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### RESHUFFLE IN THE PARTY CONTROL COMMITTEE TO TIGHTEN AGRICULTURAL DISCIPLINE?

Summary: The promotion of an expert in agriculture to be deputy chairman of the Party Control Committee, following Voronov's recent appointment to head the People's Control Committee, suggests that farm managers in the USSR are in for some exceptionally close supervision in 1972.

According to Pravda (17 November 1971), I. S. Gustov, who has been the first secretary of Pskov oblast for ten years, has now been made deputy chairman of the Party Control Committee of the CPSU Central Committee. Presumably he is replacing S. O. Postavalov, who was placed in that position by Khrushchev in 1961 (the Committee usually has only one deputy chairman). Postavalov is now about 65 (born 1907), which makes it appear that this is a case of retirement rather than dismissal. Gustov, who has been an agricultural expert throughout his career, is now only 60.

Gustov was educated at the Agricultural Technical College in Bezhet'sk, and went to the Higher Party School of the CPSU Central Committee, where he graduated in 1949. At the age of 19 he became chairman of a kolkhoz and later he worked in party and government posts until 1950, when he was made a secretary of the Velikiye Luki oblast. From 1955-1957 he was first deputy chairman of Velikiye Luki Oblast Executive Committee, and in 1957 he was promoted to second secretary of Pskov oblast. He has been a deputy of the Supreme Soviet since 1962, and a member of the Agricultural Commission of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet since 1959.

Since the Party Control Committee (headed by A.Y. Pelshe) exercises extensive supervisory functions over all the economic organizations of the USSR (including the 34,000 kolkhozy and 15,000 state farms) through its powers to investigate their leaders (the vast majority of whom are party members), the strongly agricultural bent of Gustov's career is distinctly interesting.

It may be recalled that G. I. Voronov, the Politburo member who was appointed to head the People's Control Committee five months ago, is also a specialist in agriculture. The PCC is the organization which carries out the detailed investigation into any economic unit (such as a kolkhoz or state farm) where there is reason to believe that a breach of discipline has occurred, and its reports are used, through party channels, by the Party Control Committee to eliminate or punish those responsible, provided that they are party members.

The strongly agricultural orientation of Voronov's and Gustov's background would suggest that Brezhnev's purpose is to ensure that his kolkhoz and state farm chairmen are in the future much more closely supervised than in the past. The coming future will find them responsible for the proper use of more than 25% of all the capital investments in the 1971-1975 plan (129 billions out of 501 billions).

r.r.g.