

TOWARDS **ABUNDANCE**

**Results of the
1953 State Plan
of the U.S.S.R.**

A "SOVIET NEWS" BOOKLET

One Penny

1954

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"The essential features and requirements of the basic law of Socialism might be formulated roughly in this way: the securing of the maximum satisfaction of the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of the whole of society through continuous expansion and perfection of socialist production on the basis of higher techniques."

Stalin—"Economic Problems of Socialism
in the U.S.S.R."



"Latent in the Soviet socialist system are tremendous, truly inexhaustible opportunities for the further, still more powerful development of our country's economy and culture, for constant improvement in the wellbeing of the people."

"The Communist Party of the Soviet Union regards it as its fundamental and main task to utilise these opportunities to the full, so as to ensure the further all-round progress of Soviet society, the uninterrupted and rapid development of the country's productive forces."

"The higher the Soviet people raise the country's productive forces, the more output our industry and agriculture produce, the more speedily the noble task of creating an abundance of products will be carried out and the triumph of communism in our country ensured."

From the Election Manifesto of the
Central Committee of the Communist
Party of the Soviet Union—February, 1954

TOWARDS ABUNDANCE

Results of the Fulfilment of the 1953 State Plan
for the Development of the National Economy of
the U.S.S.R.



Report by the Central Statistical Administration
of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers



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Soviet Economic Progress. Article from *New Times* 28

FULFILMENT OF THE U.S.S.R. STATE PLAN FOR 1953

Report by the Central Statistical
Administration of the U.S.S.R.
Council of Ministers

THE development of industry, agriculture and transport, the growth of capital construction, the expansion of home and foreign trade, the increase in the number of workers, and the improvement in the material and cultural standards of the people in 1953 are characterised by the following data:

I

FULFILMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION PLAN

The 1953 plan for *gross output* of industry was fulfilled as a whole by 101 per cent. The various Ministries fulfilled their annual industrial gross output plans as follows:

	Percentage of the Fulfilment of the Annual Plan for 1953
Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry ...	99
Ministry of the Coal Industry ...	99.4
Ministry of the Oil Industry ...	100.9
Ministry of the Chemical Industry ...	102
Ministry of Power Stations and the Electrical Industry ...	102
Ministry of the Engineering Industry ...	102
Ministry of the Transport and Heavy Engineering Industry ...	98
Ministry of the Building Materials Industry of the U.S.S.R. ...	99
Ministry of the Timber and Paper Industry of the U.S.S.R. ...	93
Ministry of Manufactured Consumer Goods of the U.S.S.R. ...	104
Ministry of the Food Industry of the U.S.S.R.	100.5

Industrial Enterprises of the Ministry of Railways	104
Industrial Enterprises of the Ministry of Culture of the U.S.S.R.	104
Industrial Enterprises of the Ministry of Health of the U.S.S.R.	102
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Industrial Co-operatives	103

Gross output of the entire industry of the U.S.S.R. increased in 1953, in comparison with 1952, by 12 per cent., and in comparison with 1950, by 45 per cent. This means that the target set by the Fifth Five-Year Plan for the growth of industrial output is being successfully fulfilled.

During the past year the government took a number of decisions aimed at bringing about a sharp increase in the output of consumer goods, with a view to achieving a considerable rise in the material wellbeing of the people.

As a result of this, the branches of industry producing consumer goods, in the course of 1953 and particularly during the second half of the year, developed at a higher rate than in 1952, and at a higher rate than was originally provided for by the plan for 1953. Whereas in 1952 output of these industries increased by 10.5 per cent., in 1953 output increased by 12 per cent., and in the second half of 1953 the increase was 14 per cent. as compared with the second half of 1952.

In 1953 the plan was exceeded for many kinds of industrial products.

The plan for the year was overfulfilled as regards the output of oil, natural gas, shales, iron and manganese ores, the production of petrol, paraffin, aluminium, electric power, electric bulbs, metal-cutting machine tools, steam boilers of large capacity, diesel engines, blast furnace and steel-foundry equipment, lorries, motor-cars and buses, trolleybuses, tram-cars, tractor-drawn ploughs and mowers, winnowing machines, potato harvesting combines, excavators, tractor-drawn scrapers and bulldozers, ball and roller bearings, mineral fertilisers, synthetic ammonia, synthetic carbolic acid, chemicals for combating agricultural pests, dyes and other chemicals, synthetic rubber, motor tyres, conveyer belts, roofing felt, window glass, paper, alcohol, and other items of production.

The plan for the year has also been overfulfilled as regards the production of silk, woollen and linen fabrics, cotton yarn and cotton thread articles, knitted underwear, hosiery, upright and grand pianos, sausage products, condensed milk, vegetable oils, margarine, macaroni products, confectionery, tea, grape wines, beer, champagne, tobacco, cigarettes, matches, soap, and other foodstuffs and manufactured consumer goods.

Certain Ministries, however, did not take the necessary steps to ensure the fulfilment of the plan for the output of certain industrial products. For instance, the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry failed to fulfil the output plan for a number of products, and in particular for a number of kinds of rolled ferrous metals in short supply; the Ministry of Power Stations and the Electrical Industry failed to fulfil the output plan for certain kinds of generators and electric motors; the Ministry of the Engineering Industry failed to fulfil the output plan for a number of types of agricultural machinery and textile equipment; the Ministry of the Transport and Heavy Engineering Industry did not fulfil the plan for locomotives and some kinds of power and rolling mill equipment; the Ministry of the Building Materials Industry of the U.S.S.R. did not fulfil the plan for bricks, roofing slate, and certain sanitation and technical goods. The Ministry of the Timber and Paper Industry of the U.S.S.R. did not fulfil the plan for the haulage of marketable timber. The Ministry of the Food Industry of the U.S.S.R. failed to ensure the fulfilment of the plan for the fish catch.

While there was a certain improvement in the quality of goods produced by the light and food industries, part of the output of many enterprises of the Ministry of Manufactured Consumer Goods of the U.S.S.R., of the Ministry of the Food Industry of the U.S.S.R., and particularly of the industrial co-operatives and local industry continued to be unsatisfactory as regards quality and range, failing to meet the requirements of the population; they failed to take adequate measures to improve the finish and external appearance of the goods. In particular, poor quality footwear, furniture, chinaware, poorly finished and unattractive textiles, and clothing and knitted goods with serious defects are still being turned out.

The growth of output in a number of industries was retarded because of the existence of a considerable number of enter-

prises functioning in an uneven way and not fulfilling the plan.

