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SUMMARY

A considerable part of Radio Moscow's output is devoted to Miners' Day, which this year is observed on 26 August. The ideological purity theme is still vigorously pursued although the targets of attack are less numerous and the charges less specific than they were in early July--the peak of the PRAVDA-initiated campaign. Occasional references to Ukrainian nationalism are still made.

Grave shortcomings in agriculture, particularly in livestock breeding, are revealed in the Kazakh Republic, the target of frequent PRAVDA criticism in the past. The Ukrainian Building Materials Industry, short of the mark in the first quarter of the year and exceeding its quota in the second, is again lagging behind plan. The official plan-fulfillment figures for the second quarter of 1951 show a drop in the retail sales of essential foodstuffs. The sales of clothing, leather and rubber footwear, and soap, listed for the first quarter of the year, are omitted from the figures for the second quarter.

MINERS' DAY.

In a lengthy home service broadcast, Minister of the Coal Industry Zasyadko lists the great achievements of the Soviet coal industry during the current Five-Year Plan. He also demands a more widespread application of the cyclic graph system which, he says, is designed to cut production costs and increase the output of coal. The Donets Coal Basin, often referred to in the past as the stoke room of the Soviet Union (kotchegarka Sovetskogo Soyuza), is, according to the Minister, again among the most mechanized coal-producing areas of the country. Over 40% of all the pits are working on the cyclic graph system. The adoption of this system, urged by the Minister throughout the speech, is said to be imperative because labor organization has failed to keep pace with rapidly advancing technology. It is also imperative because of the necessity to advance from the mechanization of individual processes to the mechanization of entire production cycles: "The new machines and modern technology cannot be fully exploited if the organization of labor and production does not correspond to this technology."

Zasyadko points to the weak phases of the coal industry--concentration of coal and the briquetting of low-quality fuel--as an additional argument for the large-scale introduction of the cyclic graph system which alone is capable of eliminating such shortcomings:

The progress achieved in the concentration of coal is ... still far from satisfactory They (the coal industry workers) must speed up the process of briquetting low-quality fuel We must make the cyclic graph the law of the mine; the whole coal industry must work on the cyclic graph system.

The disparity between the rapidly increasing productivity of the machines and the not-so-rapidly growing efficiency of the workers is emphasized by the fact that the productivity of the coal combines has increased by almost 60% in the past two years, and in the current Five-Year plan the coal industry has raised the average coal-extraction figure by 73.4% while labor productivity has risen by only 26%. The slow progress in increasing the labor productivity is attributable to the inadequate utilization of machinery, and the solution implied in the Minister's speech is that workers be made to keep up with the machines:

There must be a great improvement in the use of machinery, and our first-rate technical equipment must be made to yield all it can. We must struggle for still greater mechanization.

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Pochenkov, Deputy Minister of the Coal Industry, speaking primarily of the Donets Coal Basin and its achievements, also stresses the importance of the cyclic graph system and its benefits to both industry and workers. The Stalin-Ugol Trust which had adopted the new system is cited as a model of efficiency to be emulated by all mines. The average output per 24 hour day since the introduction of the graphic system is said to be about 42% higher than that of mines still using the old production methods; the average output per coal combine in June was 6,560 tons as against 4,890 tons under the old system, and the wages of the miners have risen by a third. The improvement in the workers' welfare in the Stalino oblast which results from the new production system and higher wages is, according to Pochenkov, characterized by their enhanced purchasing power which enabled them, in the first five months of this year alone, to buy 1,088 private cars, 3,500 motorcycles, 15,000 bicycles and 8,500 radio receivers.

PRAVDA (26 August) speaks of the "substantial" shortcomings in the work of the coal industry and the "large quantities" of coal lost because "many mines and sections do not fulfill their plans" The paper even criticizes certain coal enterprises which do fulfill their assigned quotas, intimating that the mere fulfillment of a target is not always enough. Adoption of the cyclical production method is the suggested remedy:

And among enterprises which fulfill their production targets, not always are internal reserves and opportunities sufficiently utilized ... workers of the coal industry must ... see to it that the cyclical production method becomes law, and that the entire coal industry is subject to it.

