

Radio Free Europe/Munich
Research and Evaluation Department
Background Information USSR

3 August 1961

PRAVDA ON THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DRAFT PROGRAM

A reading of the first major commentary by Agitprop (see Pravda, 2 August 1961) on the draft program provides some useful hints as to the economic orientation which the Kremlin now wishes to give to its "nation-wide discussion." The commentary is unsigned, meaning that it is authoritative, and splashed over the equivalent of 6 Pravda columns. More than half of this verbiage is devoted to economics.

The commentary again draws attention to the draft program's aim to raise the real incomes of the lowest paid workers three times in ten years, taking into account the income from public funds. It then states that in 1960 the public funds amounted to 24.5 milliard rubles, and that they are expected to increase about eight times in the next twenty years. If one compares this with the theoretical maximum growth of the steel industry in the same period (from 70,000,000 tons p.a., to 250,000,000 tons p.a.) it is readily apparent which "sector" now has priority.- unstated but nevertheless real.

r.r.g.