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x RUSS -- KHRUSHCHEV'S SPEECH AT THE PLENUM (I)

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MUNICH, 5 March 1962 (Research and Evaluation - a.a.)

In the first 3,000 words of his speech at the agricultural plenum, Nikita Khrushchev emphasized several points, which give some indication of his current views of the role of the CPSU in international affairs.

1. He defended the new CPSU program and its special stress upon the production of material wealth for the people by specific references to Marx, Engels, and Lenin.

2. He argued that "establishment of the material-technical base of communism is of exceptional international importance," because by increasing its material forces socialism can "achieve and consolidate victory over imperialism." Any deviation from the effort to build the material-technical base of communism, he said, "would lead to a loss of superiority over the forces of imperialism...would...do untold harm to the socialist camp and revolutionary forces throughout the world."

3. He asserted that the development of production forces of the Soviet Union and of the "entire socialist system" is the main obstacle to "imperialist aggression." Thus, in his view the construction of communism in the Soviet Union "is tantamount to the fulfillment of our revolutionary duty to all revolutionary forces in the world."

With these first points, made at a plenum called to discuss agriculture, Khrushchev clearly defined and defended what is for him the international significance of the CPSU plans for building the material-technical base for communism. At the same time he set forth his theory of what should determine communist relations with the "imperialist world," and indirectly stated his repudiation of Chinese theories on this subject.

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4. In a point more closely-related to domestic policy, Khrushchev stressed "the exceptional importance of the Leninist principle of material incentives for the cause of communist construction. Since the failure to solve the problems of material incentives in agriculture, is one of the principal failures of the Soviet economy, this emphasis (with its genuflection to Lenin) may presage the announcement of significant changes later in his speech.

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