthening defense might.

A major role was also played by Soviet scientists in solving the major problems of reorganizing the economy and setting up a smoothly operating military economy. The situation at that time demanded a change as rapidly as possible in the activities of the scientific and experimental-design institutions to meet the needs of the Armed Forces and for achieving military-technical superiority over the enemy. The scientists paid particular attention to improving various types of weapons and combat equipment. Scientists were at work on developing new, more advanced types of aircraft, tanks, artillery pieces and mortars. Their efforts resulted in efficient rocket weapons, while radar and other types of combat equipment were developed.

During the first, most difficult months of the Great Patriotic War, when the nation was deprived of many deposits of essential raw materials, the Soviet scientists carried out enormous work to seek out new raw material sources in the Eastern regions. The research contributed to the development of the productive forces in the Urals, Siberia and Kazakhstan. New deposits of ferrous and nonferrous metal ores, coal and oil were developed.

The needs of the war were broad and diverse. It had a significant impact on the functioning of the state's financial system, trade and the service sphere. Suffice it to say that in the second half of 1941, allocations for military purposes, in comparison with the first half of the year, had increased by 20.6 billion rubles and in 1942 they reached 108.4 billion rubles. The redistribution of foreign trade was also for the benefit of military production.

Thus, drawing on the advantages of the socialist national economic system, the Communist Party and the Soviet government were able to rapidly mobilize all the potential capabilities of the nation to carry out the primary task of rapidly establishing a smoothly-operating military economy. The greater centralization in national economic management made it possible to mobilize the material and financial means as well as the human resources of the nation and channel them into broadening military production and establishing a strong, organized rear.

The entire range of measures carried out by the Communist Party and the Soviet government to mobilize the economy could not help but tell on the time required to convert the national economy to a wartime status. By the heroic efforts of the Soviet people, by mid-1942, the war-production capacity lost during the first months of the war had been not only replaced but also significantly surpassed. Thus, the output of military products in the Urals rose, in 1942 in comparison with 1940, by more than 5-fold, in Western Siberia by 27-fold and the Volga area by 9-fold.<sup>14</sup>

For the sake of comparison, it might be pointed out that in Nazi Germany the converting of the economy to a military footing lasted almost 6 years, from 1933 through 1939. The mobilizing of the economy in the nations of the

Of great importance for compensating for losses in food production was the extensive use of additional sources including the subsidiary farms of industrial enterprises and rear troop units and which were specialized chiefly in the raising of potatoes and vegetables.

Regardless of the decline in agricultural production, the Soviet kolkhoz peasantry did everything possible and impossible not to remain in debt to the front. Agriculture was able under unbelievably difficult conditions to become a sound support for the front. Having mobilized the human and material resources, it made full use of its material and technical base and maintained the required food production level. At a price of unstinting effort, the rural workers provided the army and the population with food products and industry with raw materials.

Another difficult problem in mobilizing the economy was the reallocation of human resources to meet the mobilization requirements of the Armed Forces and the running of industry and the other economic sectors. With the outbreak of the war, millions of workers, kolkhoz members, engineers and technicians joined the ranks of the Army and Navy. A sharp reduction in the number of working-age population was also caused by the temporary occupation of a significant portion of Soviet territory. For this reason the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Soviet government adopted a number of extraordinary measures to make more effective use of the personnel in the national economy and to seek out human reserves.

On 26 June 1941, the Ukase of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet "On the Working Hours of Manual and White Collar Personnel in Wartime" was promulgated. The leaders of the enterprises were granted the right, with the permission of the USSR SNK [Council of People's Commissars] to set for employees compulsory overtime lasting from 1 to 3 hours a day. Regular and supplementary leaves were cancelled. This provided an opportunity to increase the load factor on the production equipment by approximately one-third without increasing the enterprise personnel.

For the correct and planned distribution and redistribution of labor resources, on 30 June 1941, under the Bureau of the USSR SNK, a committee was established for registering and allocating the labor force under the chairmanship of P. G. Moskatov who also headed the Main Directorate of Labor Resources. The republic SNK, the kray and oblast executive committees were given the right to effectively maneuver manpower in the interests of increasing military production.

