

Radio Free Europe/Munich
Non-Target Analysis Department
Background Information USSR

10 July 1962

EMBOURGEOISEMENT IN FIGURES

The Khrushchev era in the USSR has been notable for the rapid increase in embourgeoisement detected by most foreign observers. It is the result of a variety of factors - the rise in real wages, the relaxation of terror which has led to the emergence of speculators in property, consumer goods and food, the increase in tourism which has given Soviet citizens a desire to emulate the way of life of the middle classes in Europe and the USA, and the rapid increase in educational standards.

In the twenty years ahead, another factor will be perhaps even more important. This is the expansion of the non-productive sector of the labor force which, it is suggested, may absorb about 30,000,000 new workers in the 1960-1980 period compared with 10,000,000 for the productive sector. These figures are given in an article in Politicheskoye Samobrazovaniye (No. 6, 1962, p. 53) which defines the non-productive sector as including:

education, health, housing and communal services, administration, the finance and credit systems, trade, public catering, communications and passenger transport.

From Soviet statistics (Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta, 18 December 1961) it can be deduced that in 1960 there must have been approximately 80,000,000 persons engaged in physical labor in the USSR and about 25,000,000 engaged in mental labor - a proportion of more than three to one. Adding the increments suggested by Politicheskoye Samobrazovaniye's figures, it can be seen that by 1980 the totals are expected to be roughly 90,000,000 engaged in physical labor and about 55,000,000 in mental labor, giving a ratio of less than two to one.

Much of this shift in the class structure is planned to take place during the 1970-1980 decade, because in the present decade the non-productive sector is expected to increase its labor force from 25,000,000 to 35,000,000, i.e., at less than half the rate of growth for the 20-year period.

The social implications of such a major trend towards a Western-type class structure are important enough to warrant careful study. The figures given by Mr. Alec Nove, in his lecture to the Manchester Statistical Society on 10th

January 1962, showed that in 1951 the labor force of Great Britain was divided into 66.1% of physical workers and 33.9% mental workers. By 1980 the USSR is likely to have progressed beyond this point. In the long run the adverse effect of the trend towards embourgeoisement on the revolutionary dynamic of the CPSU may well be still more important than its probable social results.

r.r.g.