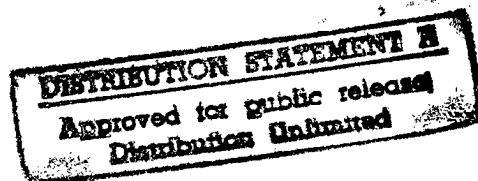


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17 NOVEMBER 1986

East Europe Report



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ECONOMY

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

STATUS OF CRAFTS, TRADES AT BEGINNING OF NEW 5-YEAR PLAN

West Berlin FS ANALYSEN in German No 3, 1986 (signed to press Aug 1986)
pp 1-23

[Article by Maria Haendke-Hoppe with the (West) Berlin Research Institute for Inner-German Economic and Social Issues. Original title: "Crafts and Trades in the GDR at the Beginning of the New Five-Year Plan 1986-1990".]

[Text] English Language Summary

During the five-year plan period 1981-1985 intensification was the aim in this field, as indeed it was throughout the economy. In other words, an iron regimen of economization dominated the investment sector where material and energy were concerned.

By 1985 turnover in this field had grown by 19 %. The low growth rate of only 1 % in 1982 reflects the crisis which had the entire economy in its grip.

Despite a policy of promoting crafts and trades which has now been in operation for a good 10 years, the great deficits in output have still not been remedied. In fact the differences between supply level of services in the towns and in the country have increased where certain types of work are concerned.

Visible results of the above-mentioned policy are the factual halt in collectivization, the steady rise in employment potential which began in 1980 for the first time since the war, and the practice of allocating apprentices to the private sector. However, the shrinkage in the number of private concerns has still not been stopped - although Honecker demanded this as far back as 1977 - but only slowed down.

Within the framework of the restructuration the productive sector (excluding building work) grew by a mere 7 %, whereas repairs and services grew by 26 % (work undertaken for private persons by 34 %). Turnover in the building sector grew by 38 % due to the emphasis of the last Five-Year Plan on the modernization of old buildings and the restoration of historical buildings damaged in the war. This growth was even faster than in the field of services.

At the 11th congress of the SED in April 1986 Honecker confirmed anew the continuation of the policy of promotion within the current Five-Year-Plan.

It should not be overlooked here that stronger integration of the private sector into state planning will above all receive further impetus by means of cooperation in supply groups. This is envisaged in the current Plan.

I. Crafts and Trades Policy 1981-1985

A whole decade of "active crafts and trades policy" in the GDR has ended now since the 12 February 1976 resolution. There is no reason to doubt, in principle, that the SED will carry on that policy, even after the "central event" of 1986, the 11th SED Congress. The change of attitude, compared with the time before 1976, is documented directly by repeated announcements, inconceivable in the past, in the SED's central organ NEUES DEUTSCHLAND: "It ultimately is a basic concern of our party and our state to promote private crafts and trades on behalf of providing for our citizens at an increasing rate."¹

At the 11th SED Congress, Erich Honecker reiterated the policy adopted 10 years ago of promoting the private trades by saying: "Our party will continue to promote the crafts, which take care of more than two thirds of all services and repairs for the population. The spread of high-tech does not curtail the importance of the crafts but provides them with new fields of action. While getting set for the 11th party congress, in 1985 already, by taking into account suggestions made by the friendly parties, further promotional measures were decided on to advance the intensification also of the cooperative and private crafts."²

The expectations placed on the crafts up to 1990 were formulated by Willi Stoph at the 11th party congress as follows: "We are convinced the PGH's [artisan producer cooperatives] and the private crafts will enhance their contribution to supplying the population with services and repairs in conformity with requirements."³

After the party congress, Wange, minister for district managed industry & foodstuffs industry, with regard to the continuation of the so-called main task till 2000, which the party congress had issued, affirmed the following: "Here the crafts have an undeniable and significant function and, hence, a clear perspective."⁴

Private artisans also harvested moral recognition during the last 5-year period. As "reward" for the performance improvements within the scope of the so-called socialist competition, the crafts got their share, to an unprecedented degree, of the abundant medals given out on the occasion of the GDR's 35th anniversary. Among those decorated with the highest medals and distinctions there were, along with PGH chairmen and collectives and PGH functionaries, for the first time also two master craftsmen. They got one of the highest GDR medals, the Patriotic Medal of Merit in Gold.⁵ Also the "SED Central Committee Banner of Honor," the "Karl Marx Medal," and the top honorific, "Hero of Labor," went to artisans this time. As recently as 1979, at the 30th anniversary, as the top honor they only got the Patriotic Medal of Merit in Bronze, and even of the lower distinctions private artisans got none.⁶

Also, the visit Erich Honecker paid a butcher in East Berlin's central city district, for laying the foundation-stone for the new Hohenschoenhausen residential area,⁷ honored all the private trades. This exclusive event was rated as a special spur for all private butchers.⁸

Only against the background of the events prior to 1976 can such permanent "stroking" of the private trades become understandable. It documents a change in direction that is extraordinary within the framework of the system, and for the creditability of which one must also resort to bizarre points of reference such as an announcement placed in NEUES DEUTSCHLAND:⁹ "Lannis Sklivaniotis, chairman of the democratic movement of the medium-size small entrepreneurs of Greece, paid tribute to the secure existence of the craftsmen and tradesmen in the GDR."

The SED undoubtedly succeeded in reinforcing the confidence of the private craftsmen, but also of the members of the cooperatives, who had been demoralized by the 1972 act of nationalization.¹⁰ They do, to be sure, count on a very brief memory among the craftsmen when, as on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the "crafts promotion law,"¹¹ the SED leadership's policy toward the crafts is said to have been one unbroken act of "benevolence."¹²

II. Results

The most important results of the last 5-year plan may be summarized as follows.

1. As in all other sectors of the GDR economy, the "intensification strategy," i.e. an iron regimen of economization dominated the crafts and trades in the last 5-year plan also. The sensitive investment gap existing for the crafts for decades and the constant material bottlenecks have made the "tapping of reserves" unusually tough in that field. Without improvising and the inventive spirit, precisely through private initiative, the results actually achieved would be unthinkable.

2. The reports in the media, in the press as well as on radio and TV, which have recently proliferated, while talking of success, make no secret of negative manifestations either. Tall deficits generated in the private crafts prior to 1976, partly by neglect or by overt or covert reprisals, have hitherto by no means been cancelled. The gaps in supplying crafts services have in part been filled, to be sure, yet the big disparities between the cities, especially the "East Berlin show window," and the countryside have rather still grown in some branches. Right on top of the grievance list are excessive delays, irregular provision in material, and unfriendly customer service.¹³

3. While the media generally report more, technical information was further curtailed. That includes--evidently in the wake of saving paper in general--the change to now only a monthly appearance of the organ of the small-trades chamber of commerce in the bezirks, DAS NEUE HANDWERK. Published small-trades statistics also have remained on the extremely poor 1976 level.

4. Visible effects of the promotional policy since 1976 are:
- a) The standstill in collectivization,
 - b) the steadily growing number, a first after the end of the war, of people working in the private sector, since 1980, and
 - c) the preferential channeling of apprentices into the private trades in spite of a demographically conditioned decline in the apprentices' potential.

5. The shrinking process of private enterprises slowed down again compared with the 1976-1980 period. The goal announced already in 1977 of wanting to raise the number of private craft enterprises again¹⁴ has thus still not been accomplished, principally on account of entrepreneurial superannuation.

Table 1: Trend of the Crafts in the GDR (including East Berlin) 1980-1985

Year	Number of Enterprises	Workers (not counting apprentices)	Output (in million mark)				Percentage share of total crafts' turnover
			Total	of which Production	Building Trade	Services & Repair	
Private Crafts							
1980	83,821	246,281	9,641	5,039	1,582	2,992	58.9
1981	83,157	251,138	9,970	4,995	1,692	3,246	58.9
1982	82,709	253,768	10,113	4,845	1,787	3,446	58.8
1983	82,136	255,326	10,483	4,908	1,963	3,577	59.0
1984	81,069	258,125	10,914	5,059	2,126	3,692	59.0
1985	80,000+		11,496				58.9
PGH's							
1980	2,751	156,310*	6,734	2,148	2,237	2,292	41.1
1981	2,743	158,447*	6,970	2,144	2,317	2,448	41.1
1982	2,736	160,163*	7,074	2,132	2,349	2,528	41.2
1983	2,733	162,395*	7,290	2,201	2,434	2,588	41.0
1984	2,733	164,199*	7,577	2,277	2,569	2,661	41.0
1985	2,732	162,158**	8,035				41.1

* Members among them: 1980: 152,485; 1981: 154,461; 1982: 156,481; 1983: 158,801; 1984: 160,722

** Only members

Sources: Statistische Jahrbuecher der DDR 1981-1985 and Statistisches Taschenbuch 1986

6. The restructurization process in the crafts has made further headway. While the proportion of the producing crafts dropped steadily, the proportion of services and repairs and, due to the new emphasis in housing construction, on modernizing old housing, the construction proportion of the crafts increased.

III Promotional Measures in Expanding State Planning

More financial alleviations for private crafts came in 1984 and 1985. When an enterprise got started it now became tax-exempt for 2 years instead of one. And particularly, the credit opportunities existing since 1976 were broadened and written into law.¹⁵

To increase efficiency, investment credits are granted with a 5 percent interest rate for up to 8 years. Special write-offs to cut down taxable profits are authorized. Credits for working capital also are given at a 5-percent interest rate when at least 33 1/3 percent is put up out of in-house means in the financing of average working capital volumes. To overcome temporary payment bottlenecks special credits may be granted with an 8-percent interest rate. The enterprises have to put up sureties for the credits granted. Working capital credits up to M 20,000 are granted under simplified application and authentication conditions.

No promotional measures must obliterate the fact that state planning for the now included private sector keeps making headway. The objectives as to the inclusion in the socialist cooperative efforts, mainly in the provisioning groups,¹⁶ have, to be sure, not been met by 1985. In the '84 provisioning groups only 829 PGH's and 10,379 private craftsmen were involved by the end of 1985. Minister Wange of the district managed industry & foodstuffs industry therefore is posing the expansion of the provisioning groups up to 1990 as a new as well as old priority.¹⁷

In the new version of the "law on the local people's representations" of July 1985,¹⁸ in its Article 25, the development of socialist cooperative work is explicitly made a responsibility of the bezirk councils. The bezirk council furthermore "is responsible for a purposive development and promotion of the crafts. Vis-a-vis the crafts it exercises the control over their abiding by legal regulations. It instructs the bezirk chamber of commerce in taking care of its tasks." According to Article 39, the kreis council "is responsible for instructing, planning, and controlling the PGH's, the private craftsmen, and the tradesmen."

Whereas the law of 1973--in line with the restrictive tendencies at the time--focused on repairs and services and their concentration and specialization, the new law takes account of the changed trades and crafts policy since 1976 and looks at the crafts as a sector of the economy.

The progressive inclusion of the crafts in central planning--for the 1981-85 5-year plan a mandatory planning quota had for the first time been set down under the rubric of services and repairs for the population--is documented by critical remarks from private craftsmen that have recently become known.¹⁹ According to them, a schematic fixing of annual growth rates for the various crafts is no longer realistic. The volume of orders as well as the available equipment--as a rope-maker from East Berlin remarked--no longer permit annual growth rates of 6 percent. In the crafts, no plan debate is conducted as it is in industry.

The extremely tense material procurement situation suggests that even though residues of industrial materials and used materials are utilized, there are things the craftsmen would have thrown away previously that still have to be made proper use of today.

Performance comparisons among enterprises as introduced in the last 5-year plan are also handled too schematically, without paying attention to individual conditions.²⁰

The most important tool for tightly managing the private crafts are the ELG's [purchase and delivery cooperatives]. In the 5-year plan that just ended they were used much more again for enforcing political-economic objectives. That included above all the intensification campaign. They are organizing the handing over to the crafts industrial machinery that was superseded as well as the performance comparisons criticized above. Already back in the 1950's the ELG played a role in accelerating the collectivization of the crafts; as they organize the material procurement for the private craftsmen, almost all private craftsmen are practically compelled to be members in one of the 1,036 ELG's, however much such membership may be deemed voluntary.²¹

On 6 February 1986 the Council of Ministers issued a new ELG model statute,²² which replaced the old model statute of 21 December 1956²³ that had been the only model statute in the GDR to still be based, for all intents and purposes, on the 1889 cooperative law. The new model statute now, in its Article 23, provides for full ELG liability for its obligations. It contains criteria, as e.g. about the forming of funds, which are pointing out that the ELG's now also are to be counted among the "socialist" cooperatives.

The PGH's have been tied into state planning since their new model statute was issued in 1973. A legal premise for a further concentration and specialization of the producers cooperatives was set up in 1980 through the order "on cooperative facilities in services, repair and direct provisioning."²⁴

Analogous to the KOE's [cooperative facilities] introduced in agriculture in 1972, the KE's [cooperative facilities] of the PGH's had to be looked at as an instrument for a branch-specific fusion of the PGH's.²⁵ After the first KE was formed from 16 barber shop PGH's in Potsdam Bezirk in 1981, nothing happened, to be sure, for a long time. Not until 1 April 1986--as far as is known--the second KE was formed; in it the four bakery PGH's of the city of Magdeburg merged.²⁶

Recently voiced criticism of disparities in the labor productivity levels of the PGH's and, thus, too slow a tempo of "intensification" suggest that more pressure is likely to come about for KE mergers. Minister Wange observed that among the PGH's there were disparities in the labor productivity levels of 50 percent, whereas only of 25 percent in the private enterprises.²⁷

IV. Developments since 1980

1. People at Work and Enterprises

From the end of 1980 till 1985, the number of employed in the crafts rose by 24,000 to circa 426,000.²⁸ That resulted in a growth rate of precisely 6 percent. Thereby it exceeded the industrial growth rate by a goodly 3 percent.

The PGH's had a slightly higher growth rate of its labor force than the private enterprises.

In the producers cooperatives the concentration process continued. While there had been 2,751 PGH's in 1980, in late 1985, they had dropped to 2,732 (cf. Table 1).

In only two crafts branches the number of PGH's rose, in electrical engineering and electronics, by eleven to 321 as of 1984, and in cultural goods the number of PGH's doubled to seventeen, while the number of people working there rose sixfold to 1,778.

That trend is of special interest because especially in cultural goods the PGH nationalization of 1972 had the most drastic effects. Of the 59 PGH's employing 9,179 late in 1971 only eight were left with 285 people working in them by the end of 1972.

Those measures evidently caused much damage, which was openly expressed at the Second Crafts Quadrennial of "socialist" countries in Erfurt in 1978.²⁹

What causes worry, as was already mentioned, is that in spite of all the promotional measures the number of private crafts enterprises is shrinking, even if more slowly.

Estimates are that by the end of 1985 they might have been reduced by another 3,500 (cf. Table 1).³⁰

Between 1975 and 1980, 4,800 enterprises were lost. The loss was especially heavy (1,067 enterprises) in 1984. The 16,805 crafts licenses issued since 1981 thus in no way make up for the cancellations, mostly because of age.³¹

2. Performance

Between 1981 and 1985 the total crafts performance rose by 19.2 percent (cf. Table 2).

While in 1985, at 5.6 percent, the highest growth rate was achieved, the critical overall economic situation of 1982 was also reflected in the crafts by their low 1-percent growth rate.

The share of the private crafts, within deviations of 0.2 percent, remained virtually stable near 59 percent.

a) The Producing Crafts (excluding the Building Trade)

Due to the restructurization policy growth rates for the production performance (excluding the building trade) declined further. Between 1975 and 1980 that still had been 7 percent, but in the last 5-year plan it dropped to barely 3 percent. The share in overall crafts performance dropped from 44 to 38 percent by late 1985.

The lion's share of production still goes, as it did before, to foodstuffs, butchers and bakers mainly. They together produced nearly one quarter of trade production (excluding the building trade) in 1984.³²

In 2,283 enterprises a work force of 17,300, and in 66 cooperatives, of 3,600 were engaged in meat processing in 1984. That was roughly comparable to the labor force in the meat processing industry.

Table 2:

Overall Crafts Development according to Types

1975-1985

Year	Total Turnover in billion mark	Percentage Share of Private Crafts	Producing Trades ex-cluding Building in billion mark	of which Share of Private Crafts	Building Trade in billion mark	Percentage Share of Private Crafts	Percentage Services, Repairs in billion mark	Percentage Share of Private Crafts
1975	13,64	61.7	6,70	74.1	3,15	41.1	3,78	57.1
1980	16,38	58.9	7,19	70.1	3,81	41.4	5,28	56.6
1981	16,94	58.9	7,14	69.9	4,01	42.2	5,69	57.0
1982	17,19	58.8	6,98	69.4	4,14	43.2	5,97	56.7
1983	17,77	59.0	7,11	69.0	4,40	44.6	6,16	58.0
1984	18,49	59.0	7,34	69.0	4,70	45.3	6,35	58.1
1985	19,53	58.9	7,47		5,28		6,66	

Sources: Statistische Jahrbuecher der DDR 1976, 1981-1985 (percentage shares computed) and
Statistisches Taschenbuch 1986

In the bakery trade, 57 PGH's with 4,000 employees and 6,540 private trade enterprises with 33,000 produced 46 percent of all the bakery goods for public supplies in the GDR.³³ Though this is a priority in the promotional measures, one still finds bottlenecks here, especially in newly built-up areas.

b) The Building Trade

There were large growth rates in the building trade. The performance of the more than 1,000 building trade PGH's and the circa 13,000 private building enterprises expanded by over 38 percent by 1985. In the previous 5-year plan it had only come to 21 percent. The percentage share in total trade performance rose from 23 in 1980 to 27 in 1985. The high growth rates are explained by the ambitious housing construction program with the emphasis on modernizing old housing and the repair of cultural buildings destroyed in World War II.

In the first half of the 1980's, to mention only the most prominent buildings, the Leipzig Gewandhaus and the Berlin Friedrichstadt Palace were rebuilt. The Deutsche Theater in Berlin was completely renovated. The Franzoesische Dom and the Schauspielhaus at the former Berlin Gendarmenmarkt were rebuilt, the Deutsche Dom will have been rebuilt by the 750th anniversary celebrations in 1987. Dresden's Semper Opera House finally reopened in 1985. Berlin saw its oldest church, the Nikolaikirche, rebuilt; a historic urban district is arising around that church. It will be finished by the 750th anniversary. In the historic district a number of crafts workshops are located in which, starting in 1986, the production of artifacts will be demonstrated.³⁴ Early this year the new crafts museum near the Nikolaikirche was opened. The reconstruction of the Dresden Palace was started which, like the new museum on Museum Island, is supposed to be completed by 1990.

The percentage share of private enterprises in building trade performance had risen to 45 by 1985, whereas it had only been 41 in 1980. A total of 93,000 building trade employees (40,000 of them in private enterprises) carried out circa 45 percent of the planned construction measures for the modernization of old housing in 1984. Especially in the trades of the bricklayers, carpenters, roofers, furnace installers, plumbers, and locksmiths more new enterprises are expected to be set up.³⁵ There continue to be bottlenecks in providing private enterprises with construction materials and equipment from the building material supply VEB.³⁶

The roofers are having big problems. The "initiative" currently under way, "Tighten Your Roofs," is likely to extend far into the new 5-year plan. More and more self-help courses are being started so that tenants can carry out their own repairs. Such courses take 12 to 15 double-hours for beginners.³⁷ For the occasion of the Day of the Construction Workers, the head of the central labor team for the building trade in the products group association for the building repair and modernization of housing and public buildings in the GDR--who also is the chairman of the small-trades chamber of commerce in Cottbus Bezirk--announced as a goal of the new 5-year plan a 40-percent increase by 1990 of the modernization and repair assignments.³⁸

c) Services and Repairs

In the services and repair sector--excluding building repairs--the total performance grew by 26 percent, including those of public services and utilities by 34,5 percent. That now makes more than 65 percent of that performance individual public services, and only a bare 35 percent of that performance goes to other sectors, mainly industry; in 1980 that share was still 39 percent.

