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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Sovkhoz imeni Kalinin, located about 40 km north of Simferopol in the Crimea, is a state grain farm. Its size, about 40,000 hectares, is about the average for a grain sovkhov. Previously, this area, as is true for all of the Crimea, was inhabited by national minorities, mostly Tatars, and foreigners who had settled there. In 1944, however, they were all moved into the interior of the USSR and replaced by Russians from the central parts of the European USSR.
2. A sovkhov is headed by a director (direktor) instead of a chairman (predsedatel), as is the case in kolkhozy. This difference in title is quite marked, as exemplified by the fact that, should a director of a sovkhov be a poor manager, he is deprecatingly referred to as a predsedatel. The director, who is invariably a Party member, is selected by the Crimea Oblast Trust for Grain Sovkhoz and serves as long as his work is satisfactory. Assisting the director in managing the sovkhov were a deputy, a chief agronomist, an accountant, several mechanics, and about 15 to 18 other people. The sovkhov was divided into eight sections for administrative purposes, and each section was headed by a chief (upravlyayushchiy) and about five or six other helpers including a bookkeeper, an agronomist, a time clerk, a storage clerk, and a brigadier. All the above people, including his own staff and the staffs of the eight sections, were selected by the director with no interference by the Oblast Trust for Grain Sovkhoz.

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3. A Party organizer (partlynyy organizator - Partorg) was assigned to the sovkhov by the Rayon Party Committee to check on the efficiency with which the sovkhov was run. Although the Partorg could not remove the director from his post he was in a position to recommend disciplinary action; it therefore behooved the director to maintain friendly relations with him. A union (Profsoyuz) also existed and about half of the members of the sovkhov belonged to it. The head of the union, called Rabochkom (predsedatel rabochego komiteta - chairman of the workers' committee), was elected each year by members of the union. Neither the Rabochkom nor the union had much say in administering the sovkhov.
4. Each of the sovkhov's eight sections was divided into seven tracts for purposes of crop rotation. [redacted] 25X1  
 [redacted] Approximately 11,000 hectares of the sovkhov's land were used for winter wheat and about 13,000 hectares were used for other grains. Winter wheat was the principal crop raised on the sovkhov. Some spring wheat was also raised but considerably less than winter wheat. Among the other crops raised were rye and oats and lesser amounts of barley, corn, beetroot for fodder, and sunflower: [redacted] 25X1  
 [redacted] The yield per hectare was usually about 12 centners (100 kilograms per centner) for winter wheat, [redacted] About one-quarter of the sovkhov's total acreage was permitted to lie fallow or was planted with various grasses. Each of the sovkhov's eight sections had an agronomist, but their advice was not taken very seriously by the sovkhov workers who preferred to rely on their own experience and intuition. Most of the eight sections had some cattle and sheep but only one section had fowl.
5. [redacted] the sovkhov always fulfilled the plan set for it, [redacted] Practically all the grain was delivered to the State. Some was retained for seed and, if there was not sufficient seed for any particular year, the Government supplied whatever was needed. Combine and tractor operators received about four centners each whether or not the plan was fulfilled, but they were the only ones to receive grain from among the sovkhov workers. After the plan has been fulfilled, however, the director may receive permission from the Trust to sell some grain to sovkhov workers at a nominal price. The [redacted] inspection commission from the Trust [redacted] at harvest time, [redacted] arrived to hasten the harvesting. 25X1  
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6. The sovkhov had from 1,000 to 1,500 people working during the year, and this number was increased to upwards of 2,000 during harvest time, when use was made of every available person. Most of the workers labored in the fields. There were from 100-150 tractor operators, about 70 combine operators, approximately 50 workers in the repair shop, about 20 truck drivers, some clerks in the sovkhov store, a number of watchmen, and some warehouse workers. Unlike the kolkhoz, payment for work on a sovkhov is made in money instead of grain. [redacted] 25X1  
 [redacted] there is a pay scale for every type of work. [redacted] rates are [redacted] determined by the amount of work done, eg, a fixed amount of money for plowing a certain area of land, a fixed amount of money for loading a certain weight of grain, etc. Next to the sovkhov director, who received about 900 rubles per month, the combine operators earned the most money, from seven to nine thousand rubles a year. Tractor operators were the next best paid, receiving approximately 7,000 rubles a year. As mentioned above, each combine and tractor operator also received about four centners of grain. The rest of the sovkhov workers earned from 2,000 to 4,000 rubles annually. Sovkhov workers were assured of receiving money regardless of the harvest. 25X1  
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7. The sovkhos had its own tractors and combines and therefore did not have to rely on the services of an MTS. Practically all the equipment was prewar, but [redacted] in 1949 some new equipment had arrived and more was expected. The tractors operated fairly well during the summer and were overhauled and repaired during the winter. The combines frequently broke down, necessitating repair either in the field or in the repair shop and causing rather frequent delays in the work. Split sleeve bearings always became loose and had to be tightened every day. Spare parts of every kind were always in short supply, but for a while were obtainable from wreckages of tanks left from the war. [redacted] all these wrecked tanks have been salvaged by the Government, [redacted]
8. In 1949, the sovkhos had the following equipment:
- (a) Tractors: About 50 prewar tractors, among them: a Kharkov wheeled tractor; a Stalingrad treaded tractor; Universal I and II wheeled tractors; three heavy Stalinets (S-60) tractors operated on gasoline, which were manufactured in Chelyabinsk; eight heavy Stalinets (S-65) Diesel tractors, manufactured in Chelyabinsk, one for each of the sovkhos's eight sections. In 1949, several new STZ tractors, manufactured in Stalingrad, arrived [redacted]
- (b) Combines: About 20-25 combines were in use on the sovkhos, mainly Stalinets and Kommunar. In 1949, five new Stalinets (S-4) combines, manufactured in Taganrog, were delivered to the sovkhos. With the exception of these five combines, all the others were prewar models.
- (c) Trucks: Among the 12-15 trucks on the sovkhos there were four 1.5 ton GAZ-As, two three-ton ZIS-5s, three 2.5 ton Studebakers, one 1.5 ton Chevrolet, and one 3-ton truck of German make. Despite the fact that the only new trucks were two GAZ-As, very little repair work was required on any of them. The director of the sovkhos had a Willys jeep, the only passenger vehicle on the sovkhos.
9. The workers lived in settlements on the section of the sovkhos where they worked. The center of the sovkhos contained a number of buildings. The director and his staff were located in one building, which also housed a small library. A seven-year school for the children of sovkhos workers was also in this general area. A club was available to all the members of the sovkhos but, with the exception of movies which were shown three or four times a week, was little used. A restaurant which seated about 20 people was used occasionally by some workers. The sovkhos's repair shop could overhaul equipment but was hampered by old machinery and tools and a lack of spare parts. Other buildings in this central area were a small store selling items like soap, thread, needles, matches, and some clothing and footwear, a bakery where most of the sovkhos workers purchased their bread, a mill which serviced the sovkhos and neighboring kolkhos workers, a small milk separator plant, several barns for cows of the milk farm, and a number of barrack-like dwellings.

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