In many enterprises, particularly engineering factories, output over the month was uneven—during the first ten days of the month they functioned at a considerably lower level than in the following days. Such an uneven output of finished products gives rise to an incorrect system of work in the enterprises, leads to equipment standing idle, to wastage of the time of the labour power, to production capacities not being utilised to the full, to increased output of defective goods and to unproductive excess payments for overtime work, and this, in turn, results in unevenness in deliveries and the loading of transport.

In the coal, metallurgical, chemical and timber hauling industries and in the building materials industry, and also in a number of other branches of the national economy, there are still a considerable number of backward enterprises which fail to fulfil the targets of the state plan and which bring down the level of industrial output and the quality indices for work in these industries.

II

GROWTH OF INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

The output of major kinds of manufactured goods in 1953 increased as follows as compared with 1952:

	1953 production in percentages of 1952		1953 production in percentages of 1952
Pig Iron ...	109	Synthetic Rubber ...	113
Steel ...	110	Motor Tyres ...	107
Rolled Steel ...	110	Paper ...	110
Steel Tubing ...	116	Cement ...	115
Zinc ...	113	Window Glass ...	122
Lead ...	122	Roofing Slate ...	122
Coal ...	106	Roofing Felt ...	114
Oil ...	112	Bricks ...	112
Petrol ...	111	Prefabricated Houses ...	109
Paraffin ...	123	Alcohol ...	118
Electric Power	113	Cotton Textiles ...	105
Steam Turbines	140	Linen Textiles ...	112
Large Hydro-turbines ...	135	Woollen Textiles ...	109
Turbo-generators ...	147	Silk Textiles ...	178
Hydro-generators ...	115		

Large Electrical Machines ...	134	Leather Footwear of the Ministry of Manufactured Goods of the U.S.S.R. ...	104
Electric Motors	113	Hosiery ...	104
Mainline Locomotives ...	263	Knitted Underwear ...	116
Mainline Electric Locomotives ...	134	Knitted Outer Garments ...	103
Mainline Goods Wagons ...	103	Bicycles ...	115
Trolley-buses ...	121	Radio Sets ...	127
Lorries ...	111	Television Sets	225
Motor-cars ...	130	Gramophones	126
Motor-buses ...	127	Sewing Machines ...	124
Motor-cycles ...	137	Clocks and Watches ...	122
Ball and Roller Bearings ...	115	Cameras ...	109
Metallurgical Equipment ...	118	Upright and Grand Pianos	123
Excavators ...	112	Domestic Refrigerators ...	159
Oil Equipment ...	117	Vacuum Cleaners ...	200
Metal-cutting Machine Tools ...	114	Metal Bedsteads	145
Chemical Equipment ...	124	Furniture ...	114
Weaving Looms	102	Meat ...	112
Calculating Machines ...	124	Sausage Products ...	116
Tractors ...	113	Fish ...	103
Grain Combines	102	Butter ...	103
Tractor-drawn Ploughs ...	101	Dairy Produce	109
Self-propelled Mowers ...	146	Vegetable Oils	116
Flax Combines	107	Margarine ...	124
Beet Combines	150	Cheese ...	116
Winnowing Machines ...	102	Sugar ...	112
Caustic Soda ...	115	Confectionery	109
Soda ...	119	Macaroni Products ...	120
Mineral Fertilisers ...	109	Tinned Foods	114
Chemicals for Combating Agricultural Pests ...	143	Tea ...	106
		Soap ...	111
		Cigarettes ...	116
		Grape Wines ...	124
		Beer ...	113

There was a considerable increase in the output of manufactured consumer goods in the heavy industries and the engineering industry, particularly during the second half of 1953. The output of clocks and watches during the second half of 1953 increased by 29 per cent. as compared with the

corresponding period in 1952; bicycles 22 per cent.; radio sets 62 per cent.; domestic refrigerators 86 per cent.; and metal bedsteads 65 per cent. At the same time a number of enterprises of the Ministry of the Engineering Industry, the Ministry of the Transport and Heavy Engineering Industry, the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, the Ministry of Power Stations and the Electrical Industry, and the Ministry of the Timber and Paper Industry of the U.S.S.R. failed to fulfil their targets for the manufacture of particular items.

In 1953 there was a considerable increase in the output of goods in the ranges most in demand among the population. For instance, while the output of cotton piece goods increased by 5 per cent. as compared with 1952, that of cotton multi-colour woven fabrics increased by 78 per cent., and the output of cotton and artificial silk mixtures increased by 65 per cent.; while the output of woollen textiles increased by 9 per cent., that of pure woollen worsteds increased by 76 per cent.; while the output of silk textiles increased by 78 per cent., that of fabrics from staple fibres increased by 180 per cent.; while the output of knitted outer garments increased by 3 per cent., that of pure woollen and woollen mixture knitted outer garments increased by 12 per cent.; with a 4 per cent. increase in the output of footwear, that of smart footwear increased by 44 per cent.; while the output of tinned foods increased by 14 per cent., that of tinned meats increased by 29 per cent. and of condensed milk by 21 per cent.; with a 9 per cent. increase in the output of confectionery, the output of gateaux, pastries and cakes increased by 28 per cent. and that of soft-centred confectionery and chocolate-coated confectionery increased by 44 per cent. There has been a considerable increase in the output of packeted foodstuffs.

The improvement in the utilisation of equipment in industry continued during the past year. In the iron and steel industry the utilisation of useful volume of blast furnaces during the past year increased by 2 per cent. as compared with 1952, while the production of steel per square metre of open-hearth furnace increased by 5 per cent. At the enterprises of the Ministry of the Oil Industry exploitation drilling speed increased by 5 per cent. as compared with 1952, and prospecting drilling speed increased by 10 per cent. The percentage of light fractions produced from raw materials has increased.

In the power stations of the Ministry of Power Stations and the Electrical Industry the expenditure of fuel per unit of electric power produced was reduced by 1.9 per cent. Better use was made of capacities for the production of a number of the more important chemical products, as compared with last year. At the enterprises of the Ministry of the Building Materials Industry of the U.S.S.R. productivity per hour of rotary kilns increased by 10 per cent. and that of cement mills by 3 per cent. The output of glass per square metre of furnace area has increased and the coefficient of utilisation of the glass mass has improved.