"Correct organization of work according to cycle methods of production" is also the subject of (Nirazhensky's) speech to Karaganda coal miners (Alma Ata, 25 August). Failure to make full use of existing machinery and of other potentialities is given as the main reason for the introduction of the graph production method. Another reason is the necessity of improving the qualitative indices which, (Nirazhensky) implies, cannot be achieved under the present system of production:

... the organization of labor in the mines (must be carried out) according to a fixed schedule of one cycle every 24 hours, and (on the basis of) the most efficient use of all machinery--primarily cutting and loading combines and other transporting machinery.

Among the other broadcasts on the occasion of Miners' Day is an optimistic report by Deputy Coal Minister Onika who speaks of the automatic and remote-control devices now extensively used in the Soviet coal industry, and of the up-to-date techniques now employed in mine building. About 900 coal combines and cutting machines, 1,000 conveyor lines and 3,500 winches, pushers and other mechanisms are said to have been changed to remote-control operations in the past few years. Over 1,000 draining pumps now work automatically.

The drive for greater production effort in the mines and for the adoption of the cyclic graph system is reflected in an otherwise routine letter to Stalin from USSR mine workers (TASS d/s. 25 August). The letter writers claim a modest 7.8% increase in efficiency in 1951 as compared with last year, admit a number of unspecified shortcomings, and express their determination to eliminate them "in the spirit of intolerance for any lagging behind."

We still have building organizations which use backward methods, do not use to the full the new building machines, build mines and dwellings slowly and at high costs, fail to fulfill the plans and are still greatly indebted to the motherland.

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Stalin is accordingly assured that these failings will be rectified by the great application of the cyclic graph system, already in use in the Donets Coal Basin, at the mines of the Kuznetsk and Moscow basins, the Urals, Karaganda and other coal-producing areas of the country.

IDEOLOGICAL WEAKNESSES

Ideological deviations in art, literature, political education, and propaganda still form a considerable part of Soviet internal broadcasts. Most of the central and regional editorial criticism is directed against the Ukraine. The Ministry of Higher Education, the literary fraternity, publishing houses and a number of regional newspapers are cautioned against their present practice of neglecting the ideological aspect of their activities and art for art's sake is branded as just another feature of bourgeois ideology.

Education: PRAVDA (10 August) complains that the standards of teaching social sciences, particularly Marxism-Leninism, has dropped to a dangerously low point, and that high school and university graduates have but a hazy idea of the basic Marxist-Leninist principles, the most important part of social sciences. At the Leningrad University, for example, not a single recent candidate on the philosophical faculty has been able to defend his thesis successfully. Recent examinations at Vilnius University revealed that students have "a rather poor knowledge" of the basic principles of Marxist-Leninist theory. Blame for this low teaching standard is assigned to the Ministry of Higher Education whose failure to "give effective assistance to the faculties of social sciences" accounts for the "serious defects" in the teaching of dialectical and historical materialism and political economy.

KIROVOGRADSKA PRAVDA (24 August) quotes a dispatch from Kamensky Rayon saying that the local Society for the Dissemination of Scientific and Political Knowledge is doing a poor job, and that political education in the schools and among the intelligentsia is "ideologically weak." On 24 August this same paper notes that "instances of ... violations of the principles of the indoctrination of the intelligentsia in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism" are occurring in some rayons. The editorial observes that these violations are all the more serious since a part of the intelligentsia, notably engineers and medical workers, are not even included in the political education scheme. There is no intimation as to the nature of the "violation of principles" referred to except that the lectures are said to be "too few and of too low a standard."

Literature and Art: An implicit admission of the motives that set off the recent purges among literary and art critics is contained in the PRAVDA editorial of 14 August which inveighs against the bourgeois ideology and "hateful imperialist propaganda" in Soviet art and literature. The group of "anti-patriotic" critics recently exposed by the Party, according to the editorial, was guilty of propagating art for art's sake. This "is alien to Soviet literature and is bad for the interests of the Soviet people and State." (It may be recalled that at the time the purged critics were charged primarily with undermining activities and with "truckling to Western ideology." No mention was made of "art for art's sake.") That this tendency still exists may also be inferred from PRAVDA's strictures about bourgeois ideology: "It is absolutely imperative to develop the struggle against bourgeois ideology and relentlessly expose the hateful imperialist propaganda." The paper also recalls that the All-Union Communist Party has decreed that the strength of Soviet literature lies in the fact that it has "no other interests" except the interests of the people.