All told, PGH's and private enterprises handle more than two thirds of all services and repairs (cf. Table 3). For the repair and custom-made manufacture of shoes, e.g., 95 percent, and for furniture repair and reupholstering 90 percent of all services are carried out by the crafts and small trades.³⁹

Table 3: The Trend in Repairs and Services 1975-1985

Year	Percentage Share by the Crafts in Total Turnover	among which for the population	
		Percentage Share by the Crafts in Total Turnover	The Crafts' Share in Total Repairs and Services for the Population (VCD, PGH, private)
1975	27.7	19.0.	60.3
1980	32.3	21.0	67.3
1981	33.6	22.5	67.8
1982	34.8	22.3	67.7
1983	34,7	22.3	67.5
1984	34.4	22.5	67.1
1985	34.1		

Source: Statistisches Taschenbuch der DDR 1986

Motor vehicle repairs are still the biggest headache. Transportation Minister Otto Arndt remarked about it that "despite the above-average increases in motor vehicle repair services for the population" it was not yet possible to provide for "services meeting all requirements."⁴⁰ The next target is that the following waiting periods should not be exceeded by private crafts enterprises and PGH's: Warranty inspections 21 days; general inspections 30 calendar days; body repair 30 days; damage repair after accidents, at a 6-hour work-day, no more than 7 days. In spite of extremely high annual growth rates in motor vehicle repairs, of 15 percent and more, and in spite of an authoritative Council of Ministers resolution of September 1984, one may not expect a complete satisfaction in this sector until 1990, when the workshop capacities are expected to become adapted to the degree of motorization.⁴¹ In this connection one has to take into consideration, however, that passenger cars are extremely superannuated in the GDR so that the needs for repairs are above average.

Circa 300 PGH's and 6,000 private enterprises carry out motor vehicle repairs for the population. Their performance rose above the 1980 figure by 70 percent. Their share of total motor vehicle repairs also is 70 percent.⁴² Private motor vehicle enterprises grew by 2,000 within the last 10 years.⁴³

The types of services have been expanded, to be sure, from 103 in 1981 to 179. There still are, however, serious bottlenecks in many types, such as the barber shops in the countryside. In Magdeburg Bezirk in 1985, of the 440 communities checked, only 204 had barber shops. Checks carried out by the so-called Workers and Farmers Inspectorate showed one had to wait weeks or even months for permanents.⁴⁴

3. The New Generation

The unfavorable demographic trend also affected the new generation of craftsmen. The promotional policy vis-a-vis the private sector crystallized visibly here. While for the private crafts the number of apprentices by the end of 1984 was more or less constant compared with 1980, at 14,300, in the PGH's that number declined by 23 percent to 11,650 (cf. Table 4), so that crafts in toto sustained a 12-percent decline, still favorable when compared to the decline in industry at a good 16 percent. For a number of tradecrafts, according to official data, the requirements for young blood have for years been met, such as for carpenters, barbers, and beauticians.⁴⁵

There continue to be special bottlenecks for tailors, bakers, furnace designers, cobblers, butchers, upholsterers, and in the building trade. There is a great shortage of roofers. So it is dubious if it will be possible to repair all the roofs in the GDR by 1987, as planned.⁴⁶ Meanwhile 8th grade graduates may also be trained as roof repairmen.

Table 4: Trend in Apprentice Figures 1975-1984

Year	Apprentices in all Trades*	of whom	
		in private enterprises as of 30 September	in PGH's as of 31 December
1975	24,914	11,400	13,540
1980	29,640	14,500	15,140
1981	29,440	14,700	14,740
1982	27,030	13,500	14,530
1983	26,040	13,400	12,640
1984	25,950	14,300	11,650

*The figures are given variably per 30 September and at annual averages; the latter always exceed the 30 September status.

Source: Statistische Jahrbuecher, 1976, 1977, 1981-1985.

Within the scope of the specialists training decree they extended the apprenticeship for ladies and gentlemen's custom tailors, furriers, saddlers, motor vehicle mechanics, watch repairmen, and auto bodywork mechanics by 6 months.⁴⁷ On 1 September 1986, assembling large-size household gadgets will provide a newly classified trade.

The ways in which Gera Bezirk recruits fresh personnel are described as most exemplary and worth emulating. There, more and more master craftsmen appear in general education polytechnical secondary schools to promote the tradecrafts,⁴⁸

which would have been inconceivable prior to 1976. Cobbler training is not much in demand. For youngsters between 8th and 10th grade who have not graduated there also is a chance in Gera Bezirk to become partial specialists and get the opportunity later to take the specialists examination (journeyman test).⁴⁹

New lesson plans are coming out on 1 September 1986 for bakery goods specialists and ~~for~~ musical instrument makers. New lesson plans are expected to be prepared gradually in all tradecrafts until 1990. The first expected to be instructed by new lesson plans, starting in 1987, are the carpenters, upholsterers, and saddlers.

All told, between 1981 and 1985, 40,000 apprentices were trained in the local supply economy in 30 specialized trades.⁵⁰

An average 2,000 specialists take their qualifying exams annually. Since 1975 training has been given on the basis of uniform state programs. At the start of the 1984/85 training year they were heavily revised in order to take better account of the services and repair priority for the population.⁵¹

Special attention is known to have been paid for some years to the so-called rare trades, notably the arts and crafts. The number of such crafts has in the meantime been enlarged from 30 to 45.

According to what Prof Kuhn, deputy state secretary for vocational training, has said, there is no longer the risk in the GDR for trades and crafts to become extinct.⁵² Whereas in 1975, e.g., there was only one blueprint drawing workshop left and there were only 3 tin foundries, now there are again 6 and 5 respectively.⁵³

In addition, beginning in September 1986--after finishing 10th grade--apprenticeship years will start again for bow designers, box makers, diamond-cutters, etchers, burnishers, bronze-foundries, and hat blockers.⁵⁴

The tradition of rare tradecrafts is now also being linked with the cultivation of the "historic legacy" in the GDR. For instance, for the first time in 14 years in Potsdam Bezirk, an 18-year old youngster has learned the trade of stone sculpturing which has, as is being said, "a tradition going back to a master working at the time of Frederik II."⁵⁵

4. The Overall Economic Significance

Poor statistics, of which we have already spoken, allow no quantifying of the overall economic importance of the tradecrafts for the GDR economy. All one can talk about is the proportion of employed and apprentices found. Up to the end of 1985 the proportion of people employed in the tradecrafts, at 5 percent, is likely to have almost stagnated. The proportion of crafts apprentices, looked at against the total number of apprentices, rose, however, from 5.4 to 6.2 percent. This underscores the enormous difference from the FRG where, as the most significant field of training in the economy, tradecrafts hold a share of 50 percent in all fields of training.

The very incomplete data on the crafts' net production show declining tendencies of shares, at least for the private crafts in construction as well as all other production.

That is true also for the still surviving small private sector. The share of the entire producing private economy of the GDR in the net product of the economy at the end of 1985 merely came to 2.8 percent.

In view of that development, a comment from Albania about the development of the private economy in the GDR sounds altogether staggering: "According to NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 8,700 private enterprises have been generated within the last 5 years. This process, the paper writes, will continue; 207,000 private enterprises are expected in the future. The boosted private sector is reinforcing its influence on the market. The extension of the private market and the concomitant price speculation are intensifying the despoliation of the broad masses in the GDR. That is a blow against their living standard."⁵⁶

Undoubtedly private craftsmen can make more money in the GDR than, say, industrial workers. This topic is taboo in the GDR media, in contrast to previous years, because they have finally realized that they depend on the initiative and dedication of the private craftsmen who instead of 8 3/4 hours will work from 10 to 12 hours or, when the enterprises are being set up, longer still every day.

Unfortunately there are no published income statistics. Personal research done by the Swedish scientist Aslund, the expert on the still surviving private crafts economy in Eastern Europe, has established that the minimum income in the GDR of an independent worker conforms to the statistical average income of a fully employed worker or employee in the VEB's (at M 1,111 in 1984), but the maximum income may be twenty times that much. Identical research done on Poland established maximum income that may be 200 times as much as the average income.

FOOTNOTES

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 6 December 1985.
2. Ibid., 18 April 1986, p 5.
3. Ibid., 20 April 1986, p 5.
4. NATIONAL-ZEITUNG, 6 June 1986.
5. DAS NEUE HANDWERK, No 10, 1984.
6. Ibid., No 19, 1979.
7. Ibid., No 2, 1984.
8. Ibid., No 8, 1984
9. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 29 May 1986.

10. Cf. Maria Haendcke-Hoppe, "The Nationalization Act in the Spring of 1972," DEUTSCHLAND ARCHIV, No 1, 1973, pp 37-41.
11. Through this law, issued on 9 August 1950, crafts and others were held down to employing no more than 10. Since then the private crafts enterprises have dwindled from 303,800 to 81,000 in 1984, and the number of people working in the crafts was cut in half.
12. Cf. Witho Holland in DER MORGEN, 9 October 1985.
13. The latter even led to the withdrawal of a crafts license in East Berlin. The rationale was that "the human maturity and technical skill a master craftsman needs were not in evidence." Cf. DAS NEUE HANDWERK, No 5, 1985.
14. So said Erich Honecker at the fifth SED Central Committee session in May 1977. Cf. Karl C. Thalheim and Maria Haendcke-Hoppe, "Crafts in the GDR and East Berlin," FS ANALYSEN, No 2, 1978, p 6.
15. Cf. "Order on Granting Credits to Private Crafts and Trade Enterprises of 21 February 1985," GBL Part I 1985 p 82. In 1976, the basis for the financial promotional measures was an unpublished resolution of the president of the GDR State Bank.
16. Provisioning groups are affiliations in the services and repair sector of enterprises of all sorts. The managerial enterprise normally is a VEB. For motor vehicle repairs and building repairs production groups were set up.
17. NATIONAL-ZEITUNG, 14/15 December 1985 and DAS NEUE HANDWERK, No 2, 1986.
18. GBL Part I p 213.
19. From a round of discussions with THUERINGER LANDESZEITUNG of 26 July 1986, cited from IWE 117, "Tagesdienst," 1986.
20. Cf. Maria Haendcke-Hoppe, "Latest Developments in the Private and Cooperative Crafts of the GDR and in the Rest of the Private Economy," FS ANALYSEN No 2, 1984, pp 5 f.
21. Cf. Karl C. Thalheim and Maria Haendcke-Hoppe, "New Priorities in the GDR's Crafts Policy," FS ANALYSEN No 2, 1982, pp 14 f.
22. GBL Special Issue No 1265, 17 March 1986.
23. GBL Pt 1, 1957, p 6.
24. GBL Pt I, 1980, p 316.
25. Cf. Karl C. Thalheim and Maria Haendcke-Hoppe, "GDR Crafts Between Two 5-Year Periods," FS ANALYSEN No 2, 1981, pp 16 ff and by the same authors, "New Priorities . . .," op. cit., pp 15 f.

26. DAS NEUE HANDWERK, No 7, 1986.
27. Ibid., No 3, 1985.
28. For 1985, estimates, because figures are not yet available for the private crafts.
29. Cf. Karl C. Thalheim and Maria Haendcke-Hoppe, "GDR Crafts--Crafts Policy and Crafts Development, 1977-1978," FS ANALYSEN, No 2, 1979, pp 6 f.
30. Even for the enterprises there are no data available as yet for 1985. The number of private enterprises for 1985, at above 80,000, is vague. Cf. NATIONAL-ZEITUNG, 10/11 May 1986 .
31. DER MORGEN, 21 May 1986.
32. Proportions cannot be established accurately because bakeries, in contrast to meat processing, are not shown separately but put together under the overall category of "other producing trades," which is made up mainly by the bakery trade, however, since as much as 87 percent of all engaged in it are working in bakeries.
33. according to IWE 156. "Tagesdienst" 1985.
34. NEUE ZEIT, 1 June 1984.
35. NATIONAL-ZEITUNG, 29 November 1984.
36. Ibid.
37. IWE 8. "Tagesdienst" 1985.
38. DAS NEUE HANDWERK, No 7, 1985.
39. NATIONAL-ZEITUNG, 10/11 May 1986.
40. NEUE ZEIT, 22 November 1985 .
41. IWE 6. "Tagesdienst" 1985.
42. DER MORGEN, 29 May 1986.
43. Ibid.
44. VOLKSSTIMME (Magdeburg), 17 December 1985, cited from IWE 197. "Tagesdienst" 1985.
45. "Craftsmen and tradesmen help significantly in taking care of the population." PRESSE-INFORMATIONEN DES MINISTERRATES DER DDR, 10 April 1984, supplement.

46. Quoted from IWE 154. "Tagesdienst" 1984.
47. GBL Pt. I 1985 No 4 p 25.
48. NATIONAL-ZEITUNG, 31 March/1 April 1984.
49. DER MORGEN, 23 May 1984.
50. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 6 August 1986. The public supply economy includes all crafts branches except the motor vehicle and building trades.
51. DER MORGEN, 23 May 1984.
52. Radio DDR, 9 November 1984, quoted from RIAS Monitor.
53. Quoted from IWE 56. "Tagesdienst" 1984.
54. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 6 August 1986.
55. DAS NEUE HANDWERK, No 8, 1985.
56. Radio Tirana, 7 November 1985 (in German) quoted from RIAS Monitor 7 November 1985.
57. Cf. Anders Aslund, "Private Enterprise in Eastern Europe." London, 1985, pp 207-208.

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CSO: 2300/44

ECONOMY

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

NEW MULTI-PURPOSE CONTAINER SHIP SERIES INITIATED

East Berlin SEEWIRTSCHAFT in German Vol 18 No 8, Aug 86 pp 389-396

[Article by Engr Siegfried Wodetzki: " 'Aequator'-Type Multi-Purpose Container Ship"]

[Text] [English-language summary]

"Aequator"-Type Multi-Purpose Container Ship

The GDR shipyards VEB Warnowwerft Warnemuende and VEB Schiffswerft "Neptun" - well-known in the merchant shipbuilding scene - designed the "Aequator"-type multi-purpose container ship in a basic configuration with several options primarily to meet the needs of the container shipping. This type of vessel is based on the long experience learnt by the two yards in building more than 650 general cargo ships up to this day. Three vessels of this type have been built at the Warnow-Yard. They are m/v "Ruhland", m/v "Ruebeland" and m/v "Sohland" all operated by the GDR shipping company VEB Deutfracht/Seereederei Rostock. This ship type is capable of carrying a wide range of cargoes such as break-bulk general cargoes, bulk goods, heavy lifts, plants and machinery as well as max. 950 containers. The ship can be modified in many ways to customers' requirements - in preference to the cargo handling equipment comprising either deck cranes or derricks thus making the vessel independent of shoreside loading facilities. The first ships of the series were built as gearless container ships with cell guides in the holds. The configuration described in the following text is of this special design.

The "Aequator"-type ship is a single-screw motor vessel with two decks and four cargo holds. She has a long forecastle and a poop. The ship is arranged for unlimited trade, navigation in iced waters being possible according to her ice class.

The GDR shipyards--VEB Warnowwerft Warnemuende and VEB Schiffswerft "Neptun" Rostock--have a fine reputation in the field of freighter construction and developed the "Aequator" multi-purpose container ship variants for container-oriented shipping. This ship type combines the lessons learned by both shipyards during the construction of more than 650 general cargo vessels. Warnowwerft has so far built three of these ships (MV "Ruhland," MV "Ruebeland," and MV "Sohland"). They are being operated by VEB Deutfracht [Deutfracht

International Charter and Shipping]/Rostock Maritime Shipping Company. This ship type is designed in a universal fashion for the transportation of general cargo and bulk cargo, heavy cargo and industrial equipment and a maximum of 950 containers; it can be modified to meet the customer's specific needs. This applies especially to the transloading equipment which can be delivered with cranes or cargo-loading gear and which ensures extensive independence of shore transloading equipment. The first ships were built as container vessels with stevedoring gantries in the cargo holds and without on-board loading equipment. The variant described below is of this design.

Other ships of the "Aequator" type will in the future be equipped as multi-purpose container vessels with cranes and 'tween-deck hatches and will be built for various foreign customers.

Because this new ship series is being built during the 40th year of the Warnowwerft's existence, we would like briefly to present a review here especially on ship deliveries for VEB Deutfracht/Rostock Maritime Shipping Company or Rostock German Maritime Shipping Company. MV "Ruhland," MV "Ruebeland," and MV "Sohland" are the 65th to 67th freighters newly built for the operator, that is, Deutfracht/Rostock Maritime Shipping Company since the completion of the first Type IV freighter, the MV "Frieden," on 23 June 1957 by Warnowwerft Warnemuende. For almost 30 years, Warnowwerft continually built freighters of various types and in differing numbers of series units for the Rostock Shipping Company.

The following table--in which in each case we showed only the first and last ship of the construction series for the GDR merchant fleet (DSR [German Maritime Shipping Company, Rostock])--clearly shows the many long years of good cooperation between the shipping company and the shipyard.

Bezeichnung der Serie	Schiffsname	Ablieferungs- datum	Stückzahl der Serie für die DSR
1	2	3	4
Typ IV	„Frieden“	23. 06. 1957	
	„Halberstadt“	31. 05. 1961	12
Typ IX	„Lübbenau“	30. 12. 1961	
	„Vockerode“	20. 07. 1963	6
Typ X	„Edgar André“	30. 10. 1962	
	„Mathias Thesen“	28. 12. 1966	16
Typ XD	„Rostock“	30. 06. 1967	
	„Neubrandenburg“	22. 06. 1970	16
Schnellfrachter 5	„Karl Marx“	28. 10. 1971	
	„Friedrich Engels“	30. 09. 1972	2
Mercator	„Nordhausen“	20. 05. 1976	
	„Sondershausen“	18. 03. 1977	4
Meridian	„Potsdam“	23. 06. 1978	
	„Leipzig“	29. 08. 1980	7
Monsoon	„Radebeul“	24. 08. 1984	1
Aquator	„Ruhland“	16. 09. 1985	3*

Key: 1. Name of series
2. Name of ship
3. Delivery date

4. Number of units in series for DSR
5. Fast freighter
*The fourth ship is under construction

1. Ship Design

1.1. Ship Type and Utilization Purpose

This new ship series was designed as a multi-purpose container vessel with the possibility of offering different versions in keeping with differing customer requests. The first vessels were built as pure container ships with container stowing gantries in the cargo holds.

The container vessel "Aequator" is a single-screw motor freighter with two decks and four cargo holds, with a long forecastle and poop and double hatches for No 2, 3, and 4 cargo holds. A 'tween-deck is present but it does not have any hatch covers. There is a conversion possibility, after dismantling the container stowage gantries, so that 'tween-deck hatch covers can be installed. The length of No 1 to 4 cargo holds corresponds to one container frame for 20' units of 2-4-4-3. The container stowage gantries in the cargo holds are designed for stowing 40' containers.

