

Current Support Brief

**THE SOVIET POULTRY PROGRAM:
A NEW CLAIMANT ON ECONOMIC RESOURCES**



CIA/RR CB 64-63

September 1964

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Research and Reports

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THE SOVIET POULTRY PROGRAM:
A NEW CLAIMANT ON ECONOMIC RESOURCES

The program for expanding the Soviet poultry industry, announced on 5 September, may become a significant new claimant on Soviet industrial resources. In support of the program the State Committee for Aviation Technology, together with USSR Gosplan and USSR Sovnarkhoz, has been charged with providing the necessary equipment. Khrushchev stated during his European tour last month that the expansion, which is to take place over the next 6 years, will result in an over-all expenditure of 2.7 billion rubles.* 1/ The USSR has released sufficient details on which to base a judgment of the tempo of the program and to give some approximation of the cost of the construction and equipment for the primary producing facilities in terms of US prices. The cost of construction and equipment, based on the assumption that the program intends to make use of equipment and technology that approximate the latest US practice, is shown in the following tabulation:

<u>Type and Annual Capacity</u>	<u>Number of Factories</u>	<u>Planned Construction Period (Years)</u>	<u>Comparable US Cost (Million US \$)</u>
Egg factories	<u>508</u>		<u>182**</u>
20 million eggs	280	1-1/2 to 2	58
40 million eggs	171	1-1/2 to 2	71
50 million to 80 million eggs	34	2 to 3	23
100 million to 140 million eggs	23	2 to 3	30
Broiler factories			
1 million to 2 mil- lion broilers	<u>258</u>	6	<u>203***</u>
Total program	<u>766</u>		<u>385</u>

* New rubles. A nominal rate of exchange based on the gold content of the respective currencies is 0.90 ruble to US \$1. This rate should not be interpreted as a precise ruble-dollar relationship that will yield an equivalent dollar value for the ruble.

** Including \$75 million for equipment.

*** Including \$120 million for equipment.

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1. General

Machine building capacity, designing and engineering skills, and materials required to provide the equipment for the program for expanding the Soviet poultry industry will affect many branches of industry. Some of the components of brooders and feeding and watering troughs and the like will require nothing more than simple press operations for fashioning stampings from sheet metal. On the other end of the scale, however, temperature control mechanisms, eviscerating machines, and conveyors may be highly complex.

It was evidently in anticipation of the diversity of human and material requirements of the program that the State Committee for Aviation Technology was tapped to participate in providing the equipment for the program. The committee gives national guidance to the aviation industry, which, in turn, controls important sheet metal processing facilities. In addition, the industry has engineers and technicians skilled in a wide range of mechanical operations. Factories other than those of the aircraft industry apparently will support the new effort, but no other state industrial committee was mentioned in the announcement.

2. Problems for the Aircraft Industry

It has been a tradition in the Soviet aircraft industry to employ capacity for civilian production -- a recent source indicates 5 to 15 percent. The principal attribute of this type of planning has been to select programs which will prove least disruptive to the primary production assignments and which, if necessary for purposes of mobilization, can be set aside quickly with little loss to the economy. 2/ This attitude has been expressed in a Soviet textbook on the aviation industry as follows:

In order to guarantee mobility and maneuverability in different scales and periods of production, reserve capacities are created Therefore, for the complete utilization of existing capacity, the aircraft industry, in addition to aviation production, produces boat motors, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, etc. 3/

It seems doubtful that the poultry program, which is both expensive and long range, can be considered by Soviet planners quite to fit this

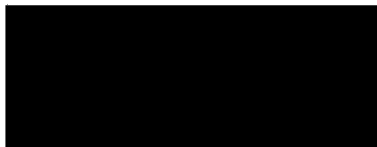
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earlier conception. Because the poultry program obviously has a relatively high priority and because of the publicity given to the program, Soviet planners probably would find it more difficult to withdraw the participation of the aircraft industry than they did for those programs of the past that have been devoted to relatively unessential civilian goods and have been assigned to the industry without national publicity.

Sources:

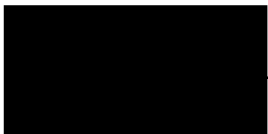
1. New York Times, 6 Sep 64. U.
2. Ol'shevets, L. M. and Orlov, N. A. Organizatsiya, planirovaniye i ekonomika aviatsionnogo proizvodstva (Organization, Planning, and Economics of Aircraft Production), Moscow, 1963, p. 70. U.
3. Ibid., p. 15. U.

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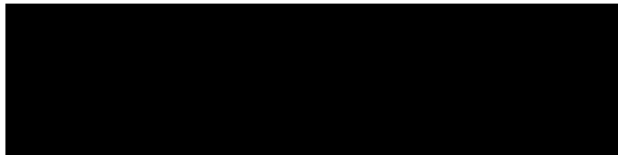
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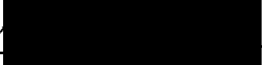
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