Stepanov, writing in PRAVDA (16 August), says that manifestations of nationalism, cosmopolitanism and admiration of decayed bourgeois culture are incompatible with Soviet patriotism, and that overcoming them is the most important feature of the Party's educational work among the masses. Devotion to the Soviet regime must therefore be the chief aim in the "irreconcilable struggle against ideological misrepresentation"

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Ideology in the Ukraine: Speaking for the benefit of western Ukrainians, a RADYANSKA PRAVDA editorial (24 August) discusses the larger aspects of ideology and urges the educators and propagandists to "instill into the consciousness" of the people the idea that they are working for a Communist society, not for capitalists. Mindful of the differences in dialect, the paper also cautions the speakers against the use of language which is not clear and understandable and suggests that "the types of their audience" in rural and urban areas be taken into consideration. Another injunction to the propagandists is "to instill hatred for the Anglo-American warmongers." The importance of such lectures, says the paper, especially for the rural population of the western oblasts of the Ukraine, should not be underestimated.

A report from Zaporozhye (22 August) quotes Prof. Borshevsky of the local Teachers College as advocating that "literature be taught in universities and other higher educational establishments 'according to the demand of the Bolshevik Party.'" There is no amplification of the "demand," but an obvious reference to it is contained in the assertion of the representative of the local Society for the Dissemination of Scientific and Political Knowledge, quoted in the same broadcast, that not enough lectures on the "Friendship of Nations of the Soviet Union," and "Soviet patriotism" are read for the intelligentsia.

In the friendship-of-nations theme, the Ukraine is still portrayed as the less enthusiastic partner in its relations with Great Russia (RSFSR). NADNEPRIANSKA PRAVDA (15 August) complains that the PRAVDA editorial on ideological aberrations in Ukrainian literature is apparently not taken seriously; "numerous instances of ideological slackness" have been noticed in the Kherson Oblast during recent meetings. The paper also says that the gravest mistakes have been committed by the local Party organizations in their work among the intelligentsia: "A strikingly small number of lectures is given ... on such themes as 'Friendship of Nations,' 'Creative Soviet Patriotism,' 'Eternal Friendship Between the Russian and Ukrainian Nations'"

A dispatch from Proskurov (in Ukrainian, 24 August) cites an instance of what it terms well-organized propaganda-lecturing on Ukrainian-Russian friendship in the Shepetovka Rayon, Kamenets-Podolsk Oblast:

In their talks, the lecturers stress the leading role of the Great Russian nation in the Soviet Union, and in numerous historical examples demonstrate the great help given to the Ukrainian people by the Russian people

RADYANSKA UKRAINA (22 August) castigates the Mistetstvo Publishing House and the Ukrainian branch of the All-Union Muzfond (Muzykalny Fond) Publishing House for their apparent reluctance to disseminate songs in any language other than Ukrainian:

It is very difficult to find Russian songs in book shops and musical shops. Last year Mistetstvo published a song book containing nearly 100 songs, but among them were only six from the fraternal nations--four Russian, one Belorussian and one Georgian.

The paper also discusses the ideological weakness of the principal choirs of the Ukrainian Republic and their "almost complete" neglect of contemporary creations, both Russian and Ukrainian. The most appalling feature of the choirs' repertoires, says the editorial, is that they do not contain any compositions on "industrial themes" depicting the labor achievements of the working class.

Other areas: A report from Vinnitsa tells of the lectures on the danger of ideological perversions read before the local Party organizations, and the Kishinev (Moldavian SSR) radio announces that the recently-held conference of the Moldavian Union of Soviet Writers adopted "measures aimed at improving the work and at fighting ideological distortions in literature." A broadcast from Tashkent (in Russian, 24 August) criticizes the ideological work of several rayon Party committees and says that the Society for the Propagation of Scientific and Political Knowledge is "failing to fulfill its main task."

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Ideological affairs in Kazakhstan are discussed briefly in a dispatch from Alma Ata (in Russian, 22 August) which refers to the Marxist-Leninist treatment of the history of Kazkhstan. The point, however, is not amplified beyond reporting the admonition by the Propaganda Department of the Central Committee of the Kazakh Communist Party that "more lecture and propaganda work demonstrating the friendship among the peoples of the USSR should be undertaken." Passing reference is also made to the distortions in the history and literature of Kazakhstan, and the need for their elimination is stressed.