1.2. Operational Area, Class, Technical Data

The ship's operating range is unlimited and it can sail in icy waters in keeping with the ice class. It is equipped for sailing the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Suez Canal, and the Panama Canal. The ship was built according to all required international regulations and in keeping with the regulations as well as under the supervision of the DSRK [GDR Ship Inspection and Classification Agency]; it was assigned to the following class:

DSRK KM Ice 3 aut 24 container ship.

Main Technical Data:

Length overall	165.50 m
Length between perpendiculars	152.40 m
Molded beam	23.05 m
Height to main deck	13.40 m
Freeboard draft from UKK*	10.07 m
Cargo capacity	18,155 t
Dimensions	13,769 GT
	7,550 NT
Container space capacity	946 TEU
below deck	352 TEU
on deck	594 TEU
Including refrigeration containers on deck	45 TEU
Engine output/rpm	7,600 kw (10,330 hhp) at 130 rpm
Trial run speed	
at 90% engine output	
and freeboard draft without	
shaft generator operation	16.3 kn
Action radius	14,000 nm
Crew	36
(Including pilot and reserve)	
*UKK [lower keel edge]	

2. Naval Architecture Part

2.1. Hull

The hull is completely welded and is reinforced in keeping with ice class Ice 3. The welding was done mostly in a mechanized manner, in the form of UP and CO₂ welding. Assembly seams and section butt joints are made by means of arc-light manual welding. All plates and section pieces were descaled prior to processing by means of steel-shot blasting and were then preserved in a preliminary manner.

The double bottom was made in combined construction style. From frame 12 to frame 44 and from frame 153 all the way to the forward quarter, floor plates were placed on each frame. In the area between, the double bottom is braced by longitudinal frames and floor plates on every fourth frame. The container base points are braced either by means of side girders and floor plates or other structural elements. The main engine's base frame is placed directly on reinforced foundation plates of the inner bottom which are supported by reinforced side girders.

Midships, from frame 42 to frame 153, there is a pipe duct through which one can drive from the engine room and on which one can walk from the emergency fire-fighting pump room. The double bottom height is 1,580 mm from frame 40 to frame 178 and it is 1,680 mm from frame 17 to frame 39.

The outer skin is braced by lateral frames with a flat-bulb section pieces or built bar-belt section pieces. Supporting bulkheads are placed in the area of the container corner points in the cargo holds for the side joint and to brace the decks. The ship is subdivided by six water-tight lateral bulkheads. The bulkheads of the fuel gravity tanks between cargo holds 2 and 3 and between 3 and 4 are made in the form of folding bulkheads. In cargo holds 2 to 4, between the second deck and the main deck, there is a middle-line bulkhead made in the form of a folding bulkhead. The longitudinal hatch coamings of hatches 2 to 4 are built in a continuing fashion. Midships, they form, together with main deck, a box girder which, in combination with the middle-line bulkhead and the box girder of the second deck, supports the deck. The outer hatch coamings are supported by lateral bulkheads and by the bracing bulkheads along the sides of the ship.

2.2. General Equipment

The anchor and hoisting equipment on the forward quarter consist of two automatic warping winches with uncouplable anchor part and a capstan barrel. The combined anchor warping winches are electrically powered and have a tow-rope pull of 125 kN. The anchors are of the "Gruson" type and weigh 6,000 kg, each. One anchor is placed on the forecastle deck as reserve. The anchor chain has a diameter of 70 mm; the port chain is 275 m and the starboard chain is 302.5 m. Aft, on the poopdeck, there are two automatic warping winches with a tow-rope pull of 80 kN, each. One of the winches is equipped with a chain sprocket for the purpose of slacking off or heaving the stern anchor. The stern anchor system, which is necessary for sailing on the St. Lawrence Seaway,

has an anchor that weighs 3,060 kg, the anchor chain is 110 m long and has a diameter of 40 mm.

The arrangement of the bollards, hawse holes, chocks, and guide rollers meets all requirements, including those in the regulations for the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Panama Canal.

The rudder is a streamlined semi-balanced underhung rudder made of welded construction. Power is supplied by an electrical-hydraulic two-cylinder rudder machine with a nominal moment of 235 kNm. The oil pressure is generated by two independent hydraulic pump units which are operated as desired. A ball jet rudder with a capacity of 740 kw supplements the rudder equipment and increases the ship's maneuverability.

On the boat deck, there are two motor life boats made of glass-fiber-reinforced polyester, equipped for 40 persons, each. The boat launching device consists of gravity folding davits and a life boat winch with a traction force of about 40 kN. In keeping with regulations, there are furthermore, two, each, life rafts for 20 persons on the boat deck, on the port side and the starboard side on rolloff devices. Another life raft for six persons is on the main deck, on the port side, in the area of the forward quarter. Life jackets [life-saving suits] are carried on board for 40 persons and are stored in each case in the crew's quarters.

A 2.5-t hydraulic crane is placed on the captain's deck, on the starboard side, to pick up provisions, to carry machine parts out of or into the engine shaft, and to lower and recover the utility boat.

2.3. Container Transport

On the hatch covers of cargo holds 2 to 4, it is possible to carry containers in four layers on top of each other and in nine rows, next to each other, from side to side. On No 1 hatch it is possible to stow two layers of containers and on the aft container platform it is possible to stow three layers of containers. On the lateral hatch coamings of hatches 2, 3, and 4, there are refrigeration container sockets for the connection of 44 refrigeration containers. On the hatch covers of the weather deck, the container supports on the bulwark, and on the aft container platform, there are placed shifting [insertion] foundations, in the form of container base tracks, for the purpose of receiving twist-lock mechanisms.

All cargo holds have container stowage gantries which permit the stowage of 40' containers without any additional stowage or lashing elements. Stowage gantries are present for the transportation of 20' containers only at the rear edge of No 4 cargo hold. In the 40' container cells, it is also possible to stow 20' containers. In this case, there are base tracks on the double bottom at the corner points which ensure the accurate placement of the lower layer. Special stowage pieces are placed between the individual container layers and they connect two 20' containers with each other.

In the guide cells of the cargo holds, it is possible to stow a total of 352 TEU or 162 40' containers and 28 TEU. On the freeboard deck, including the aft container platform, it is possible to stow 594 TEU or 247 40' containers and 100 TEU. The total number of 40' containers is 409 + 128 TEU. This means that the share of the 40' containers out of the total space capacity is 86.5 percent.

2.4. Furnishings

The ship has 33 cabins with 36 bunk spaces for the crew, including the reserve crew, and a pilot's stateroom. Apartments, consisting of living room, bedroom, and toilet are provided for five leading officers. The rest of the crew are housed in one-man cabins with separate toilets, with the exception of three staterooms that are equipped for two-man occupancy.

The corridor walls and the partitions in the crew's quarters consist of elements taken from the standardized furnishing system No 50 (Type B 15, non-flammable). The wall elements are 50 mm thick; they consist on both sides of organically coated (in wood-decor style) steel plate and in between there are glued, nonflammable mineral wool plates. The ceilings of the cabins, the mess rooms, the recreation and duty rooms, as well as the corridor ceilings consist of lacquer-coated steel plate elements which likewise have mineral wool plate insulation.

The complex consisting of the galley, the pantry, the officers' wardroom with the lounge, the crew's mess plus lounge and the mess room for the watch is placed in a favorable position on the poopdeck. For recreation, the crew has available a gym, a hobby shop, a photo laboratory, and a swimming pool.

A ship office, a tally office, and engine office, and a loading office are present for various service areas. Medical care is provided by means of the installation of a medical area consisting of a sickbay with two beds, a treatment room and a sanitary room. Other service and technical rooms are to be found in the customary and required numbers and sizes. All furnishings of all rooms meet the tried and proven standards of the shipyard.

2.5. Ventilation and Airconditioning Systems

The crew's quarters and recreation facilities, the radio room, the medical area, as well as the offices are fully airconditioned. For this purpose, two air-conditioning plants, each, are installed in a two-duct group airconditioning system with built-in refrigeration component. The installations guarantee the airconditioning of the rooms at outside air temperatures of -15°C to 35°C and have a total air turnover capacity of about $12,000\text{ m}^3/\text{hr}$. Two autonomous airconditioning chests have been placed for the engine control room.

The engine room, the workshops, and the secondary rooms of the engine room are ventilated artificially. The air is supplied by four axial fans and the direction of rotation can be reversed in the case of one of them. The entire air volume supplied amounts to about $130,000\text{ m}^3/\text{hr}$. Artificial exhaust air is drawn from the separator room, the diesel generator room, the nozzle testing

room, and other required areas. Two axial fans are available for this purpose. The utility rooms, such as the galley and the side rooms, the laundry rooms, the ironing and drying room and a large number of technical rooms are equipped with air supply and exhaust facilities (in case of winter-time operation, partly preheated) and with increased air change volumes per hour in keeping with requirements.

All cargo holds get natural air supply and artificial air evacuation. This system guarantees six-fold air volume change per hour, related to empty cargo holds.

3. Engine Part

3.1. Engine Room

The engine room is located entirely aft and the main engine--considering the space requirement for the hydraulic adjustment unit of the adjusting propeller and the shaft generator--is arranged as far aft as possible. The further design and furnishing of the engine room was accomplished with the help of model design and construction--a method which the shipyard has been practicing for many years and which yields optimum results for the placement and arrangement of machinery, plants, and systems. A large number of auxiliary equipment and systems are combined into assembly blocks in the shed ashore and are then completely built into the engine room.

The required hoisting equipment is provided for repair and maintenance work in the engine room and in the workshops. The engine workshop among other things is equipped with a lathe, a columnar drilling machine, and an electric welding generator with permanently laid welding cable network. The ship also has an electrical workshop, a nozzle testing room, and the corresponding storage rooms for spare parts storage.

3.2. Main Engine

The ship is powered by a single-action, two-stroke ship diesel engine of Type K5SZ 70/125 BL made by the Rostock Dieselmotorenwerk VEB (MAN [Augsburg-Nuernberg Machine Factory, Inc.] in the cross-head design with direct injection, reverse flushing, and charging by means of exhaust gas turbocharger and pre-blower, provided as flushing aid for the lower output range (at about 50 percent nominal output). The engine has a capacity of 7,600 kw at 130 rpm; it is directly coupled to the shaft line and drives the adjusting propeller. The propeller's pitch increase adjustment is accomplished hydraulically via a connecting rod which is arranged in the hollow-bored propeller shaft. In case of failure of the hydraulic system, the existing propeller pitch is locked. Manual adjustment is possible. A gear for driving the shaft generator is built into the shaft line.

The power plant is remote-controlled from the bridge via a single-lever combination control system either in the combination unit operation mode or in the form of operation at constant rpm. In case of combination unit operation, optimum preset rpm, as well as filling and pitch adjustments are made to match

the particular speed state. In case of operation at constant rpm, which is required during shaft generator operation, the combination unit control is reduced to simple pitch control. Remote control from the engine control room is accomplished by means of a two-lever operating mechanism for rpm and pitch. At the engine itself we furthermore have the generally customary control platform.

3.3. Auxiliary Machinery

For power generation, the ship uses two diesel generator units of Type 8 VDS 26/20 AL-2 and one 6 VDS 26/20 AL-1 made by "Karl Liebknecht" Heavy Machine-building VEB in Magdeburg with a capacity of 744 kw or 446 kw at 1,000 rpm. They are suitable for operation with heavy oil and are currently operated with 36 cSt/50° C heavy oil (250 sec Redw. I/100° F); following the planned conversion of the system, they will be operated with 100cST/50° C (800 sec Redw. I/100° F) heavy oil. The engines can be run with the planned heavy oil on standby operation and are placed in a room that is separated from the engine room and that is partly sound-proofed.

The shaft generator has a capacity of 1,000 kw at 1,000 rpm and is driven via a gear by the shaft line. A four-cylinder, four-stroke diesel motor, with a capacity of 77 kw, at 1,000 rpm, is used as drive motor for the emergency power unit.

For steam generation, the ship has a boiler plant, consisting of an oil-fired, single-drum water-pipe boiler Type ESH 2.5 with a steam output capacity of 2.5 t/hr and an exhaust gas boiler Type AKSR with about 2.0 t/hr steam output capacity. Both boilers are supplied by VEB Dampfkesselbau Dresden-Uebigau. The boilers can be run in parallel operation; the auxiliary boiler is automatically turned on also whenever the pressure in the exhaust gas boiler drops below 0.7 MPa. The auxiliary boiler is operated with heavy oil having the same viscosity as the main engine and used oil can also be burned. Furthermore, 50 percent of the exhaust gas boiler's heating surface can be turned off or the boiler can also be run dry when necessary.

The air compressor system includes two main air compressors, two-stage, in the upright design, with fresh-water cooling and connected fresh-water pump, with an output of 63 m³/hr and 3.2 MPa (32 kp/cm²) as well as an auxiliary air compressor of the same design and capacity.

For fuel processing, there are two heavy oil separators of Type MAPX 309 and one fuel separator of Type MAPX 207. The main engine's circulating lubricating oil is purified in a secondary current by one of the two MAPX 207 lubricating oil separators. All separators are DE-LAVAL license products from the Polish People's Republic.

The ship is equipped with the following systems to guarantee the required environmental protection and to comply with pertinent regulations:

Type SAVA 75/50 refuse incineration plant, suitable for burning solid waste, used oils, and sludge oil from the separators;

bilge water de-oilers of Type TE 5i, with subsequently connected TF 5 filter for a processing volume of 5.0 m³/hr; the de-oiler-filter combination guarantees a maximum purity degree of 15 mg oil/liter of purified water and thus meets the requirements of MARPOL 1973/78;

waste water treatment plant, based on the principle of waste water decomposition by means of aerobes; the waste water thus purified is furthermore piped through a chlorination plant and an UV decontamination plant prior to being dumped outboard.

4. Electrical Engineering Part

4.1. Power Generation and Distribution

Three brushless rotary-current, constant-voltage generators, with electronic energizing system and diesel motor drive, are provided for power generation. They have an output of 2X855 kva and 1X510 kva. During maritime operation and at cruising speed, the current is generated by the shaft-driven generator. This is a rotary-current, constant-voltage generator with sliding contact rings and electronic energizing system; power is supplied via a switching gear from the shaft line of the main engine. Its capacity is 1,250 kva; this means that it is possible to meet the entire energy requirement during maritime operation, including refrigeration container load. The generator voltage is 390 v at 50 Hz. The diesel generators are designed for permanent parallel operation among each other; brief parallel operation, for load assumption or transfer, is possible with the help of the shaft-driven generator. Emergency power supply is provided by an emergency power unit, with a capacity of 71 kva, which is started automatically in case of voltage loss.

During port or shipyard laydays, power can be supplied to the on-board grid in the form of 380-v, 50-Hz up to 400 A via a shore connection.

The on-board grid is an all-pole insulated three-conductor system. The neutral point of the generators and transformers is not connected with the hull. The following voltages and current types are used:

380 v, 3 ~ , 50 Hz for current consumers and refrigeration containers;

220 v, 3 ~ , 50 Hz for illumination, heating, utility users, transportable cargo hold lighting;

42 v, single-phase AC for transportable tools and repair lighting;

24 v, DC for battery circuits, fire reporting, and engine surveillance system.

The users are supplied with energy via a star-shaped on-board grid directly from the main control panel, the emergency control panel via distribution lines or sub-distribution lines. The main control panel is located in the control panel room on the second deck, on the port side, in the area of the engine room, in the ship's fore-and-aft direction. The control panel stands by itself and its reverse side is open.

4.2. Automation Systems

The scope of the automation systems used guarantees watch-free engine operation while sailing on the open sea and while maneuvering in keeping with the class supplement symbol aut 24 of the DSRK as well as watch-free auxiliary engine operation during port laydays.

The operating and surveillance centers for ship engine operation are located on the navigation bridge and in the MKR (engine control room). The MKR is a sound-proofed and airconditioned room in the area of the engine room.

In the bridge control desk, on the navigation bridge, the following systems, which are associated with the automation complex, are installed, among others:

automatic remote control of main engine and of adjusting propeller system with remote control detector (single-lever combination control) combined with the MT detector;

maneuver printer;

table for optical and acoustic general report of trouble in the engine plant;

fire alarm center.

In the MKR, the following devices for automatic engine operation are provided for operation, surveillance, and control:

remote control of rpm and pitch of main power plant with remote operation detector, as well as operating and reporting indicator boards;

trouble reporting system with optical and acoustic individual and collective signals and trouble printer;

electronic regulators for main engine cycles;

indication instruments for the most important operating parameters.

Watch-free engine operation is furthermore guaranteed by the following automated systems:

safety system for main engine to provide protection for the engine during critical trouble;

temperature regulating systems for the main and auxiliary circuits;

viscosity regulating systems for main engine and auxiliary diesel;

automatic standby circuits of pumps for main engine and auxiliary diesel;

program controls for fuel and lubricating oil separators;

air compressor automation equipment;

automation equipment for starting, stopping, and surveillance of diesel generators with blackout program;

fuel mixing system for heavy-oil operation of diesel generators;

automated auxiliary and exhaust gas boiler system;

bilge water de-oiling system with residual oil content surveillance.

4.3. Radio, Navigation, and Message Systems

All necessary systems for control, navigation, communication, and surveillance are available for safe and modern ship control.

