

MUNICH, 20 August 1962 (Non-Target Communist Area Analysis:  
Soviet Union - cz)

The role of the party organizer (partorg) as the strategic figure in the new Agricultural Production Directorate has been re-emphasized in recent Soviet announcements. There are now 966 Territorial Production Directorates connected with the organization and management of agricultural production and procurements on the 8300 state farms and 41,300 collective farms in the Soviet Union.

As each directorate covers four administrative raions (districts) embracing approximately 500 state and collective farms its staff is extensive and powerful. In the Ukraine alone, for example, each directorate has 78 agricultural specialists and officials on its staff<sup>1</sup>, exclusive of service personnel. The link between the directorate and the farms is the "inspector - organizer" who is responsible for about five farms but "must not take the place of the kolkhoz chairman or sovkhos director." Theoretically the final say on questions concerning the "production, financial and economic state" of the farm rests with the kolkhoz-sovkhoz managers<sup>2</sup>.

Now Pravda (11 August) appears with an editorial that the party organizer is also an "organizer and tutor" whose main task is to work through the primary party organization on the farms to see that the party's decisions on production and procurements are carried out. As a mark of their status, the partorgs are carried on the "nomenklatura" of the republican Central Committee CPSU while the "inspector-organizers" are on the appointment lists of the regional party organ. Here the clear chain of command from the republic party seat of power directly to the operating farm is unmistakably evident. The partorg will operate on the same number of farms as his more practical counterpart, the inspector - organizer.

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<sup>1</sup> Report of Podgorny, 1st Secretary Communist Party, Ukraine, Pravda 8 July 1962.

<sup>2</sup> Pravda 24 March 1962

Podgorny revealed the leading role of the partorg in the pyramid of the agricultural administrative structure when he confirmed the selection of the 190 key posts in the Ukraine were made from a roster of the best first secretaries of the raikoms (district party committees) in the republic. By contrast, the selections of a like number as chairmen of the Production Directorates were limited to officials from district executive committees, regional agricultural boards, deputies of obkoms. Of the 2338 inspector-organizers almost all were professional agricultural specialists, many of them undoubtedly non-party men.

The assignment of the partorg to work through the primary party organizational on the farms has meaning and direction when seen in the light of Presidium member (CC, CPSU) A.P. Kirilenko's speech on improving party management of industry, transport and construction in the RSFSR in which the official dogma was clearly enunciated:

"the most important questions of production activities are decided precisely within the primary party organizations." 3

It is in this nucleus of power that the partorg's weight will be decisive and overwhelming.

The party organizer, assisted by his "group of instructors", the Pravda editorial continues, will engage in "live, dynamic, practical assistance...on the fields and farms... among people" by organizing lectures, visits, social competition. They are to lead the primary party organs to concentrate their efforts on the vital problems of production so that "the local Communists will perform with a militant solidarity and impart a decisive tone to all kolkhoz and sovkhoz matters."

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3 Pravda, 1 August 1962.

(more)



With fitting finality to the "militant style of work" among the party appointed in the countryside, the first secretary of the Vladimir obkom, perhaps inadvertently, set up a model for surveillance and control of local farm officialis fully on the order of power vested in the Stalin MTS instructors' group.

"The obkom ordered that a special journal be set up on each farm for the inspector-organizer to write down his advice and recommendations."

Leading officials of the oblast organizations, partorgs, would check to see if the orders were carried out.<sup>4</sup>

Of kolkhoz democracy there can be little question. Not since the forced collectivization in 1929-31 has there been such a concentration of party power in the Soviet villages. This dichotomy of power invested among several party-state bodies over the endless decision-making processes inherent in agricultural production will inevitably lead to indecision, confusion, and disincentives among the rank-and-file peasants and local farm leaders. It is significant that a legal authority writing in the party's ideological journal, Kommunist, charged that general meetings of the kolkhoz members had virtually ceased to exist and that even in the amended statutes of some kolkhozy the role of the general meetings is "somewhat reduced."<sup>5</sup>

It's as far fetched to expect the partorg and his retinue of instructors through lectures and meetings to lift up the kolkhoz general meetings toward some level of "kolkhoz democracy" as Stalin's party instructors at the Machine Tractor Stations were charged with the upsurge in farm products that failed so dismally in the post-war period.

With the concentration of party control at near saturation levels in the countryside, the outlook for the collectivized peasantry is pretty grim.

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<sup>4</sup>Pravda, 26 July 1962.

<sup>5</sup>Kommunist, No. 11, 1962.