The Press & the Publishing Industry: PABOCHI PUT (Smolensk), SOVETSKAYA SIBIR (Novosibirsk) RADYANSKA UKRAINA (Kiev) and SOTSIALISTY KAZAKHSTANA are taken to task by PRAVDA (28 August) for a variety of ideological weaknesses. These, according to the paper, are so widespread that "even central papers are still insufficiently, sporadically and superficially devoting themselves to questions of ideological work." All material devoted to ideological topics is said to have disappeared from the pages of RABOCHI PUT. SOVETSKAYA SIBIR exhibits little interest in the activities of the oblast publishing house or in the life of local writers organizations, theatres and clubs. RADYANSKA UKRAINA is reminded that its "assessment" of the opera "Bogdan Khmelnytsky" was wrong. SOTSIALISTY KAZAKHSTANA, PRAVDA charges, also failed to notice nationalist tendencies in several literary works, and tolerated certain ideological shortcomings.

An earlier PRAVDA editorial (18 August) belabors the Poligrafizdat (the main printing and publishing industry) for inadequate political and educational qualifications of its editorial personnel who are unable to cope with their tasks. The heads of many publishing houses are told that they are "on the wrong path"--trying to publish a great number of books to the detriment of quality. Another charge levelled at the publishing industry is indifference to politics--which is "harmful to the Soviet people and the Soviet State and should have no place in our books."

SHORTCOMINGS.

Agriculture: PRAVDA (27 August) cites poor utilization of tractors at the machine-tractor stations of the Kuibyshev and Novosibirsk Oblasts and the Krasnoyarsk and Stavropol Krajs (all in the RSFSR). Machinery is left standing idle and the average daily performance of tractors remains low. By 20 August, the collective farms of Kuibyshev Oblast, for example, completed their plowing by only 7% while in Novosibirsk, Stavropol and Krasnoyarsk the figure was even smaller. In Kuibyshev Oblast, says the paper, the average daily performance of the 15-horse-power tractor amounts to 3.3 hectares whereas the leading machine-tractor stations show an average of 8 to 10 hectares.

NADNEPRIANSKA PRAVDA (15 August) refers to "disquieting facts" about livestock breeding in Kherson Oblast where "great losses and depletion" of young livestock has not stopped despite the availability of green fodder. The paper also observes that the inordinate time lag between the mowing and silaging of fodder results in great losses, particularly in the Kalininsky, Beryslavsky, Novo-Vorontovsky and other rayons. RADYANSKA UKRAINA (18 August) asserts that livestock breeding in the Ukraine "needs further improvement," and that in a number of oblasts, particularly Nikolayev, Odessa and Zaporozhye, silaging operations are even behind last year's achievements. Anxiety is also reported over work in the Tarnopol Oblast, where the fodder plan has been completed by only 19.6% and in Zhitomir Oblast where the plan-fulfillment figure is 26.5%.

A report from Kiev (in Ukrainian, 24 August) says that the Ukrainian Ministry of Agriculture has "advised" (rekomendovalo) the agricultural officials of the Republic to liquidate all shortcomings in the autumn sowing campaign which is proceeding too slowly. The Ministry is said to be apprehensive lest the slow sowing pace in some oblasts and rayons extend the field work beyond the "most favorable agricultural season."

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From Poltava comes a report that the state deliveries plan for fruit and vegetables has been completed by 34.2%, which is "much less" than for the corresponding period of last year. The above figure, according to ZARYA POLTAVSCHINY (28 August), is the average for the oblast, but a number of rayons--such as Oposhnyansky, Kremenchugsky, Veliko-Bagachinsky, Dikansky, Semenovskiy and Drabovskiy--are below average, having completed deliveries by only 15 to 27%. The same editorial charges a number of kolkhozes with anti-state activities and "different sorts of harmful practices" in connection with unauthorized sales of produce on the free market. Thus the Stalin Kolkhoz (Dikansky Rayon) and the Molotov Kolkhoz (Novo-Senzharsky Rayon) sold a total of 6,00 kilograms of tomatoes on the market and delivered none to the State. A number of other unnamed kolkhozes are accused of selling their choice produce in the kolkhoz bazaars and of delivering inferior products to the State.