At the same time considerable reserves of unutilised capacities still exist in industry. The Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry has not reached the standards set for the utilisation of blast and open-hearth furnaces; in mines of the Ministry of the Coal Industry utilisation of coal combines and coal-and rock-loading machinery is unsatisfactory; the Ministry of the Oil Industry has not fulfilled the year's target as regards speed of prospecting drilling; at the enterprises of the Ministry of the Engineering Industry inadequate use is made of machine-tool and forge-press equipment; unsatisfactory use is being made of the available machines and mechanisms in the lumber camps of the Ministry of the Timber and Paper Industry of the U.S.S.R.

During 1953, in accordance with the state plan for supplies, the national economy of the U.S.S.R. received considerably more raw materials, semi-manufactures, fuel, electric power and equipment than in 1952. There was a notable increase in the supply of semi-manufactures and equipment for agriculture and for the production of manufactured consumer goods and foodstuffs.

In 1953 production costs in industry were reduced by more than 5 per cent.; however, the target for the cutting of production costs in industry was not reached. The plan for reducing production costs was carried out in a most unsatisfactory way by the Ministry of the Timber and Paper Industry of the U.S.S.R., the Ministry of the Building Materials Industry of the U.S.S.R., the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry, the Ministry of the Coal Industry and the Ministry of the Transport and Heavy Engineering Industry.

The unsatisfactory way in which the plan for reducing production costs was carried out was due to the fact that many

enterprises failed to fulfil the plans for increasing labour productivity, and failed to ensure that the established standards were observed as regards consumption of raw materials, semi-manufactures and fuel, as a consequence of which there was excess expenditure of material and monetary resources, and also losses from defective output, and excessive administrative economic expenditures and overheads.

III

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EQUIPMENT IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

Work to develop and introduce new equipment was carried out during 1953 in all branches of the national economy.

The Soviet engineering industry in 1953 developed some 700 important new types and models of machines and mechanisms, ensuring the further technical progress of the national economy; these included more than a hundred new types of highly efficient equipment for the light and food industries.

New types of power, electro-technical, oil, chemical and metallurgical equipment were made, and also new types of equipment for the mechanisation of labour-consuming processes in coal mines, ore mines and in building.

New types of machines, comprehensive units and devices have been produced for the textile, fur and clothing industries, including highly efficient twisting machines, a carding machine of improved efficiency, a high-speed sizing machine for yarn, a rope-dyeing machine for wool, machines for the finishing of pile fabrics, and others. New machines, comprehensive units and automats that help to increase labour productivity, make working conditions easier and ensure high quality output continued to be introduced.

For the manufacture of foodstuffs there have been developed new, improved and more efficient automatic lines for the filling, sealing and finishing of food products; new types of equipment for the manufacture of small sausages, and for chilling and packing fresh fish; packeting automats for various types of food products; and new types of equipment for vegetable-dehydrating enterprises. Enterprises of the food industry were equipped with automatic lines for the production of confectionery and beer, and also of toilet soaps. Various types of highly efficient automats were introduced for packeting margarine and tea, and for processing fish.

In order to ensure further mechanisation and the achievement of the comprehensive mechanisation of agricultural work, more than 80 models of various types of agricultural machines and implements were produced in 1953. These include a potato-harvesting combine for heavy soils, a cabbage-harvesting machine, a wide mower for attachment to the DT-54 tractor, a silage-harvesting combine, a lime and mineral fertiliser sprayer, an elevator haystacker, etc. For the first time, the mass production of four-row potato planters was organised, making it possible to plant potatoes by the "square-cluster" method with simultaneous application of fertiliser dressing, and also the mass production of tractor and crane haystackers, maize-harvesting combines and potato-harvesting combines for light soils.

The Ministries, however, did not completely fulfil the established plan for mastering the production of new types of machines and mechanisms and for manufacturing them.

Considerable work has been done in the field of automatisa-tion and mechanisation of production and the introduction of new technological processes.

At the enterprises of the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry, work continued on the automatisa-tion of the thermal régime for blast and open-hearth furnaces. Up-to-date technological processes which increase the efficiency of comprehensive metallurgical units were further developed. Production of a large number of new types of steels, ferrous and non-ferrous alloys, and new rolled metal sections has been mastered. As compared with 1952 there was an increase in the amount of work that was mechanised in labour-consuming and heavy processes in the mining of ferrous and non-ferrous ores.

In the mines of the Ministry of the Coal Industry work was carried out for the further mechanisation of the more labour-consuming processes in coal mining. The amount of mechanised work in 1953, as compared with 1952, increased by 18 per cent. for the piling of coal in the workings, and by 17 per cent. in the loading of coal and rock when cutting the main preparatory workings. The introduction of new types of props for preparatory workings and drawn workings was continued. The volume of preparatory workings in which metal sets and ferro-concrete props were used for propping increased by 36 per cent. compared with 1952.

In the oil industry, the use of the turbine method of drilling

was extended. By the end of 1953 the number of bits with a "forced régime" of drilling, ensuring increased speeds in drilling wells, had increased by 50 per cent. as compared with 1952. Increased use was made of methods for maintaining bed pressure and of auxiliary methods of oil extraction by means of driving water, gas and air into the oil seams, which made it possible to raise the output of oil and increase the utilisation of oil-bearing strata.

In the chemical industry a further improvement in the range of synthetic dyes was achieved in 1953 by mastering the manufacture of new types of faster and more brilliant dyes.

At thermal power stations the use of high pressure and high temperature steam was increased. At a number of big power stations the all-round automatisisation of boiler rooms was carried out, including automatisisation of all the main processes, remote control, inspection and signalling. The work of switching over the operation of hydro-electric stations to remote control was continued.

In the engineering industry there has been further introduction of up-to-date technological processes in the foundry, forge, heat treatment, mechanical and assembly shops. The equipping of engineering factories with highly efficient comprehensive units and special machine tools, automatic and semi-automatic plant, even-flow and automatic lines for the mechanised working of parts and assembly of products was continued.

Work continued on automatisisation and remote control in the cement, glass and ceramics industries. Enterprises in the cement industry were equipped with powerful new furnaces. Mechanised production of polished glass on a conveyer with a high degree of automatisisation of the process, and the mechanised production of ceramics for facings have been mastered; mechanised mass production of large reinforced concrete sections for housing and industrial construction has also been mastered.

At the same time, a number of Ministries did not reach the 1953 plan targets for the introduction of new technological processes and the automatisisation and mechanisation of production. The plans were carried out in a most unsatisfactory way as regards the mechanisation of labour-consuming and heavy processes in the coal-mining, timber, peat and ore-mining industries.

