

MUNICH, 8 March 1963 (Non-Target Communist Area Analysis:  
USSR - cz)

In Khrushchev's sweeping reorganization of the Communist Party apparatus from top to bottom following the November 1962 plenum, the average Soviet citizen is likely to be mainly interested in the workings of the Party-State Control Committee. Although the committee's precise power and organizational structure have not yet been clearly defined it is known that its function is to checkup on the fulfilment of the party and state decisions and to cleanse the public body of harmful and evil practices. The fact that the former KGB Chief, A. Shelepin, was chosen to head the agency did not go unnoticed and may well indicate that he is destined to play a key role in the inevitable purge which inescapably follows a major shakeup of the entire party structure.

To date, however, very few substantive reports on the operation of the agency have publicly appeared. But as it so often happens in Soviet administrative reorganizations, the first signs of activity come from the countryside. Two Pravda editorials recently revealed that the Control Committee would spend February and March checking up on the tractor machinery repair campaign on every state and collective farm in the Soviet Union; "local organs of the committee assisted by volunteer workers" would probe into the fulfilment of the plans to get all farm machinery in tip-top shape for the spring seeding campaign.

At this point it is well to remember that the responsibility for readiness of tractors and machinery already lies three échelons deep: the director of the farm, the inspector-organizer of the Kolkhozy-Sovkhozy Production Directorate, the party organizer and his instructors' group, as well as their superior, the chairman of the directorate.

Perhaps because the season comes early in Central Asia, what appears to be the first full account of the Control Committees on the scene operation comes from Pravda Vostoka

(MORE)

(24 February 1963), in the cotton area of Uzbekistan:-

"The first session of the Committee for Party-State Control of the CC, CP Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers, Uzbek SSR convened.

"The preparations for the Spring seeding campaign of the Balykchinsk Production Directorate were examined.... (based on the Committee's investigation)."

There then followed a lengthy list of "impermissible shortcomings which threaten the Spring seeding plans": only 20 percent of the plowing completed, irrigation canals and machinery in disorder, only 66 out of 249 tractors repaired "at a low level," fertilizer spoiling out in the open, and other familiar charges. There was even deliberate fraud revealed on one farm which had padded its accounts to show success in moving out the manure to the fields! Nothing seems to escape the sharp eyes and acute olfactory sense of Shelepin's scouts.

The Committee specifically charged the Chairman and the Party Secretary of the Balykchinsk Production Directorate with repeating their mistakes committed last year and failing to rebuild the work pattern of the apparatus as set forth in the November plenum. The oblast executive committee for the guidance of agriculture was also called to task for failure in the work of the Directorate. (This item clearly substantiates the existence of both an oblast party committee for agriculture as well as an oblast executive committee for agriculture).

The officers of the Production Directorate were warned that if within one month's time the shortcomings in Spring planting preparations were not remedied the chairman and the party secretary of the Directorate as well as the chief of the procurements section would be liable to "severe punishment".

These were the recorded deliberations of the first session of an all-Union republic's Committee for Party-State Control. There is little doubt that the pattern of the Committees' function will charge much in the other republics -- nor of the role it will play in instigating specific charges liable to punitive action among responsible officials. As for its effectiveness directly in agricultural production, it is highly unlikely that the rank-and-file peasantry will be moved toward greater effort to assure that "mighty upswing in farm output" so often predicted in the current plan.

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