

MUNICH, 6 March 1962 (Research and Evaluation - a.a.)

The "debate" on Nikita Khrushchev's speech on agriculture began at the Plenum of the CC, CPSU, on Tuesday Morning, March 6.

The first speaker, Gennady Voronov, a member of the Presidium and a notably successful agricultural administrator, agreed with Khrushchev in blaming Stalin ("the cult of Stalin's personality") for his harmful influence upon Soviet agriculture.

Voronov also emphasized Khrushchev's discussion of the necessity for improving the management of agriculture. He discussed a new "production" administrative structure for managing agriculture that has been worked out in the Russian federation, and he strongly supported Khrushchev's proposal, that Agricultural Management Committees for the direction of agriculture be established at national, republic and oblast levels.

Following Voronov, Nikolai Podgorny, a member of the Presidium and first secretary of the CC of the Ukrainian CP, admitted that Ukrainian agricultural production is lagging behind Soviet needs. Podgorny said that less than 1% of the Ukrainian cultivated land will be under grasses next year, and prophesied for 1962 a 40% increase in meat production and a 20% increase in milk.

Sharaf Rashidov, first secretary of the CC of Uzbekistan, and a candidate member of the Presidium of the CC CPSU, followed Podgorny's pattern apologizing for last year's cotton production, promising the "liquidation" of grasslands rotation practices, and exploitation of new lands in the Hunger Steppe. He also supported Khrushchev's proposal for the establishment of agricultural management committees.

Dinmukhamed Kunayev who spoke next is first secretary of the CC of Kazakhstan. Following the pattern set by his predecessors he blamed unfavorable weather conditions, shortcomings in agricultural management, the grassland rotation system, poor cultivation of soil, and the use of non-certified seeds for lagging grain production. Like the others, he promised

to do better, and indicated that the plans for production administrations were already worked out.

During the afternoon session, the speakers were Ivan Spiridonov, a member of the Secretariat of the CC CPSU; Fyodar Surganov, first secretary of the CP of Byelorussia; V. Yu. Akhundov, first secretary of the CP of Azerbaidzhan; and D. Rasulov, first secretary of the CP of the Tadzhik Republic.

Although the above information is drawn from Tass summaries, certain conclusions are indicated. The one important "new" proposal advanced thus for solving Soviet agricultural difficulties is the proposal that "Agricultural Management Committees" be established at Union, Republic and oblast levels, and that "Production Administrations" be established ^{sub-}at/oblast levels and below. It is evident that at least the second part of this proposal has already been "approved" since both Voronov and Kunayev discussed how the production administrations were to be set up in their republics. Beyond this, it is clear, Khrushchev is going ahead with his plan to plow up the grasslands, and hopes to put more capital into agriculture for fertilizers, machinery and incentives.

ma 1755