The amount of electricity used in work in industry per

worker increased by 7 per cent. in 1953, as compared with 1952.

In all branches of the national economy there was an increase in the number of inventions and suggestions for improved production methods made by workers. The number of inventions, technical improvements and suggestions for improved methods of work which were introduced in industry, building and transport during 1953 amounted to more than 850,000.

IV AGRICULTURE

The area sown to all crops in 1953 increased by 1,400,000 hectares* as compared with 1952. The area under wheat, the most valuable grain crop, increased by two million hectares. The area under sugar beet, oil-bearing crops, potatoes, vegetables and gourds increased; the area of perennial grasses grown for hay increased, and so also did the areas under annual grasses, fodder root crops and silage crops, though the planned targets were not reached for the sowing and planting of fibre flax, hemp, potatoes and vegetables.

Although weather conditions in a number of districts of the country were unfavourable, the actual harvest of grain crops in 1953 was close to that of 1952. As compared with 1952 there was an increase in the actual harvest of cotton, sugar beet, sunflower, vegetables and gourds. The potato harvest was approximately the same as in 1952.

In accordance with the decision of the September plenary meeting of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on "Measures for the Further Development of Agriculture in the U.S.S.R.," substantial assistance was given to agriculture already in 1953.

In 1953 the material and technical base of agriculture became greater and stronger. During the past year agriculture received 139,000 general-purpose tractors (in terms of 15 h.p. units) and 18,000 cultivator-tractors, 41,000 grain combines, of which 22,000 were self-propelled, 69,000 lorries and more than two million soil-cultivating implements and sowing, harvesting and other agricultural machines, and also machinery and equipment for the livestock sections of the farms. In 1953 the collective and state farms received more than six

* One hectare = 2.47 acres.

million tons of mineral fertilisers, or 15 per cent. more than in the previous year.

The collective and state farms carried out the autumn work of sowing winter crops and preparing the soil for spring sowing for the 1954 harvest in shorter and better times than in previous years from the standpoint of agricultural technique. In the autumn of 1953 the collective and state farms carried out 13 million hectares of autumn ploughing and ploughed three and a half million hectares of black fallow more than in the autumn of 1952. However, the planned targets were not reached for autumn ploughing and the ploughing of black fallow.

The increase in the technical equipment of agriculture made it possible to raise the level of mechanisation of agricultural work on the collective and state farms. In 1953 machine and tractor stations carried out 17 per cent. more of the agricultural work on the collective farms than in 1952. Last year the machine and tractor stations, with their own tractors and machines, carried out more than 80 per cent. of the main field work on the collective farms. Autumn ploughing and the ploughing of fallow on the collective farms have been almost completely mechanised, the sowing of winter crops was mechanised to the level of 93 per cent., and sowing of spring crops to 83 per cent. Combines harvested 77 per cent. of all grain crops; roughly 80 per cent. of the sugar beet area was harvested by beet combines and tractor-drawn beet-lifters. There is a lag in the mechanisation of work on the sowing and harvesting of fibre flax, the planting and harvesting of potatoes and vegetables, the harvesting of cotton, and also work on the harvesting of grasses and the silage of fodder crops.

In 1953 the machine and tractor stations carried out work for the installation of equipment to mechanise water supplies in 8,000 collective farm livestock sections, for the installation of equipment for the steaming of fodder in 15,000 sections, for the processing of coarse fodder in 6,000 sections, for the installation of automatic watering of cattle in 4,000 sections, and for the mechanical milking of cows in 1,000 sections.

The machine and tractor stations, however, in 1953 did not completely fulfil the plan for harvesting potatoes and flax, clearing stubble, harvesting mown hay, silage of fodder and mechanisation of labour-consuming operations in the livestock sections of the collective farms.

There was an increase in the use of electricity on the collec-

tive and state farms for the mechanisation of labour-consuming production processes in agriculture and in the livestock sections, but the plan for the electrification of agricultural production was not entirely fulfilled.

The number of commonly owned livestock on the collective farms, as on October 1, 1953, had increased as follows, compared with October 1, 1952: cows 8 per cent., sheep 9 per cent. and pigs 10 per cent. The number of livestock on the state farms of the Ministry of State Farms of the U.S.S.R. increased as follows between October 1, 1952, and October 1, 1953: cows 9 per cent., sheep 11 per cent. and pigs 8 per cent.

The total number of livestock in all categories of holdings—on collective and state farms, and owned individually by collective farmers and workers—according to the livestock census for October 1, 1953, was as follows: cattle 63 million, including 26 million cows; pigs 47,600,000; sheep and goats 135,800,000; and horses 16,200,000.

In view of the increase achieved in 1953 in the total number of productive livestock, the government has raised the 1954 plan targets previously fixed for cattle, pigs, sheep and goats.

In order to increase the agronomic and zoo-technical assistance to collective farms, more than 100,000 agronomists and zoo-technicians joined the machine and tractor stations by the end of 1953 in order to help the collective farms, through their release as a result of the reorganisation of agricultural bodies and the transfer of experts employed in other institutions and organisations to work on the collective farms. Furthermore, a large number of engineers and technicians have joined the machine and tractor stations from industry and other branches of national economy, in order to work as directors, chief engineers and managers of repair shops, and in other posts.

V

GROWTH OF RAILWAY, WATER AND MOTOR TRANSPORT

The railway goods transport plan for 1953 was overfulfilled. Compared with 1952, goods turnover increased by 7 per cent.

The general plan for average daily loadings was fulfilled by the railways 101 per cent. The targets for the loading of oil and of petroleum products, ferrous metals, mineral building materials, ores, fluxes, coke, chemical and mineral fertilisers,

grain and flour, salt, and sugar were fulfilled or overfulfilled. The plan for the loading of timber and logs, cement, refractories, scrap iron, peat and cotton was not fulfilled and neither was the plan for the transport of coal from the mines of the Ministry of the Coal Industry.

Average daily loading of all goods on the railways during 1953 increased by 7 per cent. as compared with 1952, loadings of coal increasing by 5 per cent., oil and petroleum products 13 per cent., ferrous metals 9 per cent., timber 2 per cent., cement 13 per cent., refractories 6 per cent., ores 9 per cent., fluxes 8 per cent., coke 9 per cent., and chemical and mineral fertilisers 7 per cent.

Loadings of flour, sugar, meat, vegetable oils, uncured tobacco, makhorka and tobacco products, macaroni, tea, fruit and vegetables increased by 15 to 26 per cent.