The ship's radio equipment consists of the following main systems:

all-wave transmitter,

ESB [standard construction system] traffic receiver,

emergency radio equipment with emergency transmitter, emergency receiver, and emergency call transmitter and automatic alarm signal receiver,

boundary wave watch receiver,

weather map recorder,

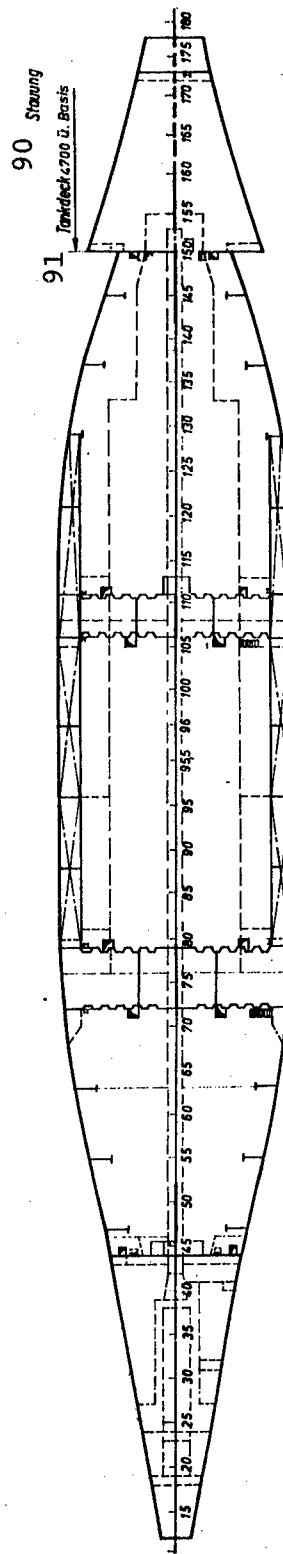
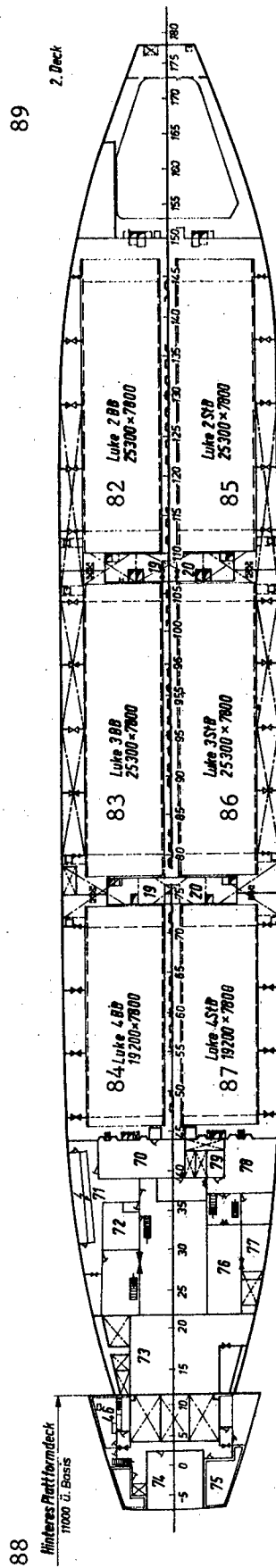
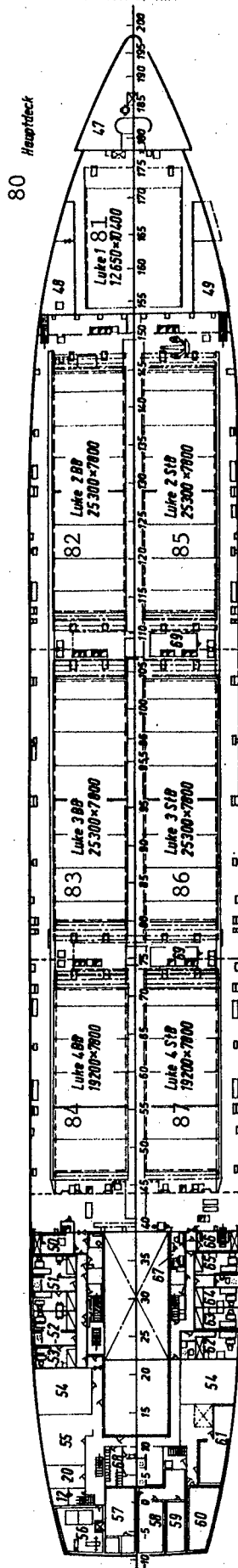
public address system,

portable life boat radio station,

USW voice radio systems.

The following systems have been installed for ship command and cruise control: two radar systems, gyrocompass system, Decca navigation system, satellite navigation system, radio location system, echo-sounding system, speedometer system.

All signalling, command, and message systems are present: ship shaft rpm indication, two-way voice system, operational telephone system, traffic telephone system, alarm system, fire-reporting system, typhoon and fog signal system CO₂ gas warning system, inspection gangway signal system, signal system for remote-controlled bilge, ballast, and fuel valves, sickbay buzzer system, radio and command transmission system.



- Key:
- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Wheelhouse and chart room | 47. Bosun's store |
| 2. Radio room | 48. CO ₂ room |
| 3. Captain | 49. Paint locker |
| 4. Conference room | 50. Cleaning detail |
| 5. Radio officer | 51. Seamen |
| 6. Pilot | 52. Cook's mate |
| 7. Swimming pool | 53. Utility helper |
| 8. Radio battery room | 54. Airconditioning center |
| 9. Political officers | 55. Refuse incineration plant |
| 10. Storekeeper | 56. Gym |
| 11. Leading engineering officer | 57. Dry provisions |
| 12. Fan room | 58. Deep-freeze locker |
| 13. Radio transmission room | 59. Dairy products |
| 14. Radio store | 60. Beverage locker |
| 15. Fire-fighting equipment | 61. Fruit, vegetable, potatoes |
| 16. Senior steward | 62. Two apprentices |
| 17. 3rd line officers | 63. Seaman + reserve |
| 18. Machinery office | 64. Engine helper + reserve |
| 19. Hydraulic room | 65. Electrician |
| 20. Electrical equipment room | 66. Tally office |
| 21. 1st line officer | 67. Loading office |
| 22. Officer for electrical systems | 68. Locker room, showers |
| 23. 1st engineering officer | 69. Store |
| 24. 2nd engineering officer | 70. Engine control room |
| 25. 3rd engineering officer | 71. Switchboard [control panel] room |
| 26. 2nd line officer | 72. Electrical workshop |
| 27. Transit room | 73. Diesel generator room |
| 28. Bosun | 74. Steering engine room |
| 29. Cook | 75. Hobby room |
| 30. Officer for auxiliary systems | 76. Fuel separator room |
| 31. Telephone exchange | 77. Machinery store |
| 32. Battery room | 78. Machineshop |
| 33. Emergency diesel room | 79. Nozzle testing room |
| 34. Outpatient clinic | 80. Main deck |
| 35. Sickbay | 81. No 1 hatch |
| 36. Able-bodied seamen | 82. No 2 hatch, port |
| 37. Assistants | 83. No 3 hatch, port |
| 38. Steward | 84. No 4 hatch, port |
| 39. Watch mess room | 85. No 2 hatch, starboard |
| 40. Crew's mess room, lounge | 86. No 3 hatch, starboard |
| 41. Pantry | 87. No 4 hatch, starboard |
| 42. Galley | 88. Aft platform deck, 11,000 above base |
| 43. Officers' wardroom, lounge | 89. 2nd deck |
| 44. Ship's office | 90. Stowage |
| 45. Gyrocompass room | 91. Tank deck, 4,700 above base |
| 46. Laundry | |

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ECONOMY

ROMANIA

DEVELOPMENTS IN INORGANIC CHEMISTRY, NONFERROUS METALLURGY

Bucharest REVISTA DE CHIMIE in Romanian Vol 37 Mar 86 pp 189-191

[Article by Mihail Florescu: "New Technologies and Materials in the Inorganic Industry and Nonferrous Metallurgy"]

[Text] The role of inorganic chemistry and nonferrous metallurgy in producing new materials designed for the advanced technologies of the national economy is an extremely important one.

The Institute for Research, Technical Engineering, Design, and Production in the Inorganic Industry and Nonferrous Metals, IAMN, is concerned with the superior and comprehensive exploitation of domestic mining deposits, particularly of those poor in useful elements and substances, through the formulation of unconventional technologies, since it is well known that conventional chemical metallurgy technologies cannot efficiently exploit these types of ores and concentrates.

In the field of inorganic chemistry, the major interest has been oriented toward obtaining inorganic oxides and salts with the specific characteristics of low tonnage production, intended especially for the electronics and microelectronics, aeronautics, motor vehicle, nuclear power, and other industries.

In the nonferrous metallurgy field, studies have been made of modern hydro-metallurgical processes, the metallurgy of chlorides, and other unconventional technologies, in order to obtain rare, heavy, and rarer metals.

Notable among the new metals and materials are nonferrous metal powders designed to fabricate parts by means of powder metallurgy with a high degree of economic efficiency. Similarly, another basic interest of the institute is the production of magnesium, titanium, zirconium, and a broad range of alloys based on nonferrous and rare metals.

Engineering of technical processes and equipment for nonferrous metallurgy and the inorganic chemistry industry, optimization of chemical and metallurgical processes, and technical engineering for building high productivity equipment, are problems of the highest importance for this industry.

The optimization of technical processes by achieving energy equilibrium and mass transfer with the assistance of microprocessors and computers, can lead to a high level of technology in the inorganic industry and nonferrous metallurgy.

Notable in IAMN's activity is the concern to formulate modern and economically valuable technologies such as:

Process titanium and zirconium concentrates to obtain titanium, zirconium, and their compounds, and in particular to create an integrated technology to process nuclear zirconium, zirconium dioxide, zirconium tetrachloride, and other zirconium compounds, with advanced reutilization of subproducts;

Comprehensively exploit nonferrous metal concentrates with recovery of their accompanying elements (Cd, Sb, Se, Te, Bi), and improve technologies to obtain the fundamental metals Cu, Pb, and Zn;

Formulate technologies to obtain other rare metals such as niobium, lanthanum, molybdenum, and tungsten from low-yield domestic raw materials;

Exploit reusable materials that contain nonferrous and rare metals, in particular catalysts used in the chemical industry, slags, volatile dusts, and ashes that contain Cu, Pb, Zn, and rare metals, products that until now have not been, or have been inadequately exploited in our national economy;

Introduce a broad range of products such as oxides and salts of nonferrous and rare metals, demanded by the advanced technologies of the national economy;

Exploit natural resources from ores that contain rare earths representing elements necessary for advanced technology productions, such as lanthanum for catalysts, misch metal for metallurgy, samarium oxide and samarium for magnets, yttrium, cerium, cesium, and europium oxides for the optical and optoelectronic industry and for laser glasses, gadolinium and niobium salts with extensive applications in unconventional technologies, gallium for producing semiconductor materials in the electronics industry, and so on.

IAMN has formulated unconventional technologies and produced equipment prototypes to process raw materials in order to extract nonferrous and rare metals, such as: chlorination of titanium and zirconium concentrates in continuous process installations; utilization of solubilization processes at high temperatures and pressures; large scale utilization of liquid-liquid extraction processes to separate metals from solutions, and particularly to

separate elements with similar properties; thermo-metallurgy to obtain titanium, zirconium, niobium and other metals; inert atmosphere distillation and fractional distillation of titanium and zirconium halogens, with production of compounds.

The entire activity hinges around priority objectives of the national economy, and seeks to orient next period's research in this area toward the following major goals:

1. Hasten the completion of research, experiments, and design projects currently underway at the institute, its subsidiaries, and in plants, so as to begin industrial production of magnesium oxide, and exploit the Caliman sulfur, as well as the potassium deposits in Moldavia, and so on.
2. Exploit the multiple-metal sulfurous concentrates that contain Cu, Pb, and Zn, using unconventional hydrometallurgic processes such as: solubilization at high temperatures and pressures, or attack with ferric chloride, with liquid-liquid extraction; fluidized bed extraction or autogenous pyrometallurgic processes such as pyroselection through suspension fusion in oxygen-enriched atmospheres.
3. Considering the growing importance of hydrometallurgic technologies in processing concentrates and poor nonferrous raw materials in general, new types of tooling and equipment must be adopted: high capacity autoclaves such as multiple chamber horizontal autoclaves, high capacity intensive extractors to separate metals by liquid-liquid extraction, tubular reactors, intensive filters, electrolyzers with low power consumption, and so on, together with formulating a special program to synthesize highly specific and efficient organic solvents, as well as inexpensive reagents.
4. Develop chlorination processes by adopting new types of chlorination technologies, such as fluidized bed chlorination to achieve productivities several times higher than those obtained in present installations, at the same time eliminating laborious and energy intensive technical operations such as briquetting, and cokefication.
5. Intensify research in thermo-metallurgy processes to build high capacity installations that will reduce energy consumption, improve product quality, and increase the productivity of equipment and labor.
6. Comprehensively utilize nonferrous raw materials by recovering all accompanying elements (Cd, Sb, Bi, Se, Te, Ia, V, Ga), and particularly by bringing the recovery yield of these metals to world class levels.
7. Exploit deposits with reduced metal content, as well as slag heaps and waste left from nonferrous metallurgy processing, through biotechnologies with selected bacteria of higher efficiency. The strains developed by the Bucharest Institute for Biological Sciences for copper extraction have formed the basis of experimental installations at Baia-Mare and have been applied

industrially at Rosia-Poeni. New bacteria have been grown to extract magnesium, zinc, and lead. In the future, work is needed to grow bacteria specifically for extracting nickel and gold. Interdisciplinary research and experiments are necessary to exploit through biotechnology, rare and scattered metals that are found in our country's deposits.

8. Special attention will be devoted to the introduction of electronic technology, microprocessors, mini- and microcomputers, robotization, and flexible automatic lines, particularly in new technologies which require strict manufacturing control, such as the separation of Zr and Hf, lanthanides from each other, chlorination and thermal metallurgy processes, continuous processing technical installations, and metal processing lines.

9. Extremely important are the tasks facing the inorganic chemistry and nonferrous metals industry as part of priority programs, which require research and experiments that must be completed in the shortest possible time; these are:

The aeronautics program, which needs many alloys, brazing and welding fluxes, as well as metal powders;

The microelectronics program, which requires pure and ultrapure metals and salts, rare earth oxides and salts, as well as high quality reagents;

The electromechanical program must also be provided with a large number of fine synthesis inorganic salts, as well as nonferrous alloys, wires, and sheets;

In addition to producing aluminum, magnesium, and aluminum-magnesium alloy powders, the program to introduce the production of metal powders also demands the fabrication of other powders that are in short supply in the national economy, such as nickel, tantalum, titanium, and zirconium powders;

Particularly important are the measures included in the program to reduce the consumption of precious metals by replacing them with other metals or alloys, an action which is presently underway;

The program to exploit poor domestic deposits or those with unconventional structural compositions, will be implemented at many known but unexploited deposits, such as the Tazlau potassium, the Jolotca-Ditrau and Mraconia monoazide and molybdenum, alluvial sands that contain zirconium, titanium, and rare earths, as well as in the exploitation of nonbauxitic raw materials to produce aluminum from nonbauxitic ores, and primarily in the exploitation of bituminous shale ashes.

Important tasks for the inorganic chemistry and nonferrous metallurgy industry result from programs to modernize the aluminum production process and to formulate new processes for producing aluminum with low electric power

consumption; to improve the technical and qualitative level of products; to protect the environment, important also because it recovers various metals and substances; and to generally reduce the consumption of energy and fuels in nonferrous metallurgy.

The activity to complete these programs directly reflects the desire to consistently fulfill the party's scientific policy, and to raise research activities to the level of international technology and science.

The institute has researched and developed many advanced technologies, such as chlorination processes, the production and purification of metals under high vacuum and high pressures, metal fusion and alloy fabrication in electron beam or consumable-electrode furnaces, liquid-liquid extraction, and thermal metal reductions. Much of the necessary equipment was produced in Romania, some of it even at IAMN. But the institute's activity is notable not only in terms of its material basis, but also in the way in which it is used. There is no major field in inorganic chemistry and nonferrous metallurgy to which the institute has not made a direct contribution. This includes research conducted to exploit domestic mining resources, including those with a low content of useful elements, or unconventional ores, such as the technologies being implemented in industry to obtain zirconium and titanium from alluvial sands, alumina from siliceous bauxite, copper from Rosia Poeni andesite, magnesium oxide from dolomite and sea water, and so on.

Also notable is the way in which research has been closely coupled with experiments and production. To be sure, viable technologies with reproducible results cannot be achieved on a laboratory scale; results that will lead to technologies with low consumptions of raw materials, energy, and manpower cannot be obtained on a small scale; and the research-production cycle cannot thus be shortened. Only intermediate-size, continuous process pilot lines can fulfill these requirements, and can rapidly transfer research results to industrial production. This is the way to obtain products in amounts that can be tested by consumers, while some products, especially high technology and low tonnage ones, are justifiably better produced by research institutes. It is therefore not by chance that the magnitude of the research conducted at IAMN, and the manner in which it is rapidly completed, are directly associated with the experience accumulated in its own production activities, whose value of over 320 million lei places it among the leading institutes, a fact acknowledged by the Scientific Merit order awarded to the institute by the Romanian State Council.

Metal powders and nonferrous alloys, silver and silver-free brazing alloys, fusible and dental alloys, cover a broad range of products for all advanced branches of the national economy.

Nonferrous metal pastes, special purpose aluminas, special alloy metal wires and strips, brasses and casting alloys, anodes for electrolytic plating, pure and ultrapure metals for advanced technology applications, as well as numerous inorganic salts and metal oxides, are part of the very extensive range of the institute's production.

The structure of the institute allows a close blending of research, design, technical engineering, and production, and constitutes a basic element in the efficiency of its activities, this symbiosis operating effectively according to the indications provided personally by Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the party.

The rate at which the major priority programs are implemented in production must be accelerated. It is thus necessary to complete all technology improvement projects, and as soon as possible start the investment for titanium and zirconium.

Similarly, the programs to exploit molybdenum and rare earths from domestic ores must also be started. The continued development of the institute's material basis must take into consideration the indications of Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the party, for building experimental, high productivity, completely automated and computerized, continuous process lines, which together with technical research will produce the needed amounts of low tonnage materials. Such installations could fully meet the demand for domestic consumption of rare earth salts and oxides, thorium dioxide, molybdenum and tungsten semifinished products, various types of more complex alloys, and special inorganic salts.

Research and design efforts must be intensified to increase the production of fundamental nonferrous metals, such as copper, lead, zinc, and aluminum, by modernizing existing technologies, adapting them to the new types of raw materials, and formulating new unconventional technologies capable of processing the entire basis of nonferrous raw materials available in our country.

Particular attention must be devoted to reducing aluminum consumption, taking into consideration the energy demand of the technologies, and primarily by reducing the consumption of electric power in aluminum production.

The scientific research, technical experimentation, and design of installations in the field of nonferrous metals and inorganic chemistry, must be carried out at an accelerated rate, so that the program for new technologies and materials designed for this area will be completed on time, keeping in mind that this influences not only the development of the chemical industry, but also extremely significant productions in many branches of the national economy.

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CSO: 2700/36

MILITARY

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

CIVIL DEFENSE EMPHASIS ON INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT PREVENTION

East Berlin SCHUETZEN UND HELFEN in German No 3, 1986 (signed to press 11 Jun 86) pp 2-3

[Article by Dr Kurt Singhuber: "Modern Technologies Present Great Challenges"]

[Text] GDR industry is making a decisive contribution to the further increase in efficiency called for by the 11th SED Party Congress, and the metallurgists and miners of the ore recovery, metallurgy and potash industrial sector are responsible for a significant portion of it. As a sector of basic industry, we have the important responsibility of supplying the GDR's national economy with metallurgical and potash products in accordance with the requirements of demand, variety and quality, and of always fulfilling the export tasks levied upon the ministry.

The metallurgists and miners of the GDR are thoroughly convinced that their successful actions serve the all-round strengthening of the socialist German Democratic Republic and thereby contribute effectively to the maintenance and strengthening of peace. They always act in accordance with the watchword: "Supply--Responsibility--Commitment." That is and will remain their fighting position because it has proven itself as the motivating force for the fulfillment of challenging tasks. Spurred on by this watchword, the metallurgists and miners have kept their word to the party of the working class and have fulfilled in all respects their commitments made in honor of the 11th SED Party Congress.

All in all, a broad competitive initiative developed after the Party Congress with the goal of conscientiously meeting the challenging goals set for our ministry, and, in certain items of the state plan, of exceeding them.

Special Role of Science and Technology

The resolutions of the 11th SED Party Congress, and, in particular, the conscientious fulfillment of the 10 critical points of economic strategy, challenge the industrial sector's entire working population to creative and inventive participation. A special role is assigned to science and technology. The program for the further development of the national economy's material-technical basis, which has been drafted for the period 1986-1990 and up to the year 2000, provides for a strengthened development and application of key technologies with rational utilization of microelectronics, of computer-based

planning, assembly, production preparation and operation, and the accelerated introduction of automation technology from domestic rationalization resources. This demands, at all levels, a new approach to the organization of the leadership and management processes. The ore recovery, metallurgy and potash industrial sector has at its disposal the experience to be able to achieve the new level of greatly expanded production by virtue of the development of the "Ernst Thaelmann" Converter Steel Works and other, newly-created modern facilities in ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy as well as in the potash industry.

