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MUNICH, 2 February 1962, (Research and Evaluation - Sterner)... Poland's beet sugar production has reached an all-time high with the conclusion, on January 25, of the recent annual "sugar campaign". According to "Trybuna Ludu" of January 25 one and a half million tons were refined this year.

The record 1961 harvest of 276.6 quintals per hectare was largely the work of the private peasants, who farm some 87 per cent of Poland's agricultural land.

The 1.5 million tons refined this year represents an increase of 125,000 tons over the previous campaign. The sugar was extracted from over 115 million tons of sugar beets, or 13 million quintals more than after the 1960 harvest. After refining, some 6.4 million tons of beet pulp for fodder were returned to the peasantry. Peasant income from the sale of sugar beets this year amounted to seven billion zloty.

Though this year's sugar production was very good indeed, many thousands of tons of sugar were spoiled through delays caused by an inadequate national refining capacity and transport system. The chief problem is that the private peasantry is producing beets faster than the socialized construction enterprises can put up refineries, warehouses and transport facilities. The expression "sugar campaign" implies a fight against time, because the sugar content of the beets decreases rapidly with the time as a result of chemical polarization. This year's the campaign lasted 126 days, and the losses deriving from delay are estimated at more than a hundred million zloty.

Gomulka's agricultural policy, with its avoidance of collectivization on a mass scale, has produced such substantial results over the past five years that even a Soviet Central

Committee Secretary has been moved to comment favorably. P. Demichev, chairman of the Soviet Party delegation which has recently visited Poland, gave his impressions of Polish farming in an interview to Agencja Robotnicza on January 27:

"We... found out that the agricultural policy of your Party is bringing in good results. This year Poland has achieved high yields of grains and sugar beets. It is obvious that your Party attaches a great importance to the development of agriculture. Comrade Gomulka told us a lot about this subject. We share your joy in the achievements of your agriculture. We wish your agriculture a further development and a maintenance of its present speed."

It is most probable that the Polish Party can be expected to pursue "further development" in agriculture and the "maintenance of its present speed" by continuing its present policy. There are no signs which would indicate that the Party is contemplating a return to a policy of forced collectivization. Gomulka's speech at the Harvest Festival in fall and an article in the economic journal "Gospodarka Planowa" (August-September), as well as other official statements which could be cited, indicated that no major changes in agricultural policy are under consideration. Even the chairman of the National Council of Collective Farms, Antoni Pasko, has indicated, in a interview published in "Trybuna Ludu" (3 October 1961), that the Party intends to retrench, rather than expand the existing collective farm program, and this trend is expected to remain in evidence at a national conference of collective farm representatives to be held in Warsaw on February 9.

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