CHEKONOMORSKA KOLODIA (28 August) calls on the oblast machine-tractor stations to step up their plowing operations. Tsebrikovskiy Rayon is cited as the worst offender: "the plowing schedule is never fulfilled there." Referring to other slow areas, the paper names the Semenovskiy, Ulyanovskiy and Andreyevo-Ivanovskiy Rayons where the plans are not being fulfilled: "A great number of tractors are idle every day for technical reasons."

Following are some of the other areas reporting shortcomings in their agricultural plans:

RADYANSKA CHITOMIRSHCHINA, 28 August:

... there are many rayons and kolkhozes which are regularly failing to fulfill not only their obligations but also their plans. Plowing has not yet started in Volodarsko-Volynskiy, Bobryshskiy, Malynskiy, Olevskiy and other rayons.

RAEOCHI PUT (Smolensk), 28 August:

In the majority of rayons the deliveries are as usual lagging behind... In the majority of rayons it seems that a deplorable gap exists between the gathering and the threshing of the grain.

MAHREPELEANSKA PRAYDA (Kherson), 28 August:

... there are a number of kolkhozes which failed to complete the erection of new cotton-drying kilns or the repairing of old ones, and even neglected to prepare storing yards. Such a situation exists in Novo-Troitsky ... Novo-Terentsovskiy, Kalininskiy, Veliko-Alexandriyskiy and some other rayons.

VINNITSKA PRAYDA (Vinnitsa), 24 August:

The state of preparations for the sowing is alarming in the Vinnitsa, Ulyanovskiy, Komsomolskiy, Turbovskiy, Pogrebishchenskiy and other rayons of the northern group which ought to be the first in the oblast to complete the sowing.

SOVIETAGAN HAYASTAN (Yerevan, Armenian SSR), 28 August:

This lagging behind (in a number of kolkhozes) can be explained by the fact that in such kolkhozes the workers often fail to fulfill their quotas, and make poor use of the available machinery and animal-drawn equipment.

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Kolkhoz Party Leadership: NADNEPRYANSKA PRUDA (28 August) pins the responsibility for agricultural shortcomings exclusively on the Party official concerned, bluntly asserting that the leadership of the kolkhoz Party organizations "needs decisive improvement." Just how such improvement might be brought about is indicated by the paper in the case of the Tsyuryupinsky and Genichivsky Ray in Party committees where the first secretaries were recently removed "for failing to insure proper leadership ... and for a low level of organizational and Party work." Due to their faulty leadership, concludes the editorial, a number of the most important agricultural tasks had not been carried out, this is particularly alarming during the peak of the sowing season.

The rural Party leadership issue is also highlighted by a RADIANSKY PODILYE editorial (28 August). It lists a variety of shortcomings in a number of rayons of Kamenets-Podolsk Oblast, attributing them to the "great discrepancy between their (the rural Communists') assurances and the facts." The paper also names 15 rayons where the plowing operations range from "extremely unsatisfactory" to "causing anxiety," and says that not even one-third of the area intended for winter crops has been plowed. Kolkhoz Communist officials are reminded that the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party had already called attention to the laxity in their leadership and that after "making their speeches and stating their obligations," these same officials promptly forget them.

Industry: The Ukrainian Building materials industry continues to be the object of official attention, since production is still lagging behind the needs of the country." This time, however, Minister Smirnov and his associates are singled out by RADIANSKA PRUDA (15 August) as the chief culprits because "they did not struggle decisively for the mechanization mood." (The Russian expressions frequently employed are "sklonnost k mekhanizatsii" or "raspolozheniye k mekhanizatsii" which may be translated as "inclination toward mechanization.") The paper also declares that the building materials production plan was not fulfilled by the Ministry for the first half of 1961, although according to the Statistical Board of the Ukrainian SSR (7 August) production jumped from 97% of the plan in the first quarter to 104% in the second. The paper stresses the urgency of the mechanization of labor without which we cannot sustain either the rate or the scale of our production." The Central Scientific Research Institute of the Ministry of the Building Materials Industry is also blamed for having failed to render the necessary assistance to the various enterprises.

