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SUB-COMMITTEE ON SOVIET ECONOMIC POLICY

THE 1964 GRAIN HARVEST IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES
(CUBA EXCLUDED)

Note by the German Delegation

In 1964, the total grain harvest in the Communist countries was larger than in 1963, chiefly due to very much better harvests in the Soviet Union. As a result, the Soviet bloc will be considerably less dependent on grain imports from the West during the harvest year 1964/1965 than it was in 1963/1964. However, as far as China is concerned there will be no change during the current harvest year. In 1963/1964, the Soviet Union, its European Satellite countries and China imported 21 million tons of grain (including flour calculated in terms of grain) from the West which corresponds to a share of 37% in the total international grain trade. In 1964/1965, grain imports of these countries are not expected to exceed 8.5 to 9.0 million tons.

A more detailed study shows the following picture:

(a) Soviet Union

2. Atmospheric conditions in 1964 varied, but were mostly favourable. The grain harvest in most parts of the country was therefore good. However, crops had suffered from adverse weather conditions in areas outside the zone of "black soil" (e.g. in White Ruthenia and the Baltic countries) but also in parts of the Ukraine and North Caucasia.

3. The total grain harvest in the Soviet Union amounted to 125 million tons (barnyield) in 1964 as against about 100 million tons in 1963. The good harvest will permit the Soviet Union to add about 5 million tons to its reserve. At any rate, in the harvest year 1964/1965 the Soviet Union cannot be expected to purchase grain from the West on a large scale. Until the beginning of February 1965, the Soviet Union had bought about 1.75 million tons of grain (including flour calculated in terms of grain) from the West (chiefly from Canada and Australia) of which 570,000 tons of Canadian wheat will go direct to Cuba during the current harvest

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year as Soviet aid while 750,000 tons of Australian wheat will probably not be called up by the Soviet Union before November 1965. In 1963/1964, the Soviet Union's grain imports from the West amounted to 10.9 million tons (contracted amount).

(b) European Satellite Countries

4. With about 41 million tons (barnyield), the 1964 grain harvest equals almost that of 1963 (40.5 million tons). The winter grain had suffered in areas where precipitation was scarce in autumn, winter and spring or where the grains had formed during a period of drought. Almost everywhere the summer crop had suffered under continuous drought and heat-waves. The figures of the grain harvests in 1964 as against 1963 were as follows (in 1,000 tons):

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Soviet-occupied Zone of Germany	5,300	4,700
Poland	11,500	12,300
Czechoslovakia	4,300	4,800
Hungary	6,000	5,600
Rumania	9,700	9,100
Bulgaria	3,800	3,700
Albania	320	300

5. In 1964/1965 the European Satellite countries are expected to import 7.5 to 8.0 million tons of grain, 5.5 to 6.0 million of which will be bought from the Soviet Union and about 2.0 million from the West.

(c) Yugoslavia

6. Yugoslavia's bread grain harvest of 3.9 million tons in 1964 was lower than that of 1963 (4.3 million tons) while the maize harvest of 7.0 million tons (5.38 million tons in 1963) was very good. The total grain harvest in 1964 amounted to 11.7 million tons as against 10.5 million tons in 1963. Yugoslavia is expected to import 1.2 million tons of wheat from the United States in 1964/1965.

(d) China

7. China was not struck by any major natural catastrophies in 1964. Both the summer harvest and the late-season harvest of rice were better than in the past few years. The total yield of basic foodstuffs (cereals, legumes, potatoes, sweet potatoes etc.) amounted to about 190 million tons in 1964 as against 185 million tons in 1963. The supply situation, although still strained, has steadily improved since 1961. In 1964/1965 China is expected to import 5.5 to 6.0 million tons of grain from the West as it had done in 1963/1964.

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