News Background

YUGOSLAV RADIO ON TOTAL AGRICULTURAL COLLECTIVIZATION
IN HUNGARY

Munich, January 9 (Stankovic) — Radio Zagreb on January 7 (as monitored here) broadcast a report by Tanjug’s correspondent in BUDAPEST, Miloš Corovic, about “an even faster total collectivization in Hungary.”

Corovic said that “thousands of agitators and people’s educators” have flooded villages to break all the peasants who have not yet decided to join collective farms”. According to Corovic, the reports sent to Budapest by the agitators indicate that “the work of persuading peasants has by far not been so difficult as some people believed”. The reason why it has been decided to complete the agricultural collectivization in Hungary is hidden in the fact that “the peasants who previously were collectivized have demanded the end of this process”. Consequently, “if the Party does not wish to lose the confidence of the people who joined the collectives after having been promised that complete collectivization was only the question of a short period of time — it must act in the way it is acting,” Corovic said.

He claims that without full collectivization “an unfavorable atmosphere would be created which in any case would not bring about anything good, at least to the peasants workers' cooperatives”. Corovic continued: “Observed from the economic point of view the completion of collectivization, as has been explained, has to be started first of all because individual peasants have become indifferent toward the advancement of their own farms. Their apathy and carelessness have come as the result of the fact that they have taken a serious view of the warning that they have been looked upon as the future members of the collectives. If this is so, the official statements claimed, then from the economic point of view we shall lose nothing if even now we bring the collectivization of such inactive peasants because they have not given their land anything more than what is given by the weakest collectives.”

No Other Choice for Individual Peasants

According to Corovic, the process developing in the Hungarian villages is the “final phase” of a development “lasting for two years when the peasants had no other choice but to accept
without any visible resistance what they had been offered in the form of the peasants' working cooperatives". However, Corovic added that "even in Hungary this is not considered the end of the action, still less as its victorious conclusion." He added that in Hungary the terms collectivization and socialist transformation of agriculture are not equalized. "Many times it has been claimed that the difficulties in the movement forward are not created only because of the shortage of tractors, sowing machines and artificial manure; the greatest obstacle is created by what has remained in the heads of people..."