With the consistent formulation of the draft plan on refinement, we are presently on the path of a sweeping transition to refined metallurgy. We are thereby creating a further important prerequisite for the provision of the national economy with highly-refined metallurgical products of high utility value in accordance with the requirements of demand and quality. High production efficiency and reliability of all production facilities is a decisive factor for this.

With the extensive introduction and application of modern technologies and procedures as well as of automated production processes, the maintenance of technological discipline, order, and safety to ensure the uninterrupted flow of production, together with measures for catastrophe and industrial accident prevention, is becoming increasingly important.

A prerequisite for the fulfillment of this important task is the exercise of personal responsibility by all working people involved in production preparation and operation and by state managers. The uninterrupted flow of production is determined above all by the qualification level of production workers, maintenance personnel and engineers, punctual shift changes, regularly-scheduled preventive maintenance, and the preparation and workmanlike carrying out of maintenance on installations and equipment at the prescribed time. The volunteer colleagues of civil defense, as members of the work collectives, are involved in a decisive way in the fulfillment of this task.

On all work fronts of our sector the battle to minimize interruptions and potential accidents is being conducted even more resolutely, for every interruption or accident causes irretrievable economic losses, entails the additional expenditure of labor and materials, and negatively affects the continuous production process.

Functions of Civil Defense--Solid Component of Management

Civil defense makes an important contribution to catastrophe and industrial accident prevention. The classification of this task as a function of civil defense is founded in legal decisions and has been for years a solid component of my leadership and management activity and that of sector and enterprise administrators within their area of responsibility.

I consider a meaningful contribution to civil defense in the industrial area the active engagement of fellow-workers volunteering for:

--the compilation of risk analyses as an essential prerequisite for the assessment of weak points for the purpose of industrial accident prevention;

- the continuous improvement of the training level of CD units;
- the conducting of industrial accident prevention training sessions and practical exercises in catastrophe and industrial accident prevention;
- the creation of "accident stockpiles" and their availability at all times;
- the preparation and improvement of catastrophe and industrial accident documentation and its applicability for the direction of management functions in extraordinary situations.

The thorough evaluation of analyses by enterprise and sector administrators is of special importance in this because specific managerial decisions concerning the elimination of weak points and other measures of catastrophe and industrial accident prevention, and, not least, those tasks which directly concern civil defense, are derived therefrom. In addition, risk analysis provides information concerning to what extent the technological process can be even further optimized on production lines and which measures with the least economic expenditures are necessary, above all for the sake of production security and stability.

Instructional Presentations Promote Experience Sharing

Our instructional presentations have proven themselves to be an effective means of catastrophe and industrial accident prevention. In this manner, practical measures have been prepared and carried out in regard to such important topics as protection against flooding, prevention of fires in wiring channels, and procedures to be followed during ammonia releases. Not only did the participants in such instructional presentations express their interest, but the associated sharing of experiences and the presentation of the compiled documentation were also an effective form of support for each enterprise.

With the establishment of a special ministerial institution we possess a training and educational facility at which leading cadre members and specialists can extensively familiarize themselves with the theory of civil defense and--by extension--with catastrophe and industrial accident prevention.

The presently unfolding stage of the scientific-technical revolution and its influence on the shaping of the production process urgently requires that catastrophe and industrial accident prevention be pursued, to a greater extent than heretofore, according to scientific criteria and be treated as a subject for research. And in this regard I consider it useful and appropriate to pay more and more attention to qualified analysis and, as a consequence of determining vulnerabilities, to establish practical research topics, to pursue them conscientiously, and, through managerial decisions, to contribute to a better assurance of high production reliability and security.

For this purpose it is essential that, under the leadership of the ministry, the special facility develops into a scientific center more than it has to date, especially in the area of catastrophe and industrial accident prevention preparation. In close cooperation with other civil defense facilities, above

all with the "Otto Grotewohl" Institute in Beeskow, and with the combines and enterprises of our sector, the major installations involved in research activity are to be tasked more specifically with catastrophe and industrial accident prevention and to be incorporated in the research plan.

As an example of real-world application of the generalized knowledge gained in the area of catastrophe and industrial accident prevention, the model enterprise Pipe Works Zeithain, which has been designated for this, should continue to be used. The direct connection between theory and practice is to be conveyed to the course participants at the special facility in a more graphic manner.

Catastrophe and industrial accident prevention measures, which include the continuing education of the working populace in the basic tenets of civil defense, can only be put into effect if we everywhere and at all times regard political and technical responsibility as a unity. It is a matter of jointly fulfilling the assigned tasks under the leadership of the party organization and in concert with all other social forces, as well as with the involvement of the entire working populace.

The contribution of civil defense to catastrophe and industrial accident prevention, objectively brought about by the extensive application of scientific-technical progress in the national economy, above all in industry, is gaining more and more in importance. Logically connected to this is each individual's responsibility, especially that of state managers, since catastrophe and industrial accident prevention is in the interest of the entire state. To master it and not to allow economic harm to occur as the result of improper conduct, is the concern of all of us.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH 1956 HISTORIC APRIL PLENUM ANALYZED

Sofia ISTORICHESKI PREGLED in Bulgarian No 3, 1986 pp 3-19

[Article by Vladimir Migeu: "The April BCP Central Committee Plenum and the Party's Organizational Development (1956-1958)"]

[Text] The April 1956 BCP Central Committee Plenum was an event of crucial and historical significance in the development of Bulgaria on the path of socialism. The plenum marked the beginning of the elimination of the harmful consequences of the cult of personality and created the necessary conditions and prerequisites for taking decisive steps in the further assertion of the Leninist principles and standards of party and state life and management. The formulation and application of the party's April strategic line was undertaken--a remarkable arm of the BCP which helped to surmount relatively quickly and most painlessly the errors and weaknesses which had taken place and to complete the tasks of the transitional period from capitalism to socialism and undertake the building of developed socialism.

By freeing the people from a number of shortcomings related to stereotyped and dogmatic thinking, the April plenum opened broad opportunities for the creativity and initiative of the masses, outlining for them the prospect for a new and intensive development of socialism and the fullest possible development of its forces and possibilities. This marked a new stage in the development of socialist democracy in Bulgaria and in enhancing the role and significance of the people's masses in our history.

Whereas the April plenum marked the beginning of the party's April line, the June 1958 7th BCP Congress reported the initial results of its application. In the party's history the 7th Congress has been recorded as the congress of victorious socialism. The congress emphasized that the main socioeconomic tasks of the transitional period had been met in their essential lines and that socialism in Bulgaria had won definitively and irreversibly. That is why the period between the April 1956 plenum and the 1958 7th Congress is a clearly outlined period in the development of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

So far the problems of the organizational development of the BCP in 1956-1958 have not been the subject of an independent study. Some of its aspects have been noted in a number of works and statements of political personalities and historians who have studied the political process in Bulgaria during the

transitional period. Their main features have been considered in the general course on BCP history and the published histories of okrug party organizations (those of Ruse and Plovdiv in particular), as well as in the studies of party construction work made by some historians.¹

The new spirit and the new situation in the BCP and throughout the country were clearly felt after the 20th CPSU Congress (12-20 February 1956). The 17 March 1956 RABOTNICHESKO DELO editorial, in which the results of the historical forum held by the Soviet communists were analyzed, indicated that the party will carry out to the end the struggle for the total uprooting of all vestiges of the cult of personality.² It was emphasized that in our country that struggle had begun even before the 20th CPSU Congress but had not been brought to its conclusion.

At the April plenum itself, which was held between 2 and 6 April 1956, priority was given to party organizational problems. These problems became the foundation of the overall line which was followed in surmounting the harmful consequences of the cult of personality. The plenum's resolution emphasized that lowered collective leadership hindered the development of intraparty democracy and limited the activeness of party cadres; under the circumstances of oppression and fear truly constructive criticism had become impossible, for which reason major problems of building socialism had not been solved on time or else had been solved one-sidedly and halfway.³

This aspect of the resolution was quite important. Until then the slogan of daring criticism of shortcomings had been steadily raised and the need for harsh and irreconcilable struggle against any suppression of criticism "from below" had been proclaimed. The resolution justifiably assessed that all this could not be actually accomplished under the conditions of the cult of personality.

The plenum's resolutions set as a particularly important task that of enhancing the role of the Central Committee as the collective leader of the party and the role of the Politburo as the collective body of the Central Committee. This would block henceforth the possibility of putting any individual above the Central Committee and the Politburo. The stipulation was asserted of observing most strictly the supreme principle of party leadership--collectiveness--and the systematic and integral application of the Leninist principles and norms in all party units. The plenum resolved that the Secretariat of the Central Committee should be strengthened by increasing the number of secretaries from three to five.⁴

Conferences were held by the okrug party aktivs immediately after the plenum, at which party and state leaders analyzed its decisions. Thus, Comrade Todor Zhivkov, Central Committee first secretary, met with the Sofia party aktiv; Rayko Damyanov met with the Sofia Okrug party aktiv; Dimitur Ganev, with the Varna aktiv; Boris Taskov met with the Khaskovo aktiv; Petur Panchevski, with the Burgas aktiv, etc. The speakers held a frank discussion with the aktivs, informing them in detail about the historical plenum meetings and exposing the main shortcomings in the work of the Central Committee and the Politburo up to that point; they formulated the most important problems which now had to be solved by the party organizations. The members of the Politburo and the

Central Committee also submitted detailed reports to the party aktivs of ministries and central departments, the central managements of the mass organizations, the BAN, Sofia University, the Higher Party School, the creative associations and others. The leaders of the party organizations throughout the country were made familiar with the speeches of Comrade Todor Zhivkov to the Sofia City party aktiv and the aktiv of the MVR. Subsequently, until the middle of May, the primary party organizations held meetings on this subject.⁵

The report submitted by Comrade Todor Zhivkov to the Sofia city party aktiv made a particularly strong impression. It emphasized that the basic feature which must be understood by every party member is the need to ensure the strictest possible and comprehensive observance of the principle of collectivity as the most important prerequisite for strengthening party unity and surmounting the harmful consequences of the cult of personality. It also emphasized the restoration of Dimitrov's criteria in assessing party members, unifying cadres of all generations within the party and surmounting the underestimating of the older cadres, which had been the case until then. The BCP Central Committee first secretary indicated that elements of the harmful methods of the cult of personality were found not only in the Central Committee but throughout the party and that their elimination required unyielding and stubborn struggle.⁶

"Every one of them," Comrade T. Zhivkov emphasized, "must display individual daring. He must expose shortcomings and methods in his own work and undertake their elimination. Methods of command and bureaucratic administration, scorn for someone else's opinion, fettering people and suppressing criticism and self-criticism and underestimating the collective are widespread throughout the party.... Currently careerism, subservience, speaking behind the back of one's comrade and other such acts are widespread in our country. That is why our work on restoring the Leninist principles of party leadership and standards of party life must be comprehensive.... We must critically assess the results of the work, engage in a decisive struggle against self-delusions, boosterism and pride. We must be intolerant of any moods at all of complacency or any efforts at all at embellishing, glossing over the true state of affairs and concealing and ignoring errors and shortcomings."⁷

Many party members spoke out at the conferences of party aktivs and at the meetings, both managers and rank-and-file party members. The tremendous majority of them through their full support behind the decisions of the April plenum, expressed their great pleasure at the fact that it was held; they frankly and clearly exposed a number of manifestations of improper management and activities in their organizations and indicated many unsolved problems in the country's political, economic and social life. The statements expressed a sharp reaction against the practice of suppressing criticism, and commanding and bureaucratic administration methods and improper cadre policy which let careerists and turncoats to sneak into command positions.

It is true that many of the statements included exaggerations in the sense that the dissemination of negative phenomena was presented as being comprehensive. The fact that a struggle had been waged against them previously as well, particularly starting with the spring of 1951, and that

that struggle had not remained without results, was neglected. The line followed in the statements, however, was accurate, for the purpose was to surmount harmful phenomena in the party and the country as soon as possible.

The conferences of the aktivs and the meetings of the PPO on clarifying the resolutions of the April plenum were given a total positive rating by the Central Committee as a happy phenomenon, as marking the beginning and laying a firm foundation for a more durable further energizing of party members and enhancing the organizational standard of the BCP.⁸

Nevertheless, some erroneous, improper and even antiparty statements were made at the conferences and meetings. Some of them depicted an inaccurate, tendentious and sinister picture of the situation in the country and within the party prior to the April plenum, totally ignoring the real successes which had been achieved in building socialism during that period. Violations of socialist legality were exaggerated both in terms of scale and duration. The improper idea was being created that throughout the period from the death of G. Dimitrov to the April plenum repressive measures had been taken against party leaders. It is no accident that on this subject, in his reports to the MVR party aktiv, Comrade Todor Zhivkov expressly indicated that these phenomena had come to an end as of the spring of 1951. Other statements included groundless accusations against Central Committee and Politburo members; the resolutions of the April plenum were considered soft and halfway, an immediate holding of a party congress was demanded, etc.

Such statements were made in some organizations of the intelligentsia, such as the PPO of the associations of Bulgarian writers, painters and journalists, the party-wide meeting of the BAN, the Medical Academy, the Sofia city people's council, the K. Marx Higher Economics Institute, some residential district PPOs in Sofia, etc. Isolated statements of this kind could be heard also in some worker collectives and even at the meeting held at the higher party schools. In a number of areas members of the city and rayon party committees in Sofia initially did not oppose such statements, which confirmed the insufficient political maturity of some party cadres.

The same situation could be noted until the end of April, when the party collectives themselves acquired a clear idea of the situation and began to firmly resist improper statements. New PPO meetings were held during the second half of May, in the course of which most of those who had made improper statements engaged in self-criticism. Matters became even clearer at the PPO meetings in June, when Comrade Todor Zhivkov's report delivered at the meeting with party secretaries in Sofia on 25 May 1956 was discussed. It is true that in the course of these meetings as well some party members were hesitant and displayed immaturity, expressing the view that criticism was being suppressed in the party. They disagreed with the assessment that these manifestations were the result of the "petit bourgeois element," etc. All in all, however, the meetings which were held during the second half of May and in June proved that the maturity of the party organizations and the strength of the Communist Party rapidly to surmount newly developing negative phenomena and to prevent their further development and intensification had increased.

The 20 May editorial in RABOTNICHESKO DELO, the 30 May meeting between the Politburo and the Sofia city party aktiv and, above all, the speech by Comrade Todor Zhivkov at the 25 May meeting we mentioned helped to surmount the harmful trends. The speaker, who highly rated the discussions which had been held at the party meetings and conferences, indicated that the main reasons for erroneous statements were consequences of the errors committed during the preceding period. The Central Committee had informed the party members of its resolutions and of the development of the political situation in the country extremely insufficiently and irregularly. Most of the improper statements were the result of the poor degree of information of cadres and their insufficient ideological-political tempering. Improper statements were also made by some party cadres who had been hurt and groundlessly punished during the preceding period.

The report by Comrade Todor Zhivkov and many party materials of that time made it clear that during such a very crucial time it was inevitable for some party members to display hesitation, lack of understanding and confusion, that patience and maturity had to be displayed, that energetic explanatory and educational work had to be done and that no haste should be shown in drawing categorical conclusions and evaluations. An attentive and comradely attitude toward erring party members was a clear manifestation of the Leninist maturity of our party and its Central Committee. It contributed to the fast correction of the errors and to preserving the unity and cohesion of party ranks. Furthermore, the firm rebuff given to the petit bourgeois element was of tremendous importance in the development of the political process in the country as was quite clearly established in the autumn of 1956.

An interesting feature which describes the situation prevailing at that time was the fact that some okrug and okoliya party committees convened their plenums in the light of the decisions of the April plenum immediately after it. Other party committees, which had decided to work longer on the preparation of such plenums, organized conferences with the aktivs to discuss and draw conclusions concerning their own work. In the summer of 1956 the Central Committee informed the managements of the party organizations of the plenums held by the okrug committees in Pleven, Stara Zagora and Varna. The Central Committee made a positive positively assessment of their work.

A very important aspect in these forums was the self-critical analysis of the reports and, particularly, the strong critical spirit of the statements. It was no accident that the strongest statements were made by the secretaries of okoliya and city committees, who had suffered the most during the preceding period from the errors of the Central Committee and the okrug committees. The statements indicated a number of aspects of formalism and routine in party work, constant intensification of the economic slant, which was particularly typical after the establishment of instructor rayons in 1955. Particularly useful was the personal criticism addressed at members of the okrug committees, including first secretaries, for their ordering style of work and for imposing their own views over those of the collective.

Boris Tepeshanov, secretary of the Radomir Okoliya BCP Committee, pointed out that the following opinion had prevailed until that time in the okoliya committees: "So far no okoliya committee secretary has been punished for

political work or for the management of the school year; however, many had been punished for the nonfulfillment of economic assignments and percentages." Hence the priority given to economic problems.¹⁰ Samuil Savov, secretary of the Kyustendil Okoliya BCP Committee, emphasized that the investigations conducted by the Central Committee or the okrug committees were formal. What was mainly looked at was the way in which resolutions had been formulated rather than their implementation, for which reason the first concern of those investigated was to draft good resolutions.¹¹

The plenums and conferences also had a beneficial influence on shaping a critical spirit within the party, creating a favorable atmosphere and enhancing the level of party-organizational work.¹²

Indeed, even immediately after the April Central Committee Plenum there was a considerable upsurge in the development of intraparty democracy, the energizing of the party organizations and improvements in the work of the party committees. This was helped also by the profound study which was made by the party press of the errors and weaknesses in party work which had occurred until that time. Particular attention was paid to the need considerably to enhance the role of the plenums of okrug, okoliya and city committees, as being some of the most important bodies in charge of implementing intraparty democracy. The task was set of surmounting the harmful practice of convening the party aktivs only for "instruction" purposes for the implementation of resolutions instead of making use of the collective mind in order to ensure their better formulation. A possibility had to be ensured for every party member to feel himself the master of his party organization and freely to express his view even if it contradicted that of the leadership.

A stubborn struggle was mounted against excessive meetings and bureaucratism, which created conditions for formalism and routine in party work. NOVO VREME, the party's theoretical organ, gave us an example of the meeting held by the Pleven Okrug BCP Committee Buro on 17 March 1956, at which, according to the plan, four problems have to be considered. But yet another 18 were introduced subsequently. The buro meeting lasted 8 hours, and 22 resolutions totaling 92 items were passed. Instead of efficiency and practicality, the party leadership was asserting the same style of work which had led to excessive meetings.¹³

The first Central Committee plenum held after the April plenum dealt with agriculture. It was held on 6-7 July 1956. Comrade Todor Zhivkov's report and the statements and resolutions at the plenum dealt extensively with party work in the countryside. A positive rating was given to the 1955 reorganization of the okoliya committees and the creation of instructors' rayons. It was emphasized, however, that the created opportunities had not been used satisfactorily, for the okoliya committees remained largely removed from specific work in the countryside and the party organizations in the TKZS had not been strengthened adequately. A significant percentage of them were unable properly to exercise party control and were sliding down the line of bureaucratic administration and interfering in the work of the administrative councils. Obviously, the help provided by the instructors' groups remained insufficient.

