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COMMUNIST AREA

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LIGHT INDUSTRY TO GROW FASTER THAN HEAVY INDUSTRY IN UKRAINE

A previous paper in this series (8th January 1965, "Light Industry to Outstrip Heavy Industry in Five Republics") drew attention to the fact that the official plans for 1965 over a wide area of the USSR have abandoned the long-standing dogma of priority growth for heavy industry.

At that time the Republics for which evidence was available were Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Kirgizia. Now an article in Pravda Ukrainy (14 May 1965) demonstrates that the same policy is being followed this year in the Ukraine, which has a larger population than all the other five Republics together (45,000,000 compared with 25,000,000). Pravda Ukrainy writes:

In the USSR as a whole in 1965 the growth rates of production of consumer goods and producer goods will come closer together. And in the Ukraine, in contrast to all preceding years, the growth rates of light industry, the food industry and the consumer industries (annual growth -9.5%) will be significantly higher than the growth rate for the production of producer goods (annual growth -7.2%).

[Emphasis supplied]

The same article also gives a clear outline of the agricultural section of the draft 5-year plan (1966-70) for the Ukraine. Its targets include:

Agricultural investments (state and kolkhozy)	13,000,000,000 rubles cf 7.2 billion in previous 6 years
Tractors	268,000 cf 167,000 in past 5 years
Grain Combines	64,000 cf 32,000 in past 5 years
Trucks	190,000 (forty per cent more than in past 5 years)
Fertilizer	43,000,000 tons (cf 17.6 million in past five years)

The rates of increase implicit in these figures suggest strongly that 1965 is not likely to be the last year in which the growth of the Ukrainian consumer sector is planned to be faster in percentage terms than for the heavy industry sector. A major turning-point has been reached for the Ukraine, with a population roughly equal to that of France, as well as for the five other Republics.

r.r.g.