The average turnround time of goods wagons in 1953 was reduced by 3 per cent. as compared with 1952; however, the target for speeding up the turnround of wagons was not quite reached. In 1953 the commercial speed of goods trains increased, as compared with 1952, but the 1953 plan target was not reached. Standing time of wagons for loading purposes and at technical stations was reduced in 1953 as compared with 1952, but the 1953 target for reducing the standing time of wagons for loading operations was not reached by the goods despatchers.

The average daily run of goods locomotives in 1953 increased as compared with 1952, but the 1953 plan target was not reached. The expenditure of fuel per ton-kilometre on the railways was reduced by 3 per cent. as compared with 1952.

The year's plan for goods turnover was fulfilled 100.2 per cent. by the Ministry of the Merchant Navy and Inland Waterways as a whole.

The Merchant Navy fulfilled the plan for cargo turnover 102 per cent. and the plan for cargo transport 103 per cent. The Merchant Navy's goods turnover in 1953 increased by 9 per cent. as compared with 1952 and cargo transport increased by 10 per cent.

The inland waterways fulfilled the goods turnover plan 99 per cent., and the plan for cargo transport 100.6 per cent. The plan for the transport of oil and of petroleum products, timber, ores, mineral building materials, cotton, fish and fish products was overfulfilled. The plan was not fulfilled for the

transport of coal, grain, salt and potatoes. Goods turnover and cargo transport increased on the inland waterways as compared with 1952.

The goods turnover of motor transport in 1953 increased by more than 13 per cent. as compared with 1952.

VI GROWTH OF CAPITAL WORKS

The volume of state capital investments in the national economy in 1953 was 104 per cent. of 1952.

Capital investments increased, compared with 1952, in the ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgical industries, in the power stations, engineering, fuel and chemical industries, in the timber and paper industry, in the manufacture of building materials and in other branches of heavy industry.

The volume of state capital investments in the building of enterprises of the light and food industries during the year exceeded the previous year's volume by eight per cent., the increase over the second half of the year being 10 per cent. compared with the corresponding period of 1952. In 1953, about 300 new state industrial enterprises manufacturing consumer goods were brought into operation. Capital investments in the building of trading enterprises increased during 1953 by 35 per cent., the increase during the second half of the year amounting to 48 per cent.

The volume of investments in construction work for cultural purposes and for community services during 1953 increased by 22 per cent. Extensive work has been carried out over the past year on the building of schools, hospitals and health centres, on holiday homes, sanatoriums, kindergartens and nurseries, Young Pioneer holiday camps and on the building of entertainment and other cultural and social enterprises and institutions.

Nevertheless, the plan for capital investment and the putting into operation of productive capacities in the national economy was not quite fulfilled in 1953.

In particular, the plan was not fulfilled by the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry, the Ministry of the Coal Industry, the Ministry of the Oil Industry, the Ministry of Power Stations and the Electrical Industry, the Ministry of the Building Materials Industry of

the U.S.S.R., the Ministry of Manufactured Consumer Goods of the U.S.S.R. and the Ministry of the Food Industry of the U.S.S.R.

In 1953 building organisations received a large quantity of high-output machinery and equipment. The existing stock of excavators was increased by 23 per cent. compared with 1952, bulldozers increased by 18 per cent. and tower cranes by more than 40 per cent.; there was also a great increase in the stock of other building machinery and equipment. On many construction sites, however, machinery and equipment were not utilised to the full, mechanisation of labour-consuming and heavy jobs was carried out inadequately, and the established plans for the introduction of comprehensive mechanisation of building work were not fulfilled.

Many building organisations failed to ensure the proper organisation of building assembly work and the proper organisation of labour, as a consequence of which a number of buildings and projects under construction, which should have been completed in the past year, remained unfinished. On many building sites there were considerable losses of time and turnover of manpower, and fulfilment of labour productivity plans was not ensured, funds were overspent and not only were no reductions in building costs achieved, but in a number of cases, the cost of building work was actually allowed to increase.

VII

EXPANSION OF HOME AND FOREIGN TRADE

Further expansion of Soviet trade continued in 1953. The plan for retail trade in 1953 was overfulfilled.

Owing to the considerable successes attained in the development of industrial and agricultural production, the government put into effect, beginning with April 1, 1953, a new reduction in state retail prices for foodstuffs and manufactures, the sixth consecutive cut since the abolition of rationing.* The latest reduction in prices has resulted in the further strengthening of the Soviet rouble and in a considerable rise in the living standards of the people of our country.

In 1953 the government took steps to increase the quantities of goods available for sale to the population, as a result of which, between April and December, the trading organisations received additional consumer goods to the value of 33,000 million

* In December 1947.

roubles, over and above the 312,000 million roubles' worth allocated for sale to the population between April and December 1953. However, the Ministry of Manufactured Consumer Goods of the U.S.S.R., the Ministry of the Food Industry of the U.S.S.R., the Ministry of the Timber and Paper Industry of the U.S.S.R., the Ministry of the Engineering Industry, the Ministry of Power Stations and the Electrical Industry and a number of other Ministries did not quite achieve the targets for additional supplies of goods for sale to the population.

Sales of goods to the population in 1953 increased considerably compared with 1952. This increase was achieved as a result of increased output of consumer goods, and through the mobilisation of other state resources; and, in addition, sales of higher grade and better quality goods also rose.

In the course of 1953, *state and co-operative* sales to the population (in comparable prices) were 21 per cent. greater than in 1952, the increase in the second half of the year being 26 per cent. compared with the corresponding period of 1952. Sales by consumers' co-operatives trading in rural localities, moreover, increased by 24 per cent. during 1953 as compared with 1952, the sales in the second half of the year being 30 per cent. higher than in the corresponding period of 1952.

In 1953, sales of individual foodstuffs increased, compared with 1952, as follows: meat and meat products, 36 per cent.; fish and fish products, 8 per cent.; butter, 36 per cent.; vegetable oils and other edible fats, 19 per cent.; cheese, 28 per cent.; eggs, 16 per cent.; sugar, 23 per cent.; confectionery, 12 per cent.; tea, 16 per cent.; fruit and melons, etc., 43 per cent.; vegetables, 25 per cent.