The question of the cadre strengthening of rural party organizations remained urgent. The decision of the July Central Committee Plenum was to continue with an even more intensive withdrawal of experienced party cadres from the large centers to work in the villages, in the instructor rayons and the okoliya party committees. It was also resolved to increase help given to the mountainous and semimountainous parts of the country where the mass organization of farm cooperatives had been undertaken at that time.¹⁴

The process of improving party work, which occurred after the April plenum, was manifested most clearly in the PPO and the party committees. The local BCP committees were relieved from the heavy dose of petty supervision and regulation on the part of superior bodies, which enabled them to invest greater creativity and autonomy in their work. A number of okoliya committees undertook to formulate long-range plans for the development of agriculture in their okoliyas. The range of problems discussed at plenums was broadened.

The BCP Central Committee as well improved its activities. Its apparatus intensified its work on various problems; plenums were being prepared with the help of a broad range of specialists and materials were subject to lively discussions. The Central Committee regularly informed the party members of the most important decisions made by the Politburo and the Council of Ministers and on the party's international activities. The Politburo and Central Committee members increasingly submitted reports on the most vital problems in the course of their meetings with party aktivs and labor collectives. The previous practice of threatening and telling-off subordinate party workers summoned to the Central Committee was eliminated. An atmosphere of attentive and comradely attitude toward cadres, combined with exigency, was established. The party workers no longer felt fettered as they previously did when summoned by the Central Committee.¹⁵

The 7 May 1957 meeting between Comrade Todor Zhivkov and senior personnel of the Central Committee apparatus had a positive influence on improving Central Committee work. At the meeting Comrade Zhivkov indicated that despite significant difference, the Central Committee apparatus had remained unable to eliminate a number of shortcomings which had accumulated in the period preceding the April plenum, such as suppressed and strained actions, ordering people and lack of sufficient initiative and independence. The first secretary insisted on the need to increase the creative aspect of the work of the departments which should establish closer ties with the primary units; department and sector heads should spend more time with the okrug and okoliya committees and the system of assigning Central Committee brigades to engage in comprehensive investigations and provide aid was to be broadened. Departments were to report more frequently to the Secretariat and the Politburo on the new trends and processes noted in the party and the country and keep closer track of and respond promptly to the signals of the working people.¹⁶

Preparations for the proper organization of forthcoming okoliya and city accountability and election conferences began as early as May. They were to be held entirely according to the resolutions and in the spirit of the April Central Committee Plenum. The role and significance of accountability and election conferences and accountability meetings of PPO were to be enhanced even further "as an efficient means of investigating the leadership by the

party masses;" a most favorable situation had to be created at the conference for the freedom of speech by the delegates and for developing constructive criticism of shortcomings. The old routine of drafting long reports which covered everything had to be eliminated. The reports were to be concise and deal with specific problems and raise basic crucial topics for discussion. The draft rostrums of the future committees were to include older party workers as well, in order to create continuity among all generations.¹⁷

The accountability and election conferences which were held in June were part of the reorganization process which took place after the April plenum. They were held with high political activeness displayed by the delegates, and intensified criticism, including criticism personally addressed at a number of leaders. The fact that 11 former secretaries of okoliya committees, who had been included in the draft tickets, were not reelected at the conferences, because of their improper work methods during the previous period, proved that the party masses had formulated stricter cadre requirements.¹⁸

The line adopted at the April plenum was pursued at the September 1956 BCP Central Committee Plenum. Important conclusions were drawn on the development of the renovation process. The further assertion the Leninist principles and standards of party life and management, and development of intraparty democracy and the faster elimination of the harmful practices of the cult of personality were intensified and concretized.

In its analysis of the process leading to the clarification and adoption of the April resolutions, the September plenum refined and expanded the characterization of the negative phenomena within that process. It was emphasized that they were the result of the conditions under which the BCP had developed during the transitional period, and the fact that members of different social circles had joined the party, in addition to careeristic and alien elements.

While pursuing the line of an attentive and comradely attitude toward party members who had erred, the plenum stressed the need for an intolerant and merciless attitude toward petit bourgeois and antiparty manifestations. Educational and explanatory work was not to lead to an acceptance of ideas alien to Marxism-Leninism. The party organizations were to purge their ranks from alien elements which had insinuated themselves into the party and sharply to react against any effort at promoting anti-Marxist views.¹⁹

It was in the spirit of the resolutions of the September Central Committee Plenum that a number of okrug, okoliya and city party committees prepared and held by the end of 1956 and the beginning of 1957 plenums to discuss the style and methods of party work. They indicated the substantially increased collectivism in the activities of the party aktivs in the formulation and execution of resolutions. The exchange of positive experience substantially intensified. Periodical conferences for the exchange of experience became the rule of many okoliya and city organizations.

The quality of party meetings continued to improve. PPO practices of adopting monthly plans, which resulted in a great monotony of organizational party meetings--more than 80 percent of them were held for reporting on the

implementation of the old and the adoption of the new plan--were abolished. The primary party organizations undertook the formulation of quarterly and semiannual plans, which made it possible significantly to increase the number of problems discussed at the meetings.

The differentiated approach of the committees was strengthened. They began to hold plenums on the work of party organizations and party groups in various sectors and areas, such as crop growing, animal husbandry, MTS, construction, trade, transportation, etc. This also brought to light the extremely adverse trend of stubbornly making the same type of large numbers of errors and weaknesses against which the struggle had been waged even prior to the April plenum, such as holding large numbers of meetings, bureaucratic-style management, insufficient involvement of plenum members in implementing resolutions, and others.²⁰

Cadre work improved significantly. On the one hand, specialists began to be recruited more actively by party committees, particularly on the okrug level. On the other, cadre selection and evaluation improved. The frequently encountered manifestations of subjectivism in this area began to be surmounted more persistently. Requirements concerning senior cadres greatly increased; a line of strict intolerance of the violation of Leninist principles and standards of party and state life and management was asserted. Thus, in 1957 the party members were informed of the Central Committee report on adverse developments in okoliya party committees in Stanke Dimitrov and Petrich. A factional group had been established in the former, which had mounted an unprincipled struggle for power. In the latter there were cases of systematic violations of collective leadership, gross bureaucratic administration and ordering. The culprits had been strictly punished. The attitude toward senior generation cadres changed. Most of them were given suitable work and many became members of party managements. In accordance with the resolutions of the September plenum, Central Committee commissions reviewed materials on penalties imposed on party members after the January 1950 plenum. On the basis of their reports, and with special resolutions, the improperly imposed punishments were revoked by the Politburo in November and December 1956. This action had a particularly beneficial influence on some okrug and okoliya organizations, such as those in Pleven, Khaskovo, Burgas and others, where dozens of party workers had been punished in 1950. In turn, the local party committees reviewed the files of cadres and groundless accusations and slanderous denunciations were expunged. This marked the end of one of the darkest pages from the period of the cult of personality.²¹

The Hungarian events of the end of October and beginning of November 1956, which were a serious test of the maturity of the party members, also had a certain influence on development. Initially, some party members became confused; once again unhealthy statements, familiar from the period of the April plenum, could be heard in some organizations of the intelligentsia in Sofia. Now, however, they were immediately and firmly rebuffed and mercilessly condemned by the party organizations. The events in Hungary had a very strong influence on enhancing the standards of party political and organizational life. Party discipline increased significantly and party activities intensified.

A spontaneous and very clearly manifested feeling of public sharp intolerance of the so-called "dead souls," as they were known then, developed, i.e., toward party members who did not fully participate in the life of the PPO and violated the requirements of the party statutes. A general demand that all sorts of alien elements be expelled from the party was formulated, such as careerists, turncoats, bearers of antiparty ideas, etc. These were very positive phenomena which proved the strength of our party and the principle-minded position and high political maturity of the tremendous majority of Bulgarian communists. The political upsurge in the BCP was felt quite clearly as early as the end of 1956 in the course of the discussions of the confidential Central Committee letter entitled "On Some Urgent Tasks of Party Organs and Organizations," although the upsurge continued throughout 1957 as well.²²

The 1956 accountability and election party campaign began at the end of the year and ended with the May 1957 okrug conferences. It covered an important period in the party's development, characterized by the process of renovation which had taken place during the spring and summer of 1956 and the significant organizational and political tightening up of party ranks after the Hungarian events. A characteristic feature of the campaign was the high degree of criticism and self-criticism, the profound study of the problems in the reports and statements and the strong feeling of responsibility shown by the party membership.²³

The exigency toward leading cadres continued to increase. In 1956 40.24 percent of PPO secretaries were replaced for failure to cope with their work (two-fifths of them at annual accountability meetings). Furthermore, 364 people (2.4 percent of the nominees) whose names were on the tickets were not reelected, most of them for having used poor work methods.²⁴

The accountability and election campaign indicated that significant improvements had taken place in the development of the PPO. A leading position in this respect continued to be held by the party organizations in industry and transportation. At the same time, however, the work of the PPO in TKZS, MTS and DZS, particularly in the grain growing parts of the country, also showed great improvement. Unfortunately, most of the party organizations in the mass new TKZS remained weak. Since they were small the distribution of party members among production sectors in such organizations was difficult. In many such farms the primary organizations showed no personal initiative; instead, they waited for instructions or the urging of instructors.

Substantial improvements took place in office party organizations, particularly in Sofia. Nevertheless, criticism "from below" remained insufficient, for which reason many of the statements made at accountability meetings were no more than a formality.²⁵ Concern was manifested at the significant number of weak organizations whose unity had been disturbed--at that time the party numbered 930 weak organizations, 470 of which in the TKZS and 200 other, classified as rural territorial. The organizations with a disturbed unity totaled 180. The organizations belonging to these two types totaled 1,110. This accounted for under 7 percent of the overall PPO in the party; their shortcomings, however, were very difficult to eliminate. This was mainly due to the weakness of leading cadres in these organizations, the

insufficient work of the okoliya committees with them, insufficient concern for controlling and rejuvenating the membership and poor ideological and political work with the older party members. Quite frequently members of the senior generation within them became centers of negative moods.²⁶

The great progress which had been achieved in cadre work was noted in the course of the accountability and election campaign. Cadre selection was improved and they were assessed much more thoroughly in terms of political and practical qualities. The practice of rating cadres in front of the collective, which enhanced the feeling of responsibility, was broadened. Nonetheless the problem of reserve cadres remained unsolved, and releasing a person frequently led to substantial time losses until a replacement could be found.²⁷

A BCP Central Committee Plenum was held on 11 and 12 July 1957, at which some leading party personalities were punished for efforts to engage in factional activities.²⁸ On that subject the Central Committee sent a confidential letter to every party member, setting the task of intensifying the struggle against unhealthy forces within the party ranks, which for more than 1 year had continued to oppose the line of the party plenum overtly or covertly. The letter pointed out that this was a threat to unity, which had to be eliminated once and for all. It was pointed out, however, that the struggle against factional activities should not lead to a return to the circumstances which prevailed during the period of the cult of personality.²⁹

By the end of July 1957 meetings of the party aktivs and the PPO had been held throughout the party to discuss the confidential letter of the Central Committee. The opponents of the April line and the wreckers of unity were firmly condemned and steps were taken to eliminate such cases in some party organizations and party committees. The resolutions of the July 1957 plenum called for energizing the work of the party organizations where unity had been disturbed. Within a relatively short time their number declined significantly. At the same time, some leftist and sectarian statements, which had exaggerated the errors and weaknesses of the period preceding the April plenum, the search of victims of the "cult of personality" everywhere and the total denial of the existence of collectivism within the party and in party work during that period, were rebuffed at the meetings and conferences.³⁰

The struggle against the manifestations of right-wing revisionism in the international communist movement at that time created a potential threat of the appearance of sectarian and leftist moods, which could have very easily and imperceptibly led to recurrences of the period of the cult of personality. That is why the party systematically fought both against right-wing revisionist manifestations on the international level as well as spontaneously arising, as a reaction, of left wing and sectarian moods within the BCP. Within the period considered in this study, no single exaggerated assessment of the time preceding the April plenum was left without a rebuff; scorn for or rejection of anything positive which had been achieved by the party and within the country until the plenum were not allowed to take place.

The years 1957 and 1958 were characterized by the continuing systematic and persistent effort to analyze the basic problems of party organizational life

within the BCP and to surmount the basic weaknesses within it.³¹ The efforts to strengthen the PPO in the newly formed and comprehensively organized TKZS continued with great persistence. The main thing here was to increase the numerical strength of the organizations, to distribute the party members properly among the production sectors, to develop within each production unit a party group and to surmount the harmful trend which had appeared of party members leaving production work. A proper party control by the PPO of the administrative councils had to be secured and a struggle had waged against petty supervision of their work. This applied to a high percentage of the old TKZS as well, and had to be eliminated as soon as possible. The profound study of party work in the primary organizations directed the okoliya and city committees and instructor groups toward the more comprehensive study of a number of important problems of intraparty life. Increasingly systematic concern was shown for good preliminary preparations for party meetings, greater control over execution of party instructions and resolutions passed at meetings, and strengthening criticism and self-criticism. Nevertheless, during that time, some unconscientious party members began to use the efforts to upgrade the critical attitude by engaging in indiscriminate criticism with a view to attaining some careeristic objectives or settling personal accounts. Such actions were sharply rebuffed.³²

The work of the instructor rayons continued to be studied. The positive experience of a number of okoliya committees in Lom, Radomir, Varna and Svilengrad regarding the proper assignment of the work among secretaries and surmounting the improper trend of letting them deal with their instruction rayons only, thus overloading the first secretaries, was shared.³³

A line of strengthening the autonomy and initiative of the local party organs was followed systematically. The Politburo decision of 9 January 1958 gave party okrug, okoliya and city committees the right to set up their cadre nomenclature themselves.³⁴

Also continued was the struggle against the stubbornly remaining tendency to engage in paper shuffling and to hold excessive meetings by a number of okoliya, city and okrug party committees. Thus, for example, a RABOTNICHESKO DELO editorial which came out in the summer of 1957, criticized the Varna Okrug BCP Committee for tolerating the bookishness and excessive number of meetings of the General Toshevo Okoliya Committee, which had promulgated 141 resolutions in 1956, only 70 of which had been carried out. The tolerance of this weakness by the okrug committee was explained by the fact that the committee itself frequently engaged in long and tiring sessions at which a number of decisions were made. The Central Committee drew the important conclusion that such waste of effort and so much paper shuffling were among the reasons "for which many party committees and organizations, even after the April plenum, have done little to change decisively the situation and to improve work and management methods."³⁵

Another important feature of that period was the increased attention paid to improving the training and skills of party cadres, particularly those of PPO secretaries and instructors. It is true that after the April plenum the active recruitment of people with better education and of specialists had been undertaken by the party committees. This process, however, demanded a great

deal of time. The majority of primary party cadres had low educational standards. Thus, for example, 70 percent of rayon instructors and 57.4 percent of PPO secretaries were no more than primary school graduates. This required the development of an efficient and properly operating system for their training and for the steady dissemination and mastery of positive experience.³⁶

The proper management of party work after the April plenum inevitably led to the better study of the problems of the different party organizations and to a more differentiated approach to them. Thus, in the second half of 1957, the Central Committee Industrial-Transportation Department studied the work of the PPO in the sectors it had kept under observation, after which okrug conferences were held in December for exchange of positive experience. The main conclusion of the studies was that the level of party work in industry and transportation was continuing to improve. However, the initiative of the primary party organizations had to be enhanced and party control of economic management improved. Until then it had been manifested essentially and above all in hearing out informations at party meetings or meetings of buros. Such information had to be accompanied by studies of bottlenecks in production and with mobilizing the party organizations for their elimination.³⁷

The attention paid to PPO in schools was intensified in the summer of 1957, after the adoption of the decree on the reorganization of school work. It was emphasized that despite significant improvements, the level of party work in this area, particularly in the VUZs, had remained quite low, that the combat capability of the organizations had been lowered, that criticism "from below-upwards" was lacking and that lack of principles, subservience to superiors, and so on, were frequent phenomena. That is why by the end of 1957 the attention of the party committees to PPO work within the educational system was increased significantly. The efforts were aimed above all at surmounting as soon as possible the great weaknesses in VUZ party organizations.³⁸

After the April plenum the problem of regulating the numerical and social composition of the party and upgrading the requirements of new BCP members was particularly emphasized. As early as the summer of 1956 the BCP Central Committee had noted that in a number of party organizations the decision adopted at the 6th Congress of resuming the acceptance of employees had not been properly understood or, more accurately, had been understood as widely opening the party's doors to this social category. Under such circumstances, a number of city organizations had expanded significantly and so had the percentage of employees in them. Whereas at the time of the 6th BCP Congress there were 455,454 members and candidate members, by 31 March 1957 there were 490,350. The share of employees had increased from 17.94 to 21.31 percent. This represented a relatively substantial increase for such a short period of time unsupported by any kind of somewhat more serious reason. The great majority of the employees belonged to the general administrative apparatus and specialists accounted for no more than 9 percent of all employees who had joined the party.³⁹

This called for putting an end to the uncontrolled acceptance of new members, which had become typical of a significant number of PPO, and to intensifying the strict individual selection of candidates. The need for this conclusion

was also based on manifestations of political immaturity in some offices and organizations of intellectuals, as we mentioned, after the April plenum and during the Hungarian events.

As we have seen, however, the results of the party's work in connection with the response to the Hungarian events were positive within the party: exigency toward party members was made stricter and a comprehensive demand was voiced for the party to be purged of members who violated the stipulations of the party statutes. By the end of 1956 and beginning of 1957, many PPO had drafted their resolutions on controlling their numerical and social composition. All in all, by the end of 1956, some 10,000 to 11,000 members and candidate members were expelled from the party (no precise figure is available) as follows: 5,800 for irregular attendance, 2,400 for refusal to join the TKZS, some 1,800-2,000 as unsuitable and alien elements, etc.

Some leftist demands for a party "purge" and for stopping the acceptance of employees and intellectuals were rebuffed. The party line was that a most attentive and comradely attitude had to be displayed toward delinquent party members, that only the incorrigible and totally corrupt, who could not be influenced through educational work, were to be expelled.

As to those who attended meetings irregularly, the party committees reached the conclusion that the tremendous majority of them had been accepted during the period of mass enrollment, between 1944 and 1947, and that they had proven to be a "unnecessary ballast," as the party leaders had described them at that time, a ballast which the party had been dragging along for a long period of time in an effort to reeducate them and enhance their political tempering. Naturally, this applied only to some of the individuals who had been accepted during that period.

What were the main results of the line taken to control the numerical and social structure in 1956? First, the requirements concerning new party members were made stricter; second, the BCP was rid of a number of alien and unsuitable elements, of people with low political tempering, who were no longer meeting party membership requirements; third, the acceptance of employees was significantly restricted; fourth, the pace at which BCP membership had been increasing and which had intensified in the period after the 6th Congress, was slowed down. All of these trends had a positive influence.⁴⁰

The party held its regular accountability and election campaign between the end of 1957 and May 1958. It was related to preparations for the 7th Party Congress, which was reflected in its nature and direction. Once again the accountability and election meetings and conferences proved that the standards of party organizational life had improved significantly and that great progress had been made in the application of the Leninist principles and norms of party life and style of party work. Collective leadership in the party committees was enhanced significantly; their structure was improved; it included more specialists and more women and young people, and more party members directly employed in material production.

The meetings which were held were very active. A total of 43.6 percent of those attending spoke out. The statements made were serious and profound. Both they and the reports and resolutions formulated basic problems, profoundly analyzed weaknesses and sought ways for their elimination.