From July 1941 through January 1942, the Committee for the Registration and Allocation of the Labor Force was able to shift into the defense industry from local industry enterprises, from the service sphere, industrial cooperatives and the municipal economy and mobilize from the unemployed population some 120,850 persons. Just in the second half of 1941, production received 500,000 housewives and 360,000 students of the 8th-10th grades. During this period, construction battalions and worker columns were actively organized. These were sent to coal mines, oil fields, power plants, to enterprises of ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, to construction projects and railroad transport. The number of persons in these formations reached 608,500 persons.<sup>13</sup>

- 4 "Sovetskiy tyl v Velikoy Otechestvennoy voyne" [The Soviet Rear in the Great Patriotic War], Moscow, Mysl', Book 1, 1974, p 9.
- 5 "Istoriya vtoroy mirovoy...", Vol 12, p 154.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 "Istoriya SSSR s drevneyskikh vremen do hashikh dney" [The History of the USSR From Ancient Times to Today], Moscow, Nauka, Vol 10, 1973, p 76.
- 8 TsAMO SSSR [Central Archives of the USSR Ministry of Defense], folio 81, inv. 12076, file 5, sheet 3.
- 9 "Istoriya vtoroy mirovoy...", 1975, Vol 4, p 152.
- 10 Ibid., p 140.
- 11 Ibid., p 148.
- 12 "Velikaya pobeda sovetskogo naroda 1941-1945" [The Great Victory of the Soviet People 1941-1945], Moscow, Nauka, 1976, p 401.
- 13 "Istoriya vtoroy mirovoy...", Vol 4, p 144.
- 14 N. Voznesenskiy, "Voyannaya ekonomika SSSR v period Otechestvennoy voyny" [The Soviet Military Economy During the Period of the Patriotic War], Moscow, Gospolitizdat, 1948, p 77.
- 15 "Sovetskaya Voyennaya Entsiklopediya" [Soviet Military Encyclopedia], Moscow, Voenizdat, Vol 5, 1978, p 343.
- 16 "Istoriya vtoroy mirovoy...", Vol 5, p 48.

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anti-Hitler coalition, in particular the United States, was carried out in the course of the war and continued around 2 years. Here the United States at that time did not suffer any serious losses and its army was not engaged in active combat operations.<sup>15</sup>

The well organized Soviet military production from mid-1942 provided the troops with the necessary amount of equipment, weapons and other materiel. During this year the Soviet Army received over 25,400 aircraft of all types, around 24,500 tanks, 33,100 field guns (of a caliber of 76-mm and more), around 125,600 mortars and 127.4 million shells.<sup>16</sup>

This made it possible for the Soviet Supreme High Command to arm new military formations and establish a reserve of combat equipment, weapons and ammunition. This ensured the increased size and combat might of the Armed Forces and was a major prerequisite for a fundamental turning point in the course of the war.

In having a developing industrial base in the East of the nation, the Communist Party and the Soviet government established a rapidly growing, well organized military economy. This was a qualitatively new stage in the development of the Soviet economy making it possible to achieve a material and technical superiority in the difficult economic struggle against Nazi Germany.

The successful reorganization of the socialist national economy and the shifting of a significant portion of the nation's productive forces to the East in a short period of time were possible due to the unprecedented labor feat of the Soviet people led by the Communist Party.

The rapid conversion of the nation's economy from a peacetime to a wartime status showed that the socialist economic system was more mobile and maneuverable, it was able more quickly to adapt, to respond more effectively to the changing needs and utilize more effectively the material resources in the interests of meeting the needs of the front. The USSR was able with maximum efficiency to utilize each ton of metal, fuel, each unit of machine tool equipment.

The lessons of converting the nation's economy from a peacetime to a wartime status during the years of the last war provided numerous examples of effective, rational decisions and of the highest state, production and labor discipline showing the indisputable advantages of the socialist state's economy.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> V. I. Lenin, PSS [Complete Collected Works], Vol 35, p 395.