The greatest increases in 1953, compared with 1952, took place in the sales of the following manufactures: cotton piece-goods by 22 per cent.; woollen textiles, 18 per cent.; silk textiles, 45 per cent.; clothing, 29 per cent.; knitted goods, 23 per cent.; hosiery, 31 per cent.; leather footwear, 29 per cent.; clocks and watches, 38 per cent.; sewing machines, 34 per cent.; furniture, 39 per cent.; vacuum cleaners, 130 per cent.; gramophones, 30 per cent.; radio sets, 32 per cent., of which the increase in the sale of television sets was 64 per cent.; bicycles, 16 per cent.; motor-cycles, 55 per cent.; motor-cars, 160 per cent. There was a substantial increase

in 1953, compared with 1952, in the retail sales of goods for economic production purposes: lorries, sawn goods, timber, cement, window glass, slates, roofing felt, nails and roofing iron.

The expansion in the trading network of the state and co-operative system continued in 1953. During the year some 6,000 new shops were opened. There has been a considerable increase in the network of specialised shops in towns, on workers' housing estates and in rural localities.

The demand of the population for certain goods is not, however, being adequately met. Trading organisations do not study the demands of the population sufficiently and they make mistakes in distribution and delivery of goods. There are serious shortcomings in the siting of the retail trade systems. The trading organisations do not conduct a sufficient drive for quality in the goods supplied by industry for sale to the population.

Circulation costs in the trading organisations continued high in 1953, although they were reduced as compared with 1952; the plan for reducing circulation costs was not fulfilled.

In 1953, sales of agricultural produce in the *collective farm markets* continued to increase; there was a particularly big increase in the sales of wheaten flour, pork, eggs, poultry, vegetables and fruit. The prices of agricultural produce in the collective farm markets were reduced.

In the field of *foreign trade* the Soviet Union continued to extend economic ties with foreign countries in 1953 as in previous years. During 1953 the Soviet Union traded with 51 foreign countries, the trade with 25 of them being conducted on the basis of yearly or long-term trade agreements. For the first time since the war, trade agreements have been concluded with India, France, Argentina, Greece and Iceland.

The Soviet Union's foreign trade increased to 23,000 million roubles, compared with 20,800 million roubles in 1952, i.e., by 11 per cent. In 1953, foreign trade (in comparable prices) was nearly four times the prewar level.

In addition to a further increase in Soviet trade with the countries of the democratic camp, there was a considerable increase in trade with a number of countries of Western Europe and the Near and Middle East. At the same time the range of goods exported and imported was extended.

VIII INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WORKERS AND GROWTH OF LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY

The number of workers in the national economy of the U.S.S.R. increased considerably, amounting at the end of 1953 to 44,800,000.

In view of the transfer of tractor-drivers, tractor team leaders and their assistants, excavator operators and their assistants, and storekeepers to the permanent staffs of the machine and tractor stations, and, similarly, in view of the increase in the number of experts, by the end of 1953 the size of the permanent staff of the machine and tractor stations had increased by 1,400,000 compared with the end of 1952.

In 1953, as in previous years, there was no unemployment in the country.

Last year 320,000 young skilled workers passed out from trade, railway, mining and factory schools, and started work in industry, construction and transport.

Assisted by individual group instruction or training courses, 7,500,000 workers acquired skills or improved their qualifications.

On the basis of increased machinery and equipment, and the improved skill of the workers, labour productivity increased during 1953 by six per cent. compared with 1952 in industry, and by four per cent. in construction. However, the plan for increasing labour productivity in industry and construction was not completely fulfilled. The Ministry of the Transport and Heavy Engineering Industry, the Ministry of the Timber and Paper Industry of the U.S.S.R., the Ministry of the Coal Industry, the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry, the Ministry of the Engineering Industry, the Ministry of the Building Materials Industry of the U.S.S.R., the Ministry of the Food Industry of the U.S.S.R. and the Ministry of Construction carried out the plan for increasing labour productivity in an unsatisfactory manner.

IX GROWTH OF NATIONAL INCOME AND IMPROVED MATERIAL AND CULTURAL STANDARDS OF THE PEOPLE

During the past year a further improvement in their material position and a higher cultural level was achieved for the workers, peasants and intellectuals.

In 1953, the national income of the U.S.S.R. increased by eight per cent. compared with 1952. At the same time, the share of the national income at the personal disposal of the working people increased, while the share of the national income remaining at the disposal of the state dropped slightly.

The reduction in state retail prices for consumer goods was carried out on a larger scale and on a wider range of goods than in 1952. Calculated on a full year, the direct benefit to the population from this reduction of prices, as regards state and co-operative trade alone, amounted to over 50,000 million roubles compared with the 24,000 million roubles a year saving received by the population from the 1952 cut in prices.

The increase in the national income and the measures carried out by the government ensured a further increase in the incomes of workers and peasants.

The wages fund for workers increased in 1953 compared with 1952 by five per cent., while the average monthly monetary earnings increased by two per cent.

The real wages of the workers increased to a far greater extent, owing to the reduction in prices of consumer goods. While monetary wages rose on an average by two per cent., the real wages of workers rose owing to the reduction in prices, by a further 10 per cent.

Moreover during 1953 workers received from the state budget and from the funds of enterprises, substantial payments and allowances, the volume of which, calculated per worker, was increased by 11 per cent. compared with the previous year, taking into account the reduction in prices. As in previous years, workers received benefits and pensions from the social welfare and social insurance funds, grants to mothers of large families and mothers without breadwinners, students' grants, free medical aid, accommodation in sanatoriums and holiday homes free or at reduced fees, free training and further professional and trade instruction, and a number of other grants and privileges. All Soviet workers received at least two weeks' annual holiday on full pay, while in a number of trades the workers received longer holidays.

In connection with the government's decision to reduce the amount of the Loan floated, there was a substantial reduction in 1953 in the contributions of workers and peasants on loan subscriptions.

All in all, through increased monetary earnings, the reduced prices of consumer goods and the increased grants and privileges from state funds, the real incomes of workers, calculated per employed person, increased during the year by more than 13 per cent.

Capital investments in state housing construction increased by 11 per cent. during 1953. With the help of state credits, state enterprises and institutions, local Soviets and the population of towns and workers' housing estates have built a total of over 28 million square metres† of housing during 1953.

In 1953, and particularly during the second half of the year, the incomes of the peasants increased substantially.

While there has been a reduction in state retail prices, there has, at the expense of the state budget and by reducing circulation costs, been a considerable increase in procurement prices paid for meat, milk, wool, potatoes and vegetables delivered by the collective farms and collective farmers to the state as obligatory deliveries. A system of state purchases of meat, milk, vegetables and potatoes has been introduced, at prices considerably in excess of the procurement prices.

