

News Background.

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CRITICISM OF RUMANIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(MUNICH, January 7). Rumanian Vice-premier Alexandru BIRLADEANU criticized Ion COZMA, agricultural minister, for "some erroneous opinions" in agriculture, according to "Scinteia", the Rumanian party daily, of 30 December 1959.

The criticism levelled at the Minister of Agriculture after he delivered his speech on the occasion of the 1960 budget presentation by the Finance Minister Aurel VIJOLI to the Grand National Assembly on December 29.

According to the paper BIRLADEANU referred to COZMA's parliamentary speech on maize cultivation for fodder to be ensilayed. He said that COZMA spoke more about improving the quality of the culture but said little about increasing the area for it. This factor is very important, BIRLADEANU said, in view of the necessity of the increased quantity of fodder in order to ensure a rapid increase of meat and milk.

BIRLADEANU also criticized the Ministry of Agriculture for insufficient attention paid to certain organizational measures regarding the animal sector, and in particular to selected breeding species.

COZMA in acknowledging this criticism said he fully agreed with what the Vice-premier said, and promised the Grand National Assembly to take all necessary steps to increase the fodder maize production to be ensilayed, said "Scinteia".

This "Scinteia" report is the only amplification up to now of the REUTER dispatch from Belgrade on 29 December which quoted "TANJUG" as reporting that COZMA had been criticized in Parliament for "grave mistakes" and had "admitted a mistaken attitude." (see CN 39 December 29.).

It is worth mentioning that, from the information given by Gh. Gheorghiu-DEJ in his report to the Plenum of the CC of the RWP on 3-5 December and by COZMA himself in his article published by "Romania Libera" on 15 December 1959, production in the animal sector -i.e. meat and milk- is behind the provisions made by the Directives issued by the second RWP Congress (December 1955).

It may be a mere coincidence but it is interesting that KHRUSHCHEV in his speech delivered to the CC of the Soviet Communist Party on Christmas day criticized Vladimir MATSKEVICH, Soviet Minister of Agriculture, for inefficient organization which, coupled with the bad weather had made "this year Soviet harvest the lowest in four years." (CN 42 December 29). It should be noted, however, that MATSKEVICH, together with KHRUSHCHEV himself, was awarded the medal "For Labor Heroism" by President VOROSHILOV on December 31, i.e. only a week after KHRUSHCHEV had criticized him. (see M 19 January 1, 1960).

END

(G.St.D.)

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