<sup>2</sup> KOMMUNIST, No 7, 1975, p 20.

<sup>3</sup> "Istoriya vtoroy mirovoy voyny 1939-1945" [History of World War II of 1939-1945], Moscow, Voenizdat, Vol 12, 1982, p 154.

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

MSU KURKOTKIN ON IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMY IN 'GREAT VICTORY'

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 1, Jan 85 (signed to press 20 Dec 84) pp 30-36

[Article by Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Kurkotkin, USSR deputy minister of defense, chief of rear services, USSR Armed Forces, under rubric "40th Anniversary of the Great Victory": "The Outstanding Exploit of the Rear-Services Workers"]

[Text] The years of the Great Patriotic War are receding farther and farther into the past. But time cannot diminish the grandeur of the unprecedented exploit of the Soviet nation that was carried out under the guidance of the Communist Party. As is noted in the decree of the CPSU Central Committee, entitled "The 40th Anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet Nation in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945," the Victory achieved by the Soviet Union completely revealed the advantages of socialism and its tremendous economic, sociopolitical, and spiritual capabilities.

The course and outcome of the fiercest and bloodiest of wars that mankind had even known reconfirmed the correctness of the Leninist instruction to the effect that without an economic upsurge "one cannot even discuss any serious increase in the defense capability" ([Lenin, V. I.], "Poln. sobr. soch." [Complete Collected Works], Vol 36, p 168).

The material basis of the enemy's defeat during the years of the Great Patriotic War was laid in the course of the prewar Soviet five-year plans. In an unprecedentedly short period of time our country had overcome the technical and economic backwardness that had been inherited from tsarist Russia.

The factor that became a very important link in the resolution of the tasks of the most rapid increase in the country's economic might was its industrialization. At the 14th party congress it was noted that industrialization was the basis not only for the overall upsurge of the entire national economy, but also the basis of the reinforcement of the country's defense capacity. And it is not by accident that it was emphasized in the directives for the 1st Five-Year Plan, "Taking into consideration the possibility of a military attack on the part of the capitalist countries on the world's first proletarian country, it is necessary, when elaborating the five-year plan, to pay the maximum amount of attention to the most rapid

development of those branches of the national economy in general and industry in particular which will play the leading role in the job of guaranteeing the country's defense and economic stability during wartime."

The Leninist party did everything necessary to assure that socialist construction, under conditions of the hostile capitalist encirclement, was reliably defended. Therefore the proper attention during the prewar years was directed primarily at those branches of industry which had the most direct influence upon the production of military output and upon the reinforcement of the country's military-economic potential. In the overall volume of industrial production, the percentage of machine-building and metal processing rose at the most rapid rates. Branches that received further development were machine-tool-building, power and transport machine building, and the electrical industry. Something that was especially important for defense needs was the production of special and high-grade types of steel, which were required for the tank, aviation, motor-vehicle, and other branches of industry. Another circumstance that was of tremendous importance was the fact that the Soviet Union had provided ferrous metallurgy with its own base for the smelting of the ferroalloys that were needed for the production of especially strong grades of steel.

The Communist Party and the Soviet government, in their economic policy, proceeded for the need for the correct combination of the interests of developing the national economy and the tasks of creating and improving the country's military-economic potential. The aggravation of the international situation and the buildup of the threat of attack upon our country during the 1930's forced the USSR to accelerate the development of the war industry. For example, during the years of the 2nd Five-Year Plan, with an increase in the total industrial output by a factor of 2.2, in the defense branches it increased by a factor of 3.9. The average annual production of aircraft and tanks in 1935-1937 quadrupled as compared with 1930-1931; artillery pieces increased by a factor of 2.6; and rifles, by a factor of almost 2.3. The party's course that was aimed at the accelerated development of the defense industry was also typical of the 3rd Five-Year Plan. In the course of that five-year plan the increase in the production of civilian output during the three-year period was an average of 13.2 percent a year, and military output, 39 percent a year.