The quotas of obligatory deliveries from the collective farmers' personal auxiliary holdings have been reduced, the agricultural tax on each collective farm holding has been reduced and any outstanding arrears for agricultural tax for previous years have been completely written off. Moreover, all previous years' indebtedness by collective farmers' holdings, against obligatory deliveries to the state of livestock produce and potatoes, has been written off, and collective farms' indebtedness for previous years' obligatory deliveries of potatoes and vegetables has been written off. As a result of the reduction in the total of obligatory deliveries, the collective farms and collective farmers had the opportunity of selling to the state a considerable part of their commodity production at the higher state purchasing prices. The collective farms and collective farmers received a whole number of other material privileges when they fulfilled delivery plans.

As a result of the carrying out of these measures for the economic encouragement of collective farms and collective farmers, and measures in the field of taxation policy, the incomes of the collective farms and the collective farmers increased in 1953 by more than 13,000 million roubles.

† Over 300 million square feet. Soviet figures for domestic floor space exclude space devoted to kitchens, bathrooms, lavatories, halls and passageways.

In addition, the peasants benefited very considerably from the reduction in state retail prices carried out in 1953, which for goods purchased by the peasants, amounted on an average to 11 per cent.

Like the workers, the peasants received free medical aid, free education, grants to students, benefits for mothers of large families and mothers without breadwinners, and other payments and privileges. The total of the payments and privileges for peasants at state expense increased by 14 per cent. in 1953 compared with the previous year, taking into account the reduction in prices.

A further indication of the increased incomes of the peasants is to be seen in the fact that over 400,000 new dwelling houses were built in rural localities during 1953.

As a result of the increased state expenditure for social and cultural measures, the budget expenditures on the reduction of retail prices, and other appropriations directed at ensuring improved material standards of wellbeing for the working people, the population of the U.S.S.R. as a whole received 195,000 million roubles, compared with 147,000 million roubles in 1952. At the same time, the working people contributed to the budget from their personal incomes, in the form of taxes and levies and in loan subscriptions, 65,000 million roubles, or 21,000 million roubles less than in the previous year. Thus, during 1953 the workers and collective farmers received 130,000 million roubles more from the budget than the sum they contributed to it from their personal incomes, as compared with 61,000 million roubles more in 1952.

Thanks to increased monetary incomes, there was a substantial increase in savings bank deposits by the population. The increase in these deposits in 1953 was more than 12,000 million roubles, compared with a 4,500 million roubles increase in deposits during 1952.

On the basis of the increased real wages of the workers and the increased incomes of the peasants, the total incomes of workers and peasants increased during 1953 by 13 per cent. as compared with 1952 (in comparable prices).

The growth in cultural construction continued in 1953, and the cultural level of the Soviet people continued to rise.

In connection with the development of secondary education, the number of pupils in the eighth to tenth forms of secondary

schools increased by 1,307,000 compared with 1952, 518,000 of these being in rural localities.

In conformity with the task set, to change over from seven-year education to universal secondary education in the capitals of the republics, in the big towns in the republics and in the regional, territorial and largest industrial centres, the number of eighth to tenth form pupils in these towns increased by 34 per cent. during 1953.

The number of those passing out of the tenth forms of secondary schools increased by 40 per cent. compared with 1952.

Higher educational establishments (including correspondence institutions) were attended by 1,562,000 students, 120,000 more than in 1952. Technical and other secondary schools giving specialised education (including correspondence schools) were attended by 1,644,000, or 166,000 more than in 1952. During the past year more than 500,000 young specialists graduated from the higher and secondary specialised educational establishments. There was an increase in the number of post-graduate research students being trained by higher educational establishments and scientific institutions.

The total number of specialists with a full higher education or a secondary technical education, employed in the national economy in 1953, was eight per cent. higher than in 1952.

The training of working people who continued at their normal work went on expanding. The number of students in evening and correspondence higher and secondary specialised educational establishments and in the general educational schools for young workers and village youth increased by 17 per cent., compared with 1952.

In 1953, there were more than 380,000 libraries of all types, with over a thousand million books; of these 285,000 libraries were in rural localities.

The number of cinema installations exceeded 51,000 and, compared with 1952, increased by 2,000. However, despite the general increase in the number of cinema installations, there are serious shortcomings in the work of the network of cinemas, particularly in rural localities. A large number of cinema installations did not operate regularly, and some were out of action for long periods.

During the summer of 1953, over 5,500,000 children and young people stayed in country and town Pioneer camps, children's sanatoriums and excursion and tourist centres, or

were taken for the summer in organised parties to country places, by kindergartens, children's homes and nurseries.

The further extension of the system of hospitals, maternity homes, dispensaries and other medical institutions, and of sanatoriums and holiday homes, continued in 1953. The number of doctors increased by more than 11,000, compared with 1952. The number of beds in hospitals and maternity homes increased by over 60,000, compared with 1952. Accommodation in sanatoriums and holiday homes increased by nearly 12,000 places. The network of kindergartens and nurseries was enlarged. There was a considerable increase in the manufacture of highly effective medical and health preserving materials, apparatus for diagnostic and treatment purposes and medical equipment.

During the past year, town planning work has been carried out in towns, housing estates and rural district centres, for the building of municipal enterprises, water supply systems, sewage systems, municipal baths, laundries, restaurants and Collective Farmers' Houses, on the extension of tramways, trolleybus and bus routes, and on the provision of gas and district heating systems for residential buildings. Extensive work was also carried out for the paving and concreting of urban streets and squares, the planting of greenery in towns and housing estates, and the laying out of boulevards, gardens and parks.

Soviet Economic Progress

Article from "New Times"

THE periodic reports on fulfilment of the national economic plans of the U.S.S.R. vividly reflect the country's swift and confident advances in the economic and cultural fields. They record the achievements of the peaceful constructive labour of the Soviet people, achievements which grow more impressive and acquire greater international importance every year.

Fresh evidence of this is to be found in the report on the fulfilment of the national economic plan for 1953 issued by the Central Statistical Administration of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers at the end of January.

The report contains a wealth of facts and figures on all

branches of economy and departments of culture. Expressed in them are the main features of the Soviet Union's economic development.

In common with all other aspects of its policy, a permanent feature of the Soviet Union's economic development plans is the fact that they are directed towards peaceful construction.