At the same time, however, some trends of the stubborn retention of negative phenomena in party work were noted with concern. Many party committees and buros found it difficult to eliminate bookishness and excessive meetings and the harmful practice of taking many decisions and failure to provide the necessary regular verification of their execution. This led to frequent repetition of resolutions, which took a great deal of time of the party workers and reduced their possibility of establishing more frequent contacts with and work among labor collectives.⁴¹

The 7th Party Congress was held between 2 and 7 June. It summed up the events since the 6th Congress (which was held from the end of February to the beginning of March 1954), but emphasized the period after the April plenum. It emphasized that the elimination of the improper methods of the cult of personality had enhanced the party's leading role and developed a creative atmosphere for correcting existing weaknesses and errors.⁴² In terms of the party's organizational development, the 7th Congress stipulated that a great deal of efforts had been made during that period to ensure the systematic and firm application of the supreme principle of party leadership--collectivity. One of the most outstanding manifestations of this trend was the significant enhancement of the role of plenums.⁴³ It was also pointed out, however, that many okoliya, city and okrug committees were still not regularly holding their plenums. Others were holding them irregularly, leaving considerable periods of time during the year (from 6 to 8 or more months) without holding a plenary meeting. Expanded plenums, with the participation of a broad aktiv, were still being convened very frequently, which lowered the role of the plenum and reduced the feeling of responsibility of its members.

The congress noted the significant growth of the PPO. The rigidity of their managements had been eliminated and they had become more active. Party control over economic and administrative managements had improved, management forms had become more varied and their efficiency had been improved in most production organizations.⁴⁴

Great attention was paid at the congress on improving the style and method of party work. It was emphasized with great satisfaction that petty supervision and regulatory actions by superior party bodies had been eliminated and the rights and responsibilities of the local party units had been broadened, which had strengthened their initiative and efficiency.⁴⁵ The significant overall enhancement of the level of organizational life in the party had been manifested in a great variety of areas, including improvements in financial accountability and management of party property and documentation.⁴⁶

Substantial improvements had taken place in the social and numerical composition of the BCP. The 7th Congress reported that workers had already become the largest social group within the party, accounting for 36.04 percent of the membership. This marked the implementation of the important tasks set at the 5th Party Congress in 1948.

The congress reported that after the April plenum the Central Committee had followed the Dimitrov line of unification of cadres of all generations faster and more systematically. This was also manifested in the new membership of the Central Committee, elected at the congress. The line of strengthening primary units with experienced cadres drawn from the "center" was continued. This yielded a number of useful results, particularly in improving party work in the countryside.⁴⁷

The 7th Congress also made some improvements in the statutes, aimed at expanding and intensifying intraparty democracy. The new draft of the statutes gave the right to okrug committees to determine on their own initiative where a village-wide, cooperative-wide or plant-wide party committee could be set up. The expulsion of party members and candidate members was to be the definitive right of okoliya (respectively, urban) committees. The approval of such decisions on the okrug level was eliminated. Also eliminated were "superior" orders regulating the number of okoliya committee secretaries and the number of members of party organizations which could be set up without the right of primary party organizations, and of PPO which had the right to set up party groups. Primary organizations of 10 members or less could elect not only a secretary, as had been the case previously, but a deputy secretary as well. The upper limit of the number of members of buros was raised from seven to nine. The right of party control over administrative managements was granted to the PPO of TKZS and the Central Committee could grant this right to other organizations as well, if it deemed it necessary. Okrug accountability and election conferences were to convene once every 2 years rather than annually. The mandatory interval between plenums of local party organizations was expanded from 2 to 3 months. The new draft statutes specifically indicated that anyone who wrecks party unity cannot be a party member.⁴⁸

The period between the April 1956 Central Committee Plenum and the 7th Congress was interesting and important in the organizational development of the BCP. It was the first stage in the assertion of the April party line, a period of decisive upsurge related to surmounting the harmful consequences of the cult of personality.

The inevitable difficulties of the major change were surmounted with relative ease and rapidly, thanks to the strong political tempering of the majority of Bulgarian communists and the strong BCP traditions of loyalty to revolutionary proletarian theory. The party showed an attentive and comradely concern toward party members who had become confused under the difficult situation but it also freed itself of many alien and unsuitable elements who had failed to pass the test of time.

This contributed to the even greater enhancement of the party's leading role and to strengthening the combat capability of its organizations. It was during that period that a considerable strengthening was noted in the organizational life of the BCP, which helped it to undertake better and more comprehensively the building of developed socialism in Bulgaria in the period which followed.

FOOTNOTES

1. K. Ivanov. "Development and Assertion of the BCP as the Universally Acknowledged Leader of the People." In "Sotsialisticheskata Revolyutsiya v Bulgariya" [The Socialist Revolution in Bulgaria]. Sofia, 1965; K. Ivanov. "Development of the BCP as an Independent Political Organization." In "30 Godini Sotsialisticheska Bulgariya" [30 Years of Socialist Bulgaria]. Sofia, 1974; M. Trifonova. "Partiyniyat Kontrol. 1956-1962" [Party Control, 1956-1962]. Sofia, 1964; At. Dimitrov. "Usuvurshenstvuvaneto na Organizatsionnite Formi Zasilva Rukovodnata Rolya na Partiyata" [Improvements in Organizational Methods Strengthens the Party's Leading Role]. Sofia, 1965; St. Tsvetanski. "BCP Activities in Controlling Its Social Composition, 1944-1958." IZVESTIYA NA INSTITUTA ZA ISTORIYA NA BKP, vol 45, and others.
2. RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 77, 17 March 1956.
3. "BKP v Rezolyutsii i Resheniya na Kongresite, Konferentsiite, Plenumite i na Politbyuro na TsK" [The BCP in Resolutions and Decisions of Congresses, Conferences and Plenums of the Central Committee Politburo]. Vol V, 1960, pp 11-12.
4. Ibid, pp 7, 13-15.
5. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 23, a.e. 20; f. 2, op. 1013, a.e. 7, l. 88-89; a.e. 8, l. 70-74; OPA, Sofia, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1123; f. 9, op. 12, a.e. 7, l. 11-14, 18; OPA, Khaskovo, f. 2, op. 2, a.e. 47; OPA, Burgas, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1342, l. 10-33; a.e. 1356, l. 25-66, and others.
6. OPA, Sofia, f. 9, op. 12, a.e. 7, l. 12, 10-16; GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 23, a.e. 20, l. 44, 46.
7. OPA, Sofia, f. 9, op. 12, a.e. 7, l. 15-16.
8. T. Zhivkov. "Izbrani Suchineniya" [Selected Works], vol 2, pp 268-269, 274-276, 282; GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 23, a.e. 20, l. 24; op. 24, a.e. 2, 1144; OPA, Khaskovo, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 47, l. 55-56; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 161, 9 June 1956.
9. T. Zhivkov. "Pos. Such." [Latest Works], pp 267, 275-276, 280, 299-305; GPA, f. 1, op. 23, a.e. 25, l. 6-11, 133-138; op. 24, a.e. 1, l. 144; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 120, 29 April; No 141, 20 May; No 161, 9 June; No 162, 10 June 1956; No 197, 16 July; No 325, 21 November 1957; No 70, 11 March; No 89, 30 March 1958; "Sedmi Kongres na BKP. Stenografski Protokol" [7th BCP Congress. Minutes]. Sofia, 1958, pp 95-96.
10. OPA, Sofia, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1123, l. 134.
11. Ibid, l. 101.

12. OPA, Sofia, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1122, l. 38, 42, 47-53, 64-68; a.e. 1123, l. 44-45, 65, 142-146; OPA, Vratsa, f. 2, op. 2, a.e. 08; OPA, Khaskovo, f. 3, op. 2, a.e. 68, l. 208-210, and others.
13. "For the Total Triumph of the Leninist Norms of Party Life." NOVO VREME, No 5, 1956; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 155, 3 June; No 164, 12 June; No 222, 9 August and 230, 17 August 1956.
14. T. Zhivkov. "Pos. Such." [Latest Works], pp 405-406, 414-417; "BKP v Rezolyutsii....," p 58; OPA, Sofia, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1129, l. 93-99; a.e. 1130, l. 15-16, 103-109, 114-115; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 199, 17 July; No 222, 9 August; No 261, 17 September 1956; No 182, July 1957.
15. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 23, a.e. 13, l. 5; op. 24, a.e. 1, l. 144; OPA, Varna, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 232, l. 95; OPA, Sofia, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1122, l. 58-65; a.e. 1123, l. 70, 132, 150; TsDA na NRB, f. 55, op. 4, a.e. 15-b, l. 115; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 189, 8 July; No 197, 16 July, No 317, 13 November; No 325, 21 November 1957; "Information." PARTIYEN ZHIVOT, No 1, 1957, p 27; "Istoriya na Rusenskata Okruzhna Partiyna Organizatsiya" [History of the Ruse Okrug Party Organization]. Sofia, 1971, pp 311-313; "Istoriya na Plovdivskata Okruzhna Partiyna Organizatsiya" [History of the Plovdiv Okrug Party Organization]. Sofia, 1975, pp 449-450.
16. T. Zhivkov. "Za Partiynoto Stroitelstvo" [On Party Building]. Vol 1, 1979, pp 436-439, 442-448 and others.
17. T. Zhivkov. "Izbrani Suchineniya" [Selected Works], vol 2, pp 266-267, 270, 306-308.
18. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 23, a.e. 1, l. 111-115, 118-119, 123-127; OPA, Sofia, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1130, l. 10-11, 15; f. 6, op. 1, a.e. 1021, l. 20, 24, 66, 76-77; f. 9, op. 12, a.e. 7, l. 48-50; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 180, 28 June 1958.
19. "BKP v Rezolyutsii....," pp 70-76; "For Firm Implementation of the Resolutions of the April BCP Central Committee Plenum." NOVO VREME, No 9, 1956; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 264, 20 September 1956.
20. OPA, Sofia, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1121, l. 4-11; a.e. 1121, l. 242; a.e. 1132, l. 115-121; a.e. 1300, l. 17-22; GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 24, a.e. 1, l. 144; OPA, Vratsa, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 54, l. 429-430; OPA, Varna, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 264, l. 15, 29; OPA, Khaskovo, f. 1, op. 2, a.e. 71; f. 3, op. 2, a.e. 68; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 127, 7 May; No 154, 3 June 1957.
21. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 23, a.e. 21, l. 17-19; op. 24, a.e. 1, l. 77-80, 68-73; a.e. 3, l. 14; OPA, Khaskovo, f. 1, op. 2, a.e. 76, l. 261-263; f. 3, op. 2, a.e. 68, l. 350; OPA, Sofia, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1121, l. 27-29 and others.
22. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 24, a.e. 2, l. 145; a.e. 3, l. 37, f. 830, op. 1, a.e. 24, l. 12; OPA, Burgas, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1427, l. 8; OPA, Khaskovo,

- f. 1, op. 2, a.e. 133, l. 103; f. 4, op. 2, a.e. 212, l. 11; f. 3, op. 13, a.e. 2, l. 54; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 39, 8 February 1957; P. Rusev. "Against Limited Practicalism and for Greater Scope in Party Work Efficiency." NOVO VREME, No 2, 1957, pp 44-45, 50-59.
23. OPA, Sofia, f. 6, op. 1, a.e. 1126, l. 25, 60; GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 24, a.e. 1, l. 13; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 286, 12 October 1956.
 24. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 24, a.e. 1, l. 29.
 25. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 24, a.e. 1, l. 13-19, 21-22; OPA, Sofia, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1131, l. 282-283; a.e. 1297, l. 31; OPA, Vratsa, f. 2, op. 2, a.e. 53, l. 21; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No. 239, 27 August 1957.
 26. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 24, a.e. 1, l. 21-24; OPA, Sofia, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1297, l. 31.
 27. OPA, Sofia, l. 45-46.
 28. "BKP v Rezolyutsii i Resheniya....," p 155; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 198, 17 July 1957.
 29. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 24, a.e. 1, l. 144.
 30. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 24, a.e. 24, l. 121, 124, 162, 166; OPA, Sofia, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1129; OPA, Vratsa, f. 2, op. 2, a.e. 8, l. 42-43; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 197, 16 July; No 198, 17 July; No 239, 27 August 1957; No 26, 26 January 1958; RODOPSKA BORBA (Khaskovo), No 64, 10 August 1957.
 31. OPA, Khaskovo, f. 4, op. 2, a.e. 212; f. 1, op. 2, a.e. 168; OPA, Vratsa, f. 2, op. 2, a.e. 58; OPA, Sofia, f. 6, op. 1, a.e. 1130, and others.
 32. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 24, a.e. 1, l. 168-175; OPA, Sofia, f. 6, op. 1, a.e. 1130, l. 122, 133-137, 139-140, 146; OPA, Vratsa, f. 2, op. 2, a.e. 58, l. 18, 75-76; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 181, 1 July 1957.
 33. OPA, Sofia, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1300, l. 176; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 182, 1 July 1957. On the Work of the Apparatus of the Okoliya Committees (editorial and editorial article) see PARTIEN ZHIVOT, No 3, 1958, pp 4-7.
 34. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 2, a.e. 1, l. 8.
 35. RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No. 182, 1 July 1957.
 36. OPA, Khaskovo, f. 1, op. 2, a.e. 167, l. 126; GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 25, a.e. 1, l. 129-130; OPA, Sofia, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1300, l. 267-270, and others.
 37. RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No. 362, 28 December 1957.
 38. Ibid, No 47, 26 February; No 81, 22 March 1958.

39. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 24, a.e. 1, 1. 36-38.
40. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 23, a.e. 1, 1. 120-121; a.e. 19, 1. 53; a.e. 27, 1. 111-113, 120, 123, 130-131, 154, 162-163, 176-193; op. 24, a.e. 1, 1. 23-25, 39-44; a.e. 2, 1. 218-220; a.e. 3, 1. 14-18, a.e. 16, 1. 177-184; op. 25, a.e. 2, 1. 192-193; f. 2, op. 13, a.e. 2, 1. 193; f. 131, op. 1, a.e. 4, 1. 19; op. 2, a.e. 2, 1. 22; OPA, Sofia, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 1297, 1. 28-30; a.e. 1300, 1. 301; f. 6, op. 1, a.e. 1126, 1. 51; a.e. 1130; 1. 128, 138-139; OPA, Varna, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 264, 1. 15-19; a.e. 289, 1. 30-32; OPA, Khaskovo, f. 4, op. 2, a.e. 212, 1. 310, 314-315; OPA, Vratsa, f. 2, op. 2, a.e. 53, 1. 15-20, 27-28; a.e. 58, 1. 43; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 26, 26 January; No 70, 11 March; No 131, 11 May 1958. "Answers to Questions." PARTIEN ZHIVOT, No 1, 1958.
41. GPA, Sofia, f. 1, op. 25, a.e. 1, 1. 111-129; a.e. 2, 1. 174, 197-200; OPA, Varna, f. 2, op. 1, a.e. 289, 1. 22-23, 27-34, 37, 39; "Okoliya and City Conferences" (editorial). PARTIEN ZHIVOT, No 4, 1958; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, No 26, 26 January; No 131, 11 May 1958.
42. "Sedmi Kongres. Stenografski Protokol" [7th Congress. Minutes]. Sofia, 1958, p 94.
43. Ibid., p 101.
44. Ibid., pp 98, 99, 166.
45. Ibid., pp 100, 101, 554, 613-614.
46. Ibid., pp 125-127.
47. Ibid., pp 102, 582, 615.
48. Ibid., pp 103, 620-622.

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POLITICS

ROMANIA

REVIEW OF BOOK ON MEDIEVAL MOLDAVIA

Bucharest REVISTA DE ISTORIE in Romanian No 5, Jul 86 pp 708-709

[Review by Ioan Aurel Pop of book "Realitati Etnice si Politice in Moldova Meridionala in Secolele X-XIII. Romani si Turanici" [Ethnic and Political Realities in Southern Moldavia in the 10th-13th Centuries. Romanians and Turanians] by Victor Spinei, Iasi, Junimea Publishing House, 1985, 238 pages]

[Text] Historian Victor Spinei's new work, on the society on the territory of southern Moldavia around the end of the 1st millennium and the start of the 2d millennium, follows the line of older and more persistent concerns of the author, concerns concretized in numerous studies and articles and synthesized to a large extent in the 1982 monograph titled "Moldava in secolele XI-XIV" [Moldavia in the 11th-14th Centuries]. In fact, through this new publishing release, the author deepens and expands a framework of research that had been partly foreshadowed back in the above-mentioned monograph, but, at the same time, he revives a favorite theme of Romanian historiography, a theme remaining ever topical, namely, that of the impact of the migrators on the autochthons. However, this revival means a posing of the problem in completely changed terms from the past: a modern set of work tools, based on heavy use of the auxiliary disciplines of history, from medieval archaeology and historical linguistics to diplomacy and paleography; a revealing comparative method for determining the role and place of the Romanians in the world history of that time; and a complex, multifactorial view within which the geographic framework finds its natural role, after a period when historiography seemed to have given up such an approach.

The four big sections of the work structure the factual material in accordance with as appropriate a treatment as possible of the thematic scheme conceived by the author. Consequently, each of the four chapters has two points of reference, namely, the natural (geographic) framework and man, the Carpatho-Nistrian area and the political events in southeastern Europe, the Romanian agricultural sedentariness and the Turanian pastoral nomadism, and, respectively, the Romanians in contacts and interactions with the Turanians. This comparative treatment has the merit of underscoring even more strikingly the contrast, the contradiction, between the way of life of the autochthons adapted to those mountain, hill, and flat areas and the way of life of the Turanians from the steppes. In the author's view, the interaction between man and the natural framework, especially in those places "of enticing abundance and

of passage of the armies," explains much more penetratingly the historical evolution in the 10th-13th centuries. Consequently, in relation to the sedentary autochthons, the mobility of the migrators in the area seems influenced by the location on the northwestern shore of the Black Sea and on the most traveled river route in ancient and medieval Europe. The premises sketched by bringing out the geographic factor are followed by a penetrating analysis of the general political framework. This chapter offers the author the opportunity for an assiduous presentation of the implications of the political factor for the whole Romanian and southeastern European area. Along with the noting of generally accepted truths, new hypotheses are formulated and new points of view are outlined: The theory of the "great Bulgarian state," which would have reached the lower course of the Prut and even of the Nistru, is disputed; in connection with the location of the Atelkuz, it is asserted with arguments that the main settlements of the Hungarians, before crossing the northern Carpathians, were in the lower basin of the Nipru and west of the Don and not at the mouth of the Danube; he opts for the opinion that the Szeklers were the descendants of the Cabars; the author demonstrates convincingly the unsoundness of the biased distinction, in a neo-Roeslerian spirit, made between the ethnica "Blaci" and "Vlaci," in the sense that the former also designates the Romanians and not an obscure Turkic tribe from the union of the Karlucks; etc. The Byzantine, papal, and northern Armenian sources, which refer to the Romanians on the left side of the Danube and especially in the Carpatho-Nistriian area, are reanalyzed, it being demonstrated with new arguments that the so-called silence of the written sources with regard to the autochthons is a preconception.

In fact, as was inherent, the author transcended by far and in a positive way the thematic framework of the work by analyzing alike the relations of the Romanians with the eastern, western, and southern Slavs, with the Byzantines, with the Hungarians, and even with more remote peoples and states.

The study of the relations with the Tatar-Mongols, after the great invasion in 1236-1242, occasioned the noting of new proof for the conclusion that the Tatar khanate's tutelage, more marked in the southern part of the future Moldavia, discouraged and counteracted for a long time the Arpad kingdom's expansionist tendencies south and east of the Carpathians.

