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AC/89-WP/157/2

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SOVIET ECONOMIC POLICY

THE 1964 GRAIN HARVEST IN THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES
(CUBA EXCLUDED)

Additional information by the German Delegation
on AC/89-WP/157
and comments on
AC/89-WP/157/1

The statistics of the grain crops in Communist countries are based on national estimates, calculations or corrective adjustments of official data taking into account all factors bearing upon the output of grain. The necessary information has been taken both from official publications of these countries and travellers' reports. Estimates and views of western sources are not reflected in the calculation of crops.

2. Maize harvested in the stage of lactiferous maturity, i.e. maize not fully grown, has been deducted from the Soviet overall grain crop figures shown in official statistics. In addition, an amount varying between 14 and 17 per cent, depending on the conditions of the harvest, has been deducted to take account of excessive moisture contents, weed impurities, incorrect kolkhoz and sovkhoz returns etc. Justification of such a procedure results from the latest Soviet figures. In computing grain figures, the USSR 1963 Statistical Yearbook published in early 1965, for the first time, no longer listed prematurely harvested corn under the heading of grain. Furthermore, the yearbook contains - also for the first time - a note stating that grain yields and harvests are shown in the figures originally supplied by kolkhozes and sovkhozes. This means that excessive moisture contents and impurities are included in Soviet official figures.

3. The official figures on grain harvests in European satellite countries are based on pre-harvest estimates(1). For this reason, the German Authorities have deducted the following percentages from official grain output figures: for Poland,

(1) While the Soviet-occupied Zone of Germany shows net outputs and barn-yields on a nominal basis, these figures are not based on actual facts.

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Czechoslovakia and the Soviet-occupied Zone of Germany 15% each, for Hungary 10%, for Rumania 12% and for Bulgaria 15%. The establishment of grain figures over a period of several years enables some check to be carried out on the correctness of the deductions made in the study.

4. Final United States figures are not available to the German Authorities. Variations between United States tentative estimates and figures supplied by the German Authorities for 1964 crops are as follows (in million metric tons):

	Tentative United States Estimates	German Figures	Difference between tentative United States estimates and German figures
Albania	0.32	0.32	0
Bulgaria	4.10	3.80	(+) 0.30
Czechoslovakia	5.24	4.30	(+) 0.94
Poland	12.97	11.50	(+) 1.47
Rumania	9.32	9.70	(-) 0.38
Soviet-occupied Zone of Germany	5.00	5.30	(-) 0.30
Hungary	6.35	6.00	(+) 0.35
Total European satellite countries	43.30	40.92	(+) 2.38
USSR	125	125	0
China	170	190(1)	(-) 20

5. No comments can be made on the varying figures of grain outputs in European satellite countries pending the availability of United States final crop figures. As far as the USSR 1964 grain crop is concerned, figures appear to be identical, as far as is known to the German Authorities.

6. Statistics of crops in Communist China are based on rough estimates. Since 1959 no official figures have been published by China. German figures might vary significantly from United States estimates owing to the fact that legumes (peas, soyabeans) and edible tubers are included in the German figures for basic foodstuff crops.

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(1) Basic foodstuff crops (including legumes and edible tubers).