In 1953, as in previous years, the government programmes were fulfilled or overfulfilled in industry, rail and water transport, capital construction and trade. If we take over-all industrial production, we find that the year's plan was fulfilled *101 per cent.*

Goods of the most varied description were produced in large quantities over and above the plan—machine tools, high-capacity steam boilers, blast furnaces and steel furnace equipment, agricultural and other machines, synthetic rubber, lorries and motor cars, silk, woollen and linen cloth, knitted fabrics, pianos, sausage, macaroni, confectionery, tea, wine, cigarettes and many other items of general consumption, both manufactures and foodstuffs.

The 101 per cent. fulfilment of the 1953 plan means that Soviet industry in that year produced 12 per cent. more goods than in the previous year, 1952, and 45 per cent. more than in 1950, the last year of the first postwar Five-Year Plan. It means that Soviet industry is successfully coping with the targets of the present Five-Year Plan.

In 1953, it produced approximately *two and a half times more* than in the prewar year 1940. More convincing evidence could scarcely be provided of the effectiveness of Soviet planning, of the inexhaustible creative power of the Soviet social and political system, of the mighty constructive effort of the Soviet people, rallied around their beloved Communist Party.

The Soviet Union's first-class industry ensures the continuous technical progress of all branches of the country's economy. In this respect, too, 1953 was a year of great achievement. The Soviet engineering industry produced some 700 new types and designs of machines and equipment of the greatest importance to various branches of the economy, including over 100 new types of high-power equipment for the light and food industries, and over 80 new types of agricultural machines and implements.

Mechanisation and automatic control were more extensively introduced at power stations and in the metallurgical, coal,

oil and other industries, while new production techniques helped to improve efficiency of machines and equipment, lighten the labour of workers and ensure better quality goods.

In 1953, the Communist Party and the Soviet government adopted important decisions outlining measures for the further development of agriculture.

In line with these decisions, substantial assistance was rendered to agriculture already in 1953. Its technical equipment was greatly increased by the addition, in 1953 alone, of 157,000 tractors, 41,000 grain combines, and more than two million farm machines and implements.

At the call of the Communist Party upwards of 100,000 agronomists and livestock experts left other jobs to go and work permanently in the machine and tractor stations and assist the collective farms, as did large numbers of engineers and technicians formerly working in industry and other branches of the economy.

The crop area in 1953 showed an increase of 1,400,000 hectares (roughly $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres) over the previous year. Bigger cotton, sugar beet, sunflower, vegetable and melon crops were obtained, and the collective farms enlarged their flocks and herds.

Though weather conditions in 1953 were unfavourable in a number of areas, the cereal crop actually gathered was close to that of 1952. All this demonstrates the power of socialist, collective farming.

It is a basic aim of the Communist Party and the Soviet government and the object of socialist economic development to ensure the greater prosperity of the Soviet people, the maximum satisfaction of the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of society. To promote a further upward movement in the continuously rising material and cultural standards of the Soviet people, last year the Soviet government adopted a series of decisions envisaging a steep rise in output of articles of mass consumption.

That the first months of implementation of these decisions have already borne fruit is indicated by the figures for 1953. In that year, and especially in the second half, the output of the industries producing consumer goods increased at a faster rate than in 1952, and faster than was provided for by the original plan for 1953.

Whereas in 1952 output of these items increased 10.5 per cent., in 1953 it increased 12 per cent., while volume of output

in the second half of 1953 was 14 per cent. greater than in the corresponding period of 1952.

This figure—14 per cent.—gives an idea of the scale on which production of consumer goods is being expanded.

Noteworthy, too, is the improvement in the *quality* of products. In the Soviet Union, in contradistinction to the capitalist countries, the purchasing capacity of the people is not falling but rapidly rising, and consequently there is an increasing growth in the demand for the more valuable foods and manufactures, including bicycles, motorcycles, motor cars, radio and television sets, clocks and watches, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, etc.

For the fuller satisfaction of this demand, Soviet industry in 1953 particularly increased its output of such items as pure-wool cloth (76 per cent.), high-class footwear (44 per cent.), television sets (125 per cent.), vacuum cleaners (100 per cent.), refrigerators (59 per cent.), and so on.

The economic figures for 1953 reflect a substantial rise in the material and cultural standards of the Soviet people. This is to be seen in the fact that on April 1 government retail prices were considerably reduced, for the sixth time since the abolition of rationing. The reduction represented an annual saving to the population of over 50,000 million roubles. It is to be seen in the fact that the volume of government and co-operative retail sales in 1953 increased 21 per cent.

It is to be seen in the broad scope of housing construction, in the building in the course of the year of upwards of 28 million square metres (about $33\frac{1}{2}$ million square yards) of housing in towns and industrial communities, and of over 400,000 new homes in rural areas. It is to be seen in the rising balances in savings bank accounts: an increase of over 12,000 million roubles in 1953, as against 4,500 million in 1952.

Measured in the same prices, the total income of workers and farmers was 13 per cent. greater in 1953 than in the previous year.

The year 1953 saw a similar picture of steady progress in the cultural field, as reflected in the greater number of secondary schools and higher educational establishments,

libraries, cinemas, holiday homes, sanatoriums, excursion and tourist centres, children's camps and so on.

Not subject to the slumps and crises which afflict the capitalist economy, the socialist economy of the Soviet Union is expanding and progressing from year to year. And from year to year the Soviet people are living better.

These advances are due to the incomparable advantages of the Soviet social and political system, and to the home and foreign policies of the Communist Party and the Soviet government, which aim at advancing the wellbeing of the Soviet people, at the consolidation of peace and the promotion of friendly co-operation on an equal footing with all nations.

This policy is reflected in the report on economic development in the Soviet Union in 1953, notably in the figures on foreign trade, which reveal an expansion of commercial relations with foreign countries.

The figures for foreign trade show that the Soviet Union is anxious to develop trade with other countries on mutually acceptable terms, and that its achievements in this field are already quite considerable.

We know that the aggressive elements in certain western countries, above all in the United States, striving to increase rather than to lessen international tension, have created numerous barriers to the development of international trade, especially with the Soviet Union, China and the European people's democracies.

The Soviet Union's foreign trade returns for 1953 show that the compulsion of reality, the obvious interest and advantage of the overwhelming majority of countries, are breaking down the artificial barriers and obstacles, and that most countries display an eagerness to develop trade with the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and the other people's democracies.

The big advances made by the Soviet socialist economy in the past year are impressive. They cannot but evoke a feeling of satisfaction among the masses in all countries, for the growing strength of the Soviet Union and its economic and cultural progress help to strengthen peace throughout the world.

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