The 18th party congress devoted the most serious attention to questions of reinforcing the country's defense capability. At all levels of party and state leadership, a considerable amount of work was carried out, which was aimed at reinforcing the country's military-economic potential. According to a decision of the party's Central Committee, the People's Commissariat of the Defense Industry was subdivided into four independent people's commissariats, which were headed by candidate members of the Central Committee. In 1939-1941 the VKP(b) Central Committee and the Soviet government enacted several decrees dealing with questions of the development of the war industry. They included "The Remodeling of Existing Aircraft Plants and the Construction of New Ones" (September 1939), "The Production of T-34 Tanks in 1940," etc.

It was also at that time that our country created the T-34 and KV-1 tanks, the YaK-1, MIG-1, LAGG-3, IL-2, and PE-2 aircraft, and the volley-fire rocket

launcher that was given the frontline name of the "Katyusha." All these things withstood their test well during the course of the war. Unfortunately, by the beginning of the 1940's their production was only being to grow and the share of these models of armament in the overall quantity was insignificant.

Together with the development of the defense industry, measures were taken to increase the viability of the economy and to prepare the national economy for reorganization on a military basis. In this regard a factor that was of truly strategic importance was the party's course that was aimed at the creation of a large-scale industrial base in the eastern part of the country. New industrial regions sprang up there. The country's second coal and metallurgical base was activated -- the Urals-Kuznetsk complex with such industrial giants as the Magnitogorsk and Kuznetsk combines.

The Karaganda Coal Basin grew rapidly. A major petroleum-drilling and petroleum-refining industry -- the "second Baku" -- was being created between the Volga and the Urals. And by the summer of 1941 the eastern parts of the country accounted for almost one-fifth of all the war plants.

Heavy industry became the basis of the material-technical base for the collectivization of agriculture -- one of the most important sources of the country's economic might. By the beginning of 1941 the kolkhozes and sovkhoses had in operation as many as 684,000 tractors (in 15-horsepower terms), 182,000 grain combines, and 228,000 trucks. Thanks to the kolkhoz system it was possible to organize during the difficult wartime period the providing of the army and the population with food supplies and the providing of industry with raw materials.

At the 18th Party Conference that was held in February 1941 the questions of the further development of industrial production were in the center of attention. Decisions enacted by that conference provided for the more complete development of the branches of the national economy that were decisive for the country's defense, and the creation of the necessary state reserves and mobilization reserves.

Considerable success during the prewar years was achieved in the national economy, occupational instruction, and the indoctrination of the Soviet citizens in the spirit of utter devotion to the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, love for our socialist Motherland, and the spirit of the inviolable friendship of the peoples of our country. The Communist Party showed constant concern for the reinforcement of the moral-political unity of Soviet society.

The German fascist aggression disrupted the fulfillment of the creative plans of the Land of the Soviets. It proved to be impossible to carry out everything that had been planned. We were also given too little time by history to prepare our country to repel the aggression. But that which we succeeded in doing was an important contribution to increasing the industrial and defensive might of the Soviet state and to the buildup of the production of weapons and combat technology in the course of the war.

The treacherous attack by fascist Germany upon the Soviet Union immediately necessitated the reorganization of the party ranks, the operation of the state

agencies and public organizations on a military basis, and the mobilization of the country's resources for the production of military technology. Therefore the total power was concentrated in a single agency that united the efforts of the front and the rear. That agency was the State Defense Committee (GKO), which was formed on 30 June 1941 on the basis of a joint decision by the VKP(b) Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the Council of People's Commissars.

Based upon Leninist theory concerning the defense of the socialist Motherland, the Communist Party developed a clear-cut program for combatting the aggressor. The basic documents that set forth the specific paths for defeating the fascist usurpers were the 22 June Declaration of the Soviet Government, and the 29 June 1941 directive of the SNK [Council of People's Commissars] and the VPK(b) Central Committee to the party and Soviet organizations in the oblasts along the front. The party and the Soviet nation, in the extraordinary circumstances of that time, applied tremendous efforts that were aimed at reinforcing our army, putting the economy onto a military basis as rapidly as possible, and converting the country into a single military camp.

