

Harvest Prognosis

The latest meeting in the Ministry of Agriculture was devoted to the preparations for this year's harvest, according to Radio Warsaw broadcast yesterday. The meeting concluded that grain will be gathered from about nine million hectares. The four principal grains -- wheat, rye, oats, and barley -- are showing better prospects than last year and once more confirm the traditional peasant harvest prediction that dry April and wet May promise abundant crops.

According to plans, 12,000 tractor-driven bailing machines and 3,000 combines are to harvest 700,000 hectares of fields cultivated by the state farms, the "socialist" form of agriculture which, unlike the rest of the East European bloc, is dwarfed in scope by the private farming by independent peasants.

The radio announcement stressed that the harvest on state farms, as in collectives known to have been delayed and protracted in the past years, should not take more than 15 days. In order to comply with this suggestion, which at the local level may be a mandate, an additional labor force of 20,000 will be recruited.

The Ministry of Agriculture also delivered itself of a characteristic dig at the collectives by pointing out that the equipment owned by them would suffice for harvesting twice the amount of grain they cultivate. This official statement is poignant when read in the light of the self-admitted shortage of farm machinery in the country as a whole.

The Ministry expect commencement of the so-called "small harvest" around June 20 and the gathering of rye and wheat during the first days of July.

Law

As in many countries of the West, where proliferation of new statutory laws and administrative codes has taken the place of needed fundamental reform, Poland suffers from a glut of legal rules and regulations. According to Radio Warsaw announcement yesterday, more than 1,400 penal and administrative regulations are dispersed through some 200 "normative" acts. Warsaw journalists were told by the Ministry of Internal Affairs that work has been undertaken on the "concise and unified" statutory law which in a certain sense would constitute a Citizen's Code. It is expected that it will carry general and specific definitions of the most common breaches of public safety and health, actions against persons and property. The new draft law was described during

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the press conference as an improved means to mete out sentences, limit the arrest to a minimum, and introduce the unprecedented punishment of public censure.

The draft law also provides other disciplinary ways of dealing with misdemeanors by adolescent youth by anticipating the possibility of bringing in schools into a coordinated action with the courts. Other proposed articles would combat prostitution and begging, two of the most "un-socialist" phenomena frequently fought in the press and radio. The project of the new unified law also seeks to curb petty larceny and speculation, puts teeth into the highly publicized campaign against hooliganism and road traffic law violators. The ministry hopes that the draft law, soon to be submitted to a public airing, when in the hands of the quasi-legal assemblies formed by the national presidia (Kolegia Orzekajace) will unburden regular courts.

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