As a matter of fact, the author notes the scope of the Hungarian political expansion, concealed and strengthened by religious hatred, expansion that was aimed at the area outside the curve of the Carpathians, in the first part of the 13th century, observing justly that, under the conditions of medieval man's overwhelming attachment for religion, the repudiation of foreign suzerainty also increased because the changing of the law and of the ancestral faith was required.

The third chapter, through the analysis of all aspects of the development of the complex of civilization in the Carpatho-Nistriian area, achieves an organic integration and utilization of the medieval archaeological sources and a corroboration of this evidence with the written sources. The study of the settlements and graves, of the dwellings and outbuildings, and of the tools and coins is of a nature to reflect even more strikingly the antinomy between the

way of life of the Romanians and that of the Turanians. The contradiction between the autochthons and the peoples of the steppes with regard to the social, political, and ethnolinguistic situation, artistic concerns, and religious beliefs is also underscored. The comparison, the parallel, and, implicitly, the opposition, the contrast, are illustrated further, toward the end of the work, through the noting of the contacts and interactions between the Romanians and the Turanians. The conclusions drawn (particularly in the last two sections of the work) are significant. In the 10th-13th centuries, through the mode of organization of economic life, based on agriculture, animal husbandry, and trade, and through the polarization of society, the autochthons appear set firmly on the path of the still incipient process of feudalization. On the other hand, the peoples of the steppes, the Petchenegs and the Cumans, in particular, do not prove to be, according to the established pattern, exclusively animal breeders but also, on a smaller scale, plant growers. In this way and by demonstrating the political and military supremacy held at one time by the Turanians in the easterly and southerly Carpathian area, the author sets the relations between the two distinct structures of civilization on their real basis, indirectly dispelling assertions that tended to accredit not long ago the presence of the tributary mode of production among the Romanians, in the context of their relations with the migrators. In fact, the interactions, no matter how numerous, led only to isolated cases of cohabitation, and when this occurred, the result was the assimilation of the Turanians by the Romanians and the subordination of the inferior model of civilization of the steppes by the model of sedentary civilization of the autochthons. It is true that the influences were reciprocal and the author looks at them from both directions, with objectivity, but the "antinomy" is predominant and it was predisposed not to closeness and fusion or symbiosis but to a certain isolation and reticence. Nor could it be otherwise, as a result of the detailed demonstration that the work contains: on the one hand, the Romanians, grouped into incipient state nuclei, with a military and Christian religious organization of their own, living in sedentary agricultural communities, but depositaries of eastern Romanism; on the other hand, the Turanians, barely detached in part from the kinship system, with a swift and surprising fighting technique, divided into tribes, sometimes rivals, followers of the shamanistic and then Muhammedenized more than Christianized cults (anyhow, the latter disappeared relatively rapidly into the mass of the peoples among whom they received baptism).

In his effort to bring out the historical truth, the author consulted almost completely the bibliography on the problem and relied heavily on his own archaeological research, facts also reflected in the detailed and rich critical apparatus, witness to the serious documentation in the sphere of several historiographic schools of note. The list of abbreviations, the onomastic and toponymic index, and, in particular, the French summary (thanks to Michaela Spinei), along with the appropriate illustrations (50 figures: maps, drawings, sketches, and photographs), all contribute, in concert, to as broad and extensive a reception of the book as possible. Not least of all, it is fitting to underscore the contribution made to the success of the work by the Junimea Publishing House, which, as a matter of fact, has accustomed its readers to a special graphic appearance, especially in the case of scientific publications.

Through all these combined efforts, historian Victor Spinei's book, without exhausting the topic covered, remains, in accordance with the expectations justified by the preceding work on Moldavia in the early Middle Ages, a model of a modern treatment of the events and processes of the past, a combination of balance, erudition, subtlety, and discretion in polemics, all subordinate to the major criterion of truthfulness and contributing to the real affirmation of the Romanian school of medieval studies.

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POLITICS

YUGOSLAVIA

WORKERS' RESERVATIONS ABOUT SELF-MANAGEMENT SURVEYED

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[Article by Milan Lazarevic: "Why Don't They Want to Be Self-Managers?"]

[Text] In a poem Bertold Brecht immortalized once and for all the motif of "people that lost the confidence of the government." Life has always confirmed the qualities of great poems and poets. On this occasion we present NIN's readers one more study which indicates that our people are not exactly burning with a desire to be self-managers. Recently there have been several such studies, with similar conclusions, throughout the country. A few years ago it could have been a shock to some people when Ivan Siber in Zagreb published the results of his surveys, which warned about a dangerous flood of opportunism and people's unwillingness to be politically involved. Later this topic gradually acquired full "legitimacy" and became more or less "commonplace," because other researchers arrived at similar conclusions. This spring the Marxist Center of the LC City Committee in Belgrade, by all appearances with good intentions, arranged a discussion of the subject of "opportunism in the LC," seeking an answer to the question of why communists keep silent. In the meantime, a number of newspaper commentators have sharpened their pencils and asked themselves the same question publicly: "What is happening with our people? Why do they refuse to use the opportunity offered to them? Why don't they do what is expected of them?" Some of today's 40-year-olds perhaps still remember how in the spring of 1968, the well-known Yugoslav sociologist Academician Radomir Lukic, writing in the journal SOCIOLOGIJA about Yugoslav youth, noted that young Yugoslavs, in contrast to their peers in Germany, France, or other countries, who in those days had begun to rebel and through their youthful rebellion shake the world around them to its foundations, were unbelievably apolitical and disinterested in social concerns. Only a month or two later, something happened that we all know about and convincingly refuted the statements by the respected professor. We mention this merely in order to recall how a picture of the surface of social reality as a rule does not say much, and can very often lead to an erroneous conclusion. The question of why workers do not want to be self-managers implies that they really do have unlimited opportunity to do something, but they just do not want to. The study of motivation for self-management and personal involvement of self-managing workers, which is discussed here, yields interesting results (which after all is why we are publishing it), but nevertheless the sociologist's findings should be read carefully, keeping in mind the serious authoritative

warnings including those uttered at the recent 13th LCY Congress, about the dangerous stagnation of self-management." In other words, it has unfortunately already become a "commonplace" in analyses of political conditions in Yugoslavia that the living space for a real flourishing of self-management has not increased for a long time, and in some places is even being reduced; in such a case the sociologist's findings naturally do not indicate that "the people have lost the confidence of the government," but rather indirectly demonstrate something else.

Self-management is not as it once was even in the factories that were its "birthplace." The gigantic system of norms and institutions seems to have swallowed up man and his motivation for self-management. Even Edvard Kardelj, the system's architect, was aware of this nightmare-like trap when in 1978, scarcely four years after the inauguration of the constitutional draft of "integral self-management," he wrote resignedly in "Directions of Development of the Political System" "then probably even without understanding the pledge, that happiness cannot be brought to man either by the state, or the party, or the system, but only by himself."

Many "ordinary people" and workers who have long memories said openly during the public debate over the "Critical Analysis" that there was more self-management in its "heroic period" (in the phase of so-called workers' self-management, as it was called then) than today in the "political system of socialist self-management." The question is whether a strategic error has been made, and where. Undoubtedly this will be a subject for generalized, ideological arguments for a long time to come.

This study is on the track of a different research orientation; it is not, however, backed by resounding names of institutes and scientific teams. It is a study conducted under the modest name of "An Analysis of the Motivation for Self-Management" by sociologist Ljubica Pavkovic and psychologist Deniz Cirovska at Utva in Pancevo.

It would be an understatement, perhaps, to designate the results of this study as "significant," because they are much more than that, primarily since they do not flatter the usual idyllic images of (supposed) self-management commitment and involvement.

Who Is Least Oriented Toward Self-Management?

In principle, a worker is offered the opportunity to decide on the "conditions and results of his work." Everyday practice, however, confirms that the given right does not at the same time also imply the worker's willingness to accept this right and even less to become involved in its realization.

The 672 Utva workers polled (a sample of which many more comprehensive studies would not be ashamed) are divided at the outset by their attitude toward self-management. The entire group was divided into three almost identical groups. One third have a positive attitude toward self-management, somewhat more than one third are neutral, and somewhat fewer than that are negative.

"Juxtaposition" with other characteristics reveals that qualifications and the jobs that people do are a determining factor in their self-management orientation.

A definitely negative orientation is shown by unskilled workers and workers with poorer vocational training (the former in 51 percent of cases, and the latter in 43 percent).

A neutral attitude is particularly characteristic of intermediate vocational training and skilled workers (40 and 37 percent).

The most educated have the most positive attitude--high training (57 percent) and advanced training (48 percent).

It is not surprising that the most undecided about self-management are among those who are employed in general and technical-administrative jobs outside production (43 percent), but they are immediately followed by workers who work directly in production (39 percent). A negative attitude toward self-management is most pronounced among the category of preparatory-technical and other non-productive work in production; a positive orientation is strongest in the category of engineering jobs in production and research jobs outside production.

The researchers did not avoid singling out a separate group of "indirect producers" composed mostly of unskilled, semiskilled, and skilled workers, and comparing them with other groups. The political propaganda images of this group turn out to be not only idealized, but also naive: compared to other groups, "indirect producers" have a considerably more negative attitude toward self-management. They chose a neutral attitude (this difference was 23 percent). Even assuming that the "indirect producers" were more honest in their answers than other respondents, the fact remains that the positive self-management orientation is much weaker than the one politically counted upon, which constitutes the basis for the (re)construction of the system.

What Influences Motivation?

The motivation for involvement in self-management in any environment is most closely linked with how people view the work of self-management bodies. In this study the respondents mainly had a good opinion (60 percent) of the work of self-management bodies at the level of the basic organization of associated labor. At the next step of (the work organization), however, assessments are poorer, and more than a third of the workers did not even express an opinion about the work of self-management bodies at the level of the SOUR [complex organization of associated labor] because they were not at all familiar with their work!

All in all, however, the functioning of self-management within the work collective is much more favorably assessed than the work of delegations to the assemblies of sociopolitical and self-managing interest communities, which 40 percent of the workers are not aware of, and only 40 percent assess favorably.

The opinions of workers on why meetings are poorly attended are interesting. As the first reason, which is only apparently banal, they cite information about the time of the meeting and what is discussed at it. Only a third of the workers stated that everything was completely clear to them about what was discussed at the meetings! As the next reason in terms of significance for poor attendance at meetings, they cite doubt about whether decisionmaking can really be influenced at meetings. This reason should be viewed in the context of the fact that 57 percent of the respondents feel that the managers and professional services have the most influence on decisionmaking at the meetings.

In the survey the workers were asked to assess the functioning of individual sectors of life and work in the collective. On the whole, a large percentage of them stated that health care, industrial safety, and organized social nutrition were functioning well; they had a poor opinion of the resolution of housing problems, the organization of work, and the possibility of advancement on the basis of merit (work). It is most striking that only one third of the workers feels that there is a possibility for a worker to be promoted based on merit.

The study's major finding is that the respondents have a predominantly neutral attitude toward involvement. Forty-five percent of them have a "neutral attitude, i.e., they are indifferent about accepting a role in different self-management bodies. They are not sure whether they would participate in discussions at meetings of self-management bodies, and they are also undecided about the need to be personally involved." A negative attitude toward involvement was expressed by 32.4 percent of the respondents, a positive attitude by 17.6 percent, and a markedly negative one by 0.7 percent. Even at first glance it is apparent that in the gap between the positive orientation toward self-management and the motivation for involvement there have been obvious realignments, so that it turns out that to a significant extent workers are more oriented toward self-management than they are motivated for self-management. In other words, they accept self-management more as an ideology than they are prepared to become personally involved in the realization of that ideology.

Reasons for (Non)involvement

In addition to the "justaposition" of the motivation for self-management with information or with the assessment of the work of self-management bodies and the conclusions that might be drawn from that, the study offers an abundance of quite direct explanations and interpretations. It is very illuminating that in response to the question "What is the attitude of your milieu toward workers who are active in self-management and sociopolitically active?" two-thirds of the respondents answered that these workers were not particularly appreciated. About 55 percent of them, in response to the question about the usefulness of sociopolitical work, said that the collective did not benefit from some workers' being active.

As for their own influence, 67 percent of the respondents feel that they have no influence on the significant things happening in the OOUR [basic

organization of associated labor]; 73 percent feel that they have no influence on the members of self-management bodies; and 52 percent feel that their workers' council fulfills the interests of the director and the professional services more than it does the workers' interests.

After such a "battery" of attitudes, the fact that 52 percent of the workers do not have any feeling at all that they are self-managers is quite logical, and the final blow.

The researchers asked the respondents quite directly why they wanted or did not want to become involved. Among those who want to be involved, most are respondents who want this because they think they can contribute to solving certain problems (29 percent), and that they would be familiar with the problems of the OOUR and the work of the self-management bodies. There is a significant percentage, 18 percent, who explain their desire for involvement by saying that it is the "pride, honor, and duty of every worker."

Workers usually do not want to be involved if they think that involvement is only a formality because everything has been decided in advance or the decisions are not implemented (34 percent). Immediately following this group are those (21 percent) who explain their lack of involvement by saying that it is a great responsibility and they do not feel themselves to be capable and prepared. About 15 percent do not want to be criticized and 12 percent "do not have enough time."

The extent to which training and education qualifications are closely linked to motivation for involvement can perhaps be seen most clearly in this connection. The most prominent differences are between unskilled workers and experts with advanced training, since the latter do not want to be involved because involvement is merely a formality, and unskilled workers because it is a great responsibility and they do not feel themselves capable and prepared. At the opposite extreme are those with a university education who do not want to be involved because meetings are poorly organized.

Widespread Characteristic of Consciousness

Finally, the conditions under which workers would become more involved are particularly interesting. Unskilled and semiskilled workers mostly answered that their condition would be higher wages; skilled workers with higher and lower training said that they would have to be able to influence decisions; and those with high and intermediate training, as well as highly skilled workers, would be more involved if decisions were implemented. Those who are most involved obviously have an influence on decisions, and for them the most discouraging factor is the fact that the decisions are not implemented. Those who are less involved have less influence on decisions and express a desire to have an influence, but do nothing about it, primarily because they feel that everything has been decided in advance. The least involved obviously have not crossed the threshold of subsistence problems, and until they do so it will be difficult to speak of any self-management involvement on their part at all. Naturally, the more people there are who in these difficult times do not

cross but fall below the threshold of poverty and subsistence problems, the more uninvolved people we will have.

It would be risky to add any final comments to such a study, but it is difficult to avoid the impression that the division among people between self-management orientation and involvement is quietly undermining the very foundations of convictions. The neutralism that borders on indifference is becoming a widespread characteristic of the social consciousness and mood on which those who are continually legitimizing themselves as guardians of "fundamental" values and convictions will increasingly base their power.

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SOCIOLOGY

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ROCKY ROAD TO SOCIALIST MORALITY VIEWED

Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 27 Sep 86 p 3

[Article by Zdena Bakesova: "The Wastelands Within Us"]

[Text] Recently I spent my vacation in the Krkonose Mountains. I do not intend to give here a testimony to their beauty and devastation or to their translucent air and the proliferation of tourists. One thing made me gasp: the great many do's and don't's, the great many blocked roads and paths. This one is still open, but that one cannot be used. A poster on the Golden Hilltop says that if the visitor so much as plucks a single leaf or blossom, a single blueberry or huckleberry, if he picks a mushroom or strays from the marked trail, he will be subject to a fine of Kcs 500.

I said to myself with a bit of sadness, "It serves us right." We had done so much harm to nature in our mountains, spoiled it, broken its laws that we were really courting trouble. Radical measures desperately calling out to us from every path of our exhausted mountains would not be necessary if we had used our brains and hearts earlier. And yet the feeling of despair at the sight of the crippled grey trees, denuded hills, and the gaping scars of the aisles cut through the woods were mitigated by the sight of reforested spots planted with young trees which are trying to stretch up to the sun and out to the smog-filled, polluted world because they are more resistant than their comrades who died standing up. Here with our help nature licks its wounds; there is some hope that it will heal the worst of them. After all, nature is not used to giving up easily.

But what can be done about the wastelands, the barrens and no man's lands in human souls? What can be done about the malignant growths of envy, greed, evil craving for possessions, egotism? This comparison of the human heart with nature may seem strange to you; however, the sight of the twisted, dry stumps of trees in the Krkonose Mountains brought to my mind recollections of the destinies of the people I had met on my trips as a reporter or of whom I had learned from the letters of our readers.

A tree cannot tell a lie. It begins to change on the outside so that anybody can tell right away that something is wrong with it. But people? I have known individuals who were as straight as a rod, whose manners were pleasant, who were successful in their jobs--and yet, when I tried to get down to the purpose of their actions, there was something rotten deep down in them. I shall tell you about one such encounter.

I will never forget one old lady in an old folks' home. She had brought up two sons; then she lived all by herself in a log cabin somewhere in East Bohemia. Both her sons, university graduates with good jobs, began to covet her cabin but did not want to be burdened with their mother living there, so they convinced her to transfer the property to them and then they placed her in an old people's home. They came to visit her once a year, just before Christmas, in order to collect the money their mother had saved up for their presents. Once they arranged for a song to be played on the radio on her birthday. When she received an announcement about her "loving" sons' attention, she fled to a nearby pond during that particular program and would have ended her life had she not been caught in time.

I looked up those two splendid sons of hers. I could find no fault with them. Models husbands and fathers, involved in community affairs, well-liked and successful in their places of work. They flatly denied any blame. They love their Mom. After all, they had arranged to have a song played for her on the radio; it is her idea to give them money--she would be hurt if they would not accept it; the cabin was too much a burden for her; they are too busy to visit her more often. They could find some excuse for everything.

"What do you want?" one of their older colleagues said to me. "Official records do not include any information about how one treats one's own mother. And their records are so immaculate that they would make them eligible for an appointment to a ministerial post. All the rest is a matter of their conscience."

But do they have any conscience at all? In fact, one day they, too, will be old and they certainly would not want their children to repay them in kind.

Naturally, this is not the only example of the breakdown in human relations, and precisely in those that should be the most unshakable. Our editorial board frequently receives testimonies about the bleak jungles of human lives where property usually plays a major role. Relatives turn into mortal enemies and fight in courtrooms over an inheritance. Because of some small deposit in the bank a daughter sues her father; brothers are capable of destroying all their good feelings shared in the past; anonymous letters are received, full of the informer's envy that some colleague of his is earning more although he is a no-good scoundrel; one neighbor is willing to torment another only because the latter has produced bigger and more luscious apricots in his garden. Can such individuals ever find true happiness? Is such conduct worthy of a man of our time?

And yet, like the two brothers from my story about the abandoned mother, it is precisely such individuals who show a kind and seemingly honest face in their workplace, among friends, wherever. They may be the ones who often loudly pontificate about morality and who harshly criticize and condemn others.

I know that in many instances we still are far from the ideal of the socialist man who is in full harmony physically and spiritually. Our society still has much to accomplish before the "higher moral principle" of ours takes root in the consciousness of most people and before fingers are publicly pointed at such individuals. It will take quite a while before man's corruption ceases to pollute his own soul and before he begins to build his happiness on other people's misfortune and stops deriving malicious satisfaction from it. Unlike the case of endangered nature, no fine can be prescribed for the devastation of human relations. That complicates everything even more, and yet, labor, political and human ethics cannot be regarded as separate categories, nor can their one malignant aspect be endlessly ignored and tolerated.

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