As early as the first day of the war, a Ukase of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet stipulated such economic measures as the introduction of labor conscription and the regulation of the operating time of industrial enterprises and of institutions. A ration-card system was introduced for the purpose of regulating personal consumption.

The mortal danger that hung over the country did not shake by even one iota the party's conviction of victory. The party consolidated its ranks even more closely for the purpose of executing a truly historic task. The Soviet Union was opposed not only by an aggressor army that was armed to the teeth, but also by the economy of the fascist Reich, an economy that had been mobilized to the maximum extent. Hitlerite Germany surpassed the USSR with regard to the size of the machine-tool pool by a factor of 2.5; number of specialists in machine-building, by a factor of almost 1.5; and for coal production, by a factor of 2.5. Germany produced much more coal, magnesium, electric power, locomotives, and motor vehicles. In addition, Hitler's Reich was making the maximum use of the industrial potential and natural resources of its allies and the countries that it had occupied.

The first months of the armed struggle against the Hitlerite usurpers were extremely complicated ones for us. As a consequence of the fact that the enemy had occupied a number of rayons, the national economy of the USSR suffered tremendous losses. Prior to the war, the Soviet territory that was temporarily seized by the end of 1941 had had approximately 40 percent of the population, had produced 63 percent of the coal, 68 percent of the cast iron, and 58 percent of the steel, had more than 40 percent of the total length of the railroads, and produced 38 percent of the grain.

From the very first days of the war the Communist Party and the Soviet government were confronted by a task of unusual complexity -- the task of converting the country's national economy to a military basis within the shortest possible periods of time. That necessitated the immediate and

fundamental change in the branch structure of the national economy, the organization of military production, the assimilation of new technological processes, etc. The things that the front needed first of all were aircraft, tanks, ammunition, and other materiel without which it would have been impossible to conduct military actions.

The complicated situation in the first months of the year and the need to make time-responsive decisions were among the factors influencing the increase in the role of current planning. For example, by 23 June a mobilization plan for the production of ammunition was put into effect, and a week later an overall national-economic mobilization plan for the third quarter of 1941 was approved.

However, because of the extremely unfavorable conditions it was necessary to shut down the principal military-industrial base urgently and to evacuate it from the rayons that were threatened with seizure by the enemy, moving it deep into the country. Therefore, for purposes of the prompt providing of the needs of the front, on 4 July 1941 the State Defense Committee gave a commission headed by USSR Gosplan Chairman N. A. Voznesenskiy the assignment of developing a military-economic plan for guaranteeing the country's defense, having in mind the use of the resources and enterprises on the Volga, in West Siberia, and in the Urals, as well the resources and enterprises to be transferred to those areas on an evacuation basis.

On 16 August the VKP(b) Central Committee and the Council of People's Commissars approved a military-economic plan that was a program for the creation of a well-coordinated military economy that was capable of guaranteeing the attainment of victory. The plan provided for a comprehensive program of measures, which program included the evacuation of enterprises in the military people's commissariats to the eastern parts of the country; the expansion of the production of arms, ammunition, aircraft, tanks, and ships; and the development of heavy industry and rail transportation.

It was only a planned socialist economy that could have been able to use in a purposeful manner all the resources in the interests of the war. Entire branches of the national economy were changed over and put on a military basis. The plants in heavy, transport, and agricultural machine-building began producing artillery pieces and mortars. The production of arms and ammunition was organized at the repair and overhaul shops of plants, and at enterprises of local industry and cooperative trades. The work that was carried out was complicated and responsible. But the fulfillment of the plan required time. Meanwhile a considerable number of industrial enterprise proved to be dismantled or were preparing to move to the east. The evacuation occupies a special place among the stupendous tasks that were resolved by the nation under the guidance of the party. It was an operation that could probably be compared with the largest battles in the Great Patriotic War.

