

MUNICH, 31 July 1962 (Non-Target Communist Area Analysis:
USSR - cz)

Whenever Khrushchev visited his favorite collective farm, Kalinovka, in Kursk Oblast, where he was born and spent his boyhood, he usually used the occasion to announce some momentous and pending changes in Soviet agricultural policy.

Last week (28 July) with a retinue of high party officials he stopped at what is now the most famous demonstration farm in the Soviet Union and was full of praise for the bounteous crops, well-fed livestock, and industry of the collective farmers at Kalinovka. The First Secretary was in a benign mood, the press reported.

Only that morning, while travelling from Orel oblast, did he vent his displeasure, at least publicly, over a contentious problem in the countryside.

Pravda (28 July) paraphrased his remarks: "Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev called the attention of local officials to the fact that just at the very time (harvesting) when field work is the most critical in the countryside one sees many people, especially men, who are not working in the fields."

This is rather a startling observation -- that men avoid work on the farms at harvest time just when wage payments are the highest. It casts a shadow too on the work of the Territorial Production Directorates, one of whose primary tasks is to organize the labor discipline and productivity on the farms.

Or could the "men at rest" in the villages be marking time for work harvesting their private plots?

BH 1750