

Ministry of Agriculture "Suggestions" for Income Distribution

A summary of a Ministry of Agriculture blueprint for ways of income distribution and cash payment on collective farms is contained in the MAGYAR NEMZET article pounced today. According to this summary, four methods of payment have proved successful and are recommended for further use. These are:

1. Payment by way of work units supplemented by premiums. This means that a kolkhoz peasant is accredited with a certain amount of work units for successfully cultivating a certain amount of one or more crops, according to plan specifications, for example 10 hectares of barley. Such a peasant is then given a premium payment for any additional amount of the crop he produces;

2. The "efficiency work unit" system -- a straight industrial-type piecework pay system;

3. A temporary parcellization of the common land -- mainly for the cultivation of row crops -- in effect kolkhoz sharecropping. This parcellization is in addition to the private plots and is supposed to make it possible for family members to work in the fields and thus to increase the collective's production. The Ministry claims that this system has been successfully used in the past year in the cultivation of grapes, tobacco, beans, etc.;

4. A straight, monthly payment according to work units performed (this is the system also in use in sovhozes).

The picture we have from this is that private farming survives and plays an important role in Hungary's agriculture -- "successfully" collectivized though the majority of it may now be. The private plots plus the temporary parcels together seem at present to supply a great part of the country's food needs.

If there is anything in rumors of internal party dissension and particularly of revisionism periodically raising its head in agricultural policy one should look for signs of attempts to make this state of affairs more permanent, or of putting this "temporary" parcellization of part of the common kolkhoz lands on a more institutional level.

New Agriculture Ministry Decree

The Ministry of Agriculture has issued a new decree extending to the lowest form of cooperative farms, the group cooperatives, the law, long standard for full-scale kolkhozes, according to which each farm must

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contribute to the indivisible common fund on the basis of the number of hectares of land it possesses as well as according to the so-called "gold value" of the land in question. Such land, according to the decree, cannot be valued at less than 10 forint per hectare.

Church-State Relations

Receipt of the text of the CORRIERE DELLA SERA article about the reported arrest of 58 Catholic priests indicates that this article is based on the same information, completely unconfirmed, as one which appeared about a month ago in the British periodical THE SCOTSMAN. Both stories appear to have originated from the same Vienna source and have not been supported by any other media.