The execution of that completely unprecedented task was made the responsibility of a specially created Evacuation Council, to which N. M. Shvernik was assigned as chairman, and A. N. Kosygin and M. G. Pervukhin as deputies. Carrying out the overall guidance of the evacuation, the Politburo of the VKP(b) Central Committee and the USSR Council of People's Commissars

adopted on 27 June 1941 the decree entitled "The Procedure for Removing and Transferring Contingents of People and Valuable Property." That decree mentioned the need to give the preference to the military enterprises when transferring the plants. From July through November 1941 alone, 1523 plants and factories were transferred to the east. The total number of industrial enterprises, according to incomplete data, which were transferred from the threatened rayons was 2593.

The tremendous amount of organizational work carried out by the party committees and the trade-union and Komsomol organizations, and the truly heroic labor of the workers, kolkhoz members, and intellectuals yielded their fruit. By the middle of 1942 it was possible to activate 1200 of the evacuated plants and factories.

Thanks to the selflessness of the working class, many of the evacuated enterprises began producing military technology within a month or a month and a half after arrival at the new location. There was a shortage of working hands. It was at that time, in answer to a summons issued by the Communist Party, that housewives, teenagers, and retirees took up positions at the machine tools. Many of them were able, within very brief periods of time, to master related specialties and to become experts in their field.

And so, by only one year after the beginning of the war, the reorganization of the economy on a military basis was successfully carried out, and by the end of 1942 the process of creating a well-organized military economy was completed.

A special role in the development of military production belonged to the Urals. With regard to the production of steel, rolled metal, and aluminum, the Urals occupied first place in the country during the war years. The Urals produced 60 percent of the medium tanks and 100 percent of the heavy ones. Every other artillery shell that was shot at the enemy was made out of Urals steel.

By the joint efforts of scientists, production specialists, and all those who worked untiringly for the sake of achieving victory over the enemy, by the second half of 1942 and the beginning of 1943 the necessary military-economic conditions were created for achieving a major breaking point in the war. Those conditions became possible thanks to the quantitative and qualitative growth of the Soviet rear area. The front and the rear squeezed together into a single crushing fist and there was no force that could oppose that indissoluble unity. That is why the more perspicacious Hitlerite generals and economists concluded after Stalingrad and Kursk that the German economy had already won the fight.

But the war continued. And during the year of the major breakthrough, our country's economy was facing new tasks. That was linked with the fact that by that time the possibility of increasing production by means of the redistribution of the material and labor resources was basically exhausted. The qualitative factors began to take on

greater and greater importance: the increase in labor productivity as a result of improving the technological processes and the organization of production.

By May 1942, in response to an appeal issued by the party, a completely unprecedented All-Union Socialist Competition under the motto "Everything for the front, everything for victory!" was broadly extended throughout all the branches of the national economy. The movement of the 200-percenters, 300-percenters, and even thousand-percenters -- that is, those who had overfulfilled their norms by a factor of 2, 3, or 10 -- was broadening. The competition encompassed thousands of industrial enterprises and played a tremendous role in increasing the labor productivity.

An important condition for the successful resolution of the military-economic tasks was the intensification of the party leadership of the economy. The basic branches of the military economy were headed by members or candidate members of the Politburo of the VKP(b) Central Committee. Experienced party and economic workers headed the people's commissariats of industry: D. F. Ustinov, armament; A. I. Shakhurin, aviation industry; P. I. Parshin, mortar industry; and B. A. Vannikov, ammunition. Thousands of Communists were sent to very important enterprises in heavy industry. Whereas by the beginning of 1943 there were 920,400 Communists working in the leading branches of the USSR national economy, by the end of the year there were 1,114,200. The reinforcement of the party organizations and the concentration of the party forces in the decisive sectors of the military economy tremendously contributed to improving the work of Soviet industry.

At the beginning of 1943 the party's Central Committee began concentrating the Communists' efforts at the elimination of the bottlenecks in the economy and at the fulfillment of an extensive program for the development of heavy industry. Decisive steps were taken to eliminate the lag in the fuel, metallurgical, and power industry. During a one-year period the capital investments in those branches doubled as compared with the previous period.

