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POWER BY PURCHASE

In the course of the discussion concerning the "drawing together of collective cooperative and all national property" now being conducted in the pages of the leading economic journal in the Soviet Union, the following four principles have been formulated as factors which will accelerate the final change of production relations and resolve the problems of ownership of means of production in the countryside:

- 1) the steady growth of the indivisible funds;
- 2) the expansion of the communal sector which "will successively encompass more and more completely all sectors of agriculture...the labor of the kolkhozniki will more and more be released from the low productivity private plots and used in the communal sector;
- 3) the development and "inevitable" growth of inter-kolkhoz production ties...joint construction of electric power stations, irrigation systems, repair shops etc.;
- 4) electrification, mechanization, automatisaton of agricultural production will lead to a merging and joining of kolkhoz means of production with those of the state.<sup>1</sup>

By the simple device of frequently stating that the indivisible funds, kolkhoz income withheld from the earnings of the individual collective farmers for three decades, were assuming the nature of "national property", and suggesting that allocations to these investment funds be increased to 30-35% of total kolkhoz income, Khrushchev has clearly marked the source of monetary resources which are to be utilized in this process. With equal clarity the Soviet press has revealed the intermediate step through which these funds, invested in various "inter-collective farm projects," will pass in the accelerated metamorphosis of joint cooperative collective property into all national property. Thus, the impermanency of collective group ownership of means of production has already been outlined as follows:

"Interkolkhoz production enterprises and organizations are a higher level of development of the collective-cooperative form of socialist property. They belong not to the individual collectives, but to the groups. In the formation and development of such enterprises, not the members of the agricultural artel but the kolkhozy as a whole have a direct influence. The common funds of the intercollective enterprises and organizations thus grow from the income of their own activity. They are in ever closer connection with the state enterprises, with state forms of property, and in greater measure feel its influence; in a greater measure

<sup>1</sup>Summary and quotations from Voprossy Ekonomiki, No. 4, 1959, p. 147.

they are susceptible to planning, control and direction by the state organs."<sup>2</sup>

Although there has been some press propaganda in connection with inter-kolkhoz construction projects, data available concerning the progress already achieved are scarce. Early this year it was claimed that 11,000 kolkhozy (out of 68,000) were participating in joint building activities and that 748 inter-kolkhoz electric power stations had been constructed.<sup>3</sup> The distribution of these stations throughout the country remains unknown, but their fate has been irrevocably sealed, at least in one of the smallest Soviet republics where the

"government has bought from the Latvian farmers, on generous terms, the small and medium electric power stations they had."

This means that not only the relatively few inter-kolkhoz power plants built recently, but also the more numerous stations constructed by the individual kolkhozy since the war have now passed by cur-