The building materials situation is called "especially intolerable" now that the great constructions of Communism (the usual identification of the hydro-electric and irrigation projects) have been started, and more cement, bricks and other materials are required:

... the utilization of equipment and machinery is extremely bad ... and many enterprises are still producing bricks by hand. Equipment is idle too long ... plans for the production of bricks have fallen through in Vinnitsa, Kiev, Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye, Zakarpatska, Kamenets-Podolsk, Nikolayev, Stalino, Stanislov, Kharkov and Chernigov Oblasts. (15 August)

Kazakh SSR: The sorry state of sheep breeding and wool production in Kazakhstan is brought into focus by a sweeping decree of the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Kazakh Communist Party (17 August) which admits that the 3-year plan for the development of sheep breeding has so far been a failure. The Ministries of Agriculture and Sovkhozos are told to assume the blame for this situation which resulted from their "insufficient attention" to the development of sheep breeding. The decree also reveals that such insufficient attention dates back "several" years, at least in a number of kolkhozes and sovkhoses.

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The assertion that "large numbers" of sheep are lost annually is not amplified but some significance may be drawn from the repeated references to inadequate fodder reserves, "scattered and unsystematic" utilization of pastures and the spreading of scab among the sheep.

The extent of the failure of the Kazakh sheep breeding and wool production industry may be surmised from the various inducements offered in the decree. Supplementary payments and bonuses are to be given to workers, farm managers, and veterinarians for completing and exceeding the state plan; motor cars, rope, sackings and tarpaulins are to be made available for sale to collective and state farms overfulfilling the plan; certain categories of workers are to receive an additional 2-months' wages for fulfilling their scheduled assignments plus the equivalent of 5% of their monthly salary for each 1% of above-plan performance. Wool production, disappointing in quantity and low in quality, is to be raised to the required state-prescribed standard by a 50% salary increase for sheep shearers and (shearing) machine operators--if the norm is exceeded. And, finally, deserving shepherds are to be given a straight 30% wage increase and invested with the title of "master of sheep breeding" (master ovtsevodstva).

MISCELLANEOUS.

Consumer goods: In its report for the first quarter of 1951, the USSR Central Statistical Administration listed a total of 16 items of essential consumer goods, the sales of which had been constantly increasing. The Administration's report for the second quarter, however, makes no mention of the following: woollen textiles, ready-made clothes, leather footwear, rubber footwear and toilet soap.

Underground Installations: Academician Artobolevsky speaks of Soviet technological achievements (Home Service, 22 August) and says that atomic energy (vnutritomnaya energiya) is "next on the list" for industrial exploitation in the USSR. The academician also says that the USSR was "the first country in the world" to put underground industrial coal-gas stations into operation. The work of these stations is based on modern automatic methods and is regulated and controlled by automatic gear.

Native Language Study: CHERNOMORSKA KOMUNA (Odessa, in Ukrainian, 23 August), referring to the Odessa Oblast educational system, notes that the children are not doing so well in the Ukrainian language in a number of rayons: "It will be necessary, in particular, to examine the causes of the children's backwardness in the study of the native language" Noted also is the fact that "not all" school-age children of the oblast are attending school, in violation of the law of universal compulsory education.

Russian Names: A familiar-style letter to Stalin from the collective and state farms of the Mordovian ASSR (Mordva) (Home Service, 24 August) is signed by the top four officials of the Republic, all of whose names are Russian sounding.

Jewish "Autonomous" Oblast: A report from Khabarovsk (7 August) says that the Khabarovsk Krai Council awarded the Red Banner and cash prizes to the Executive Committee of the Jewish "Autonomous" Oblast for collecting non-ferrous scrap. (The Jewish Autonomous Oblast was officially reported demoted to an ordinary oblast some time prior to August.)

Longevity: RADIANSKA ZHITOMIRSCHINA (21 August) carries an article by an unnamed author claiming that the Stalin constitution "has provisions" which are favorable to the development and growth of longevity.

Slav State: Among the new books recently published in the USSR is one by historian Boris Grekov on the social relations in Politsa, the ancient Slav state which existed between the 15th and 18th centuries on the Adriatic coast. (TASS, in Russian, 24 August).

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