But what was the effect that the success in the creation and improvement of a well-organized military economy had upon equipping the Red Army and upon the course of combat actions? First, the increase in military production made it possible to restore the considerable losses of combat technology that had been incurred at the beginning of the war and served as a solid basis for carrying out a major turning point in the war. Secondly, that success made it possible also to achieve a qualitative superiority over the enemy with regard to very important types of armament. The troops received the latest tanks, which got the upper hand over the Panthers and Tigers that had been advertised in every way by fascist propaganda; aircraft that enabled our pilots to win supremacy in the air; as well as excellent small arms and different kinds of ammunition. Whereas Soviet industry in 1942-1944 had a monthly production of more than 2000 tanks, it was not until May 1944 that Germany's industry reached its maximum -- 1450 units.

In the work of providing all kinds of support to the front there were no secondary sectors. All the links in the economy were important. It would have been impossible, for example, to overestimate the contribution that was made to the attainment of victory by the workers in agriculture. The

conditions under which they worked were the most complicated ones. Agriculture transferred to the front its tractors and trucks and a considerable number of horses. As a result of the temporary occupation of part of our territory by the enemy, there was a sharp reduction in the areas that were planted to crops. The entire brunt of the rural labor fell onto the shoulders of the women, the old men, and children. Having replaced the men who had gone to the front, they worked unceasingly in the name of bringing the victory closer. Summing up the results of 1943, the party's Central Committee remarked that under the difficult wartime conditions the kolkhozes and sovkhoses had coped during the year that had elapsed with the agricultural operations and had guaranteed without any serious interruptions the supplying of the Red Army with food supplies and industry with raw materials.

The initiative shown by the workers in collecting funds for the Soviet Army deserves the most profound gratitude. The funds that were received just from the workers, kolkhoz members, and intellectuals were used to build 2500 aircraft, 30,000 tanks and SAU [self-propelled artillery pieces], 20 submarines and gunboats, and a large amount of other armament.

Or take, for example, the activity of the transportation specialists. The successful resolution of the tasks confronting them became possible thanks to the maximum concentration of their efforts and means in the decisive sectors of the transportation management, the centralization of the administration of the branch, and the strenuous, and frequently risky, labor performed by the railroad workers, motor-road workers, and river-transportation workers. When carrying out all the operations, transportation uninterruptedly carried out operational and operational-supply shipments, and carried the wounded back to the rear. Rail transportation alone carried more than 19 million cars with military freight.

Something that was exceptionally important in the political, economic, and social sense was the restoration of the destroyed economy during the course of the war. Thanks to the titanic work performed by the party, the government, and the entire nation, the restoration proceeded at rapid rates. For example, whereas in 1943 the liberated rayons produced industrial output valued at 2.7 billion rubles, in 1944 they already produced 3.1 times more industrial output. By 1945, 7500 industrial enterprises were restored in the liberated rayons.

An important role in guaranteeing the Victory was also played by the Rear of the USSR Armed Forces. That was influenced by the fact that, as the military production expanded, there was also an increased complexity in the tasks of delivering promptly everything that was needed to the formations, units, and ships.

A considerable influence upon the construction of the Rear of the Armed Forces was exerted by the increasingly complicated military-strategic tasks. For example, the seizure of the strategic initiative, the increase in the depth

and rates of the operations, and their duration dictated the need to increase the number of railroad, motor-transport, and road-management troops.

The basis of supporting the operations and other combat actions was material supply. With regard to its overall volume of production and expenditure, during the war years it constituted more than 10 million tons of ammunition, 16.4 million tons of fuel, 40 million tons of food supplies and fodder, and a large quantity of uniform articles.

During each period of the war, the operation of the rear had its peculiarities. But one thing is indisputable. Not a single operation, not a single combat engagement, would have been successful without the prompt providing of the troops with armament, ammunition, rations, and fuel.

Take, for example, the supplying of the troops with fuel. The fuel reserves during the period of the defensive Moscow engagement on the Western Front provided for 35-40 days of operation of the armored-tank and motor-transport technology and the 10-12 day needs of aviation. With the changeover of the troops to the counteroffensive, the fuel expenditure increased by 40-50 percent.

In the Battle of Stalingrad 149,000 tons of fuel were expended; and in the Kursk engagement, 204,000 tons. And this entire tremendous quantity had to be received from the enterprises, promptly brought to the fuel depots, stored, and then delivered to the field of combat.

A tremendous contribution to the attainment of Victory was made by the military medics. They returned to active duty more than 72 percent of the wounded and 90.6 percent of the sick.

During the wartime years the Rear of the Armed Forces also executed other important tasks. To meet the needs of aviation, more than 6000 airfields were equipped, and hundreds of thousands of individual pieces of various kinds of armament, combat technology, etc. were repaired.

In the course of the Great Patriotic War, the Soviet rear received the richest experience in providing economic support to an armed struggle that was completely unprecedented with regard to its scope or ferocity, and experience in mobilizing all the material and spiritual forces of the nation for the defeat of the usurper. That experience continues to this day to be of tremendous theoretical and practical importance for reinforcing the military-economic might of our country and of all the countries in the socialist community.

As was emphasized in the decree of the CPSU Central Committee, entitled "The 40th Anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet Nation in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945," a great exploit was performed during the war years by the workers in the rear services. The workers, kolkhoz members, scientists, engineers, and designers, by their selfless labor, won an unprecedented battle for metal and grain and for the creation of powerful Soviet weapons.

The economic victory of the Soviet Union during the Great Patriotic War was in complete accord with natural law. It was influenced by the most advanced socialist state and social system, by the advantages that were brilliantly used during the war years by the Communist Party. It was precisely the party, armed with advanced Marxist-Leninist theory, that mobilized the Soviet nation for the attainment of Victory.

The advantages of our economy are based on the fact that the enterprises, transportation, communication, natural resources, and material means are owned by the nation. Unprecedented opportunities, as compared with the capitalist countries, were opened up by the planned socialist economy. That was precisely the factor that helped our country to use more effectively every ton of metal and coal, and every piece of machine-tool equipment. The Communist Party was able to guarantee a higher concentration of industry than that of the enemy, and was able in a planned and flexible manner to concentrate the country's forces and means on the resolution of the chief tasks.

Falsifiers of history in the West are striving with all their might to exaggerate the role that was played by the shipments of arms and ammunition to the Soviet Union from the United States and England. Actuality refutes the conjectures of the imperialistic historians and politicians. The Allies shipped to us only 2 percent of the antiaircraft pieces, 13 percent of the aircraft, and 7 percent of the tanks. It is completely obvious that the Soviet Union destroyed the fascists by using Soviet-produced weapons.

Almost 40 years have passed since the victorious May 1945. During the decades that have elapsed, the USSR has achieved tremendous success in all spheres of social life. An important stage in the further reinforcement of our Motherland's might is the final year of the 11th Five-Year Plan. The State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1985, which was approved by the 2nd Session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 11th Convocation, has set down new prospects for improving mature socialism. That plan stipulates the resolution of the key questions in the development of the economy, the raising of the national standard of living, and the guaranteeing of our country's defense capability.

The economic and scientific-technical potential of the USSR represents a very reliable factor in deterring the imperialistic aggression. "The party's Central Committee and the Soviet government," K. U. Chernenko has stated, "understand their very great responsibility to the nation. June 1941 will not be repeated! Any aggressor will receive immediate retribution. Let everyone know that -- both our friends, and those who are not our friends."

The Land of the Soviets has never striven for, and is not striving now for, the attainment of military superiority over anyone. But the Soviet Union will not allow the disturbance of the military balance that has developed. The present-day level of production, science, and technology in the USSR makes it possible to create -- if this should be required in response to a military challenge issued by imperialism -- any types of arms and to supply them in the necessary quantity to the army and navy, and to maintain our Armed Forces constantly in a high state of combat readiness.

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