
Documentation

Ryzhkov: Build up science, technology

The following are excerpts from the speech delivered to the 27th Soviet Party Congress on March 3, by N. I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. Ryzhkov delivered a report on the Central Committee's new draft document, "Basic Directions of the Economic and Social Growth of the U.S.S.R. for 1986-90 and the Period to the Year 2000"

... The draft "Basic Directions" assesses the results of the Five-Year Plan which is now ending. These give every reason to conclude, that through the labor of the Soviet people, a significant contribution was made to strengthening the economic might of the country. Because of this, the well-being of the nation grew, and the defense capability of our Motherland was kept at the necessary level.

Nevertheless, as is generally known, the execution of the tasks laid out at the 26th Congress did not proceed under simple circumstances, and in the first stage, things were even quite difficult. Unfavorable tendencies which had appeared in the development of the economy during the '70s, not only did not improve, but even worsened at the beginning of the '80s. And this had its effect on the fulfillment of the 11th Five-Year Plan. In the first two years, the rate of growth continued to fall. Qualitative economic indicators deteriorated. In 1982, the rate of growth of industrial production was one-and-one-half-times lower than it had been, on the average, during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan. The growing difficulties could not help but affect the solution of the most important problems in the social sphere as well. Thus, in the second year of the Five-Year Plan, the rise in the real income of the population had actually stopped.

Various factors were involved. The most fundamental reasons for the deficiencies, were the failure to take into account, for practical activity, the changing economic situation as a result of the exhaustion of the potentials of *extensive* growth, the lack of the necessary persistence in applying the achievements of scientific-technological progress. . . Both in the center and in the regions, many managers continued to work with outdated methods and proved unprepared for work in the new conditions. Discipline and order deteriorated to an intolerable level. There was a fall in exactingness and responsibility. The vicious practice of revising plan targets downward became widespread. . . .

Having critically analyzed the situation, the party took measures to strengthen the leadership of economic institutions, and especially to raise the level of organization and labor discipline. It received the support of the whole people and gave the impulse which has made it possible for us to move ahead. As a result, beginning in 1983, definite positive moves took place, which somewhat improved the fulfillment of the 11th Five-Year Plan. . . .

Thus not a little was accomplished during the years of the Five-Year Plan. But at the same time, we are obliged to give an objective evaluation of its results, and to expose, in a principled manner, its serious deficiencies, which are putting a brake on our forward motion, in order to draw the necessary consequences for the future.

It must be said plainly, that we did not fully succeed in carrying out the tasks of the Five-Year Plan. Many branches of industry were not able to achieve their planned targets. As

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a whole, the Five-Year Plan fell short by 35 million tons of finished goods, 145 million tons of coal, over 50 million tons of oil, 16 billion rubles of consumer goods. The structure, technical level, and quality of machinery and equipment did not always correspond to the demands of the national economy. Systematic lagging behind was tolerated in the chemical, forestry, and woodworking industries. From year to year, the basic construction ministries were not able to keep up with their plans. We did not receive the expected returns from the large resources invested in agriculture. . . .

All of this could not but affect the results of the growth of the economy and its proportions, causing the loss of billions of rubles of national income. As a result, various targets were not met for increasing the general well-being, such as those for real income and retail trade. Finances and monetary circulation were made more difficult.

Thus, comrades, the burden of deficiencies, which had piled up over a long period, was so large that it was not possible to eliminate them in a short period of time. Individ-

ual measures which were taken could not overcome the negative tendencies in the economy, and send it on the path of steady and dynamic growth. Fundamental reforms were needed, a far-reaching transformation, and the Party persistently sought out the solution of the tasks facing the country. . . .

In the document under discussion, a fundamentally new approach to satisfying the economy's need for material resources is laid out. Whereas, in the preceding years, this need was met mainly by increasing production, the long-term task is that 75-80% of the growth rate for fuel, energy, raw and other materials, will be met by conserving these materials. . . .

The first and very crucial stage of the practical realization of the long-term economic strategy of the Party, is the 12th Five-Year Plan. In these years, we must ensure the substantial growth of our economy and shift it onto a higher trajectory of growth—the trajectory of acceleration.

From this standpoint, the main task of the Five-Year Plan is defined. This is to raise the rate of growth and effectiveness of the economy, on the basis of the speeding up of scientific-technological progress, the technical renovation of production, the more intensive use of existing productive potential, the improvement of the system of management and economic mechanisms, and the achievement, on this basis, of greater well-being for the Soviet people. . . .

To implement the achievements of science and technology today, means to accelerate scientific-technological progress in the top-priority areas, to ensure the rapid and widespread mastery of all the most advanced technology, the qualitative transformation of the productive forces. This means also joint planning for effective use of the scientific-technological achievements of the states of the socialist community, and active participation in the world division of labor. . . .

At the April (1985) Plenum of the CC CPSU and at the June conference of last year, in the Central Committee of the Party there was sharply posed, on the basis of a profound analysis, the question of how to decisively overcome the barriers standing in the way of scientific-technological progress. . . .

One of the most important aspects of scientific-technological progress, is the broad mastery of advanced technology. Having taken this path, we will be able to take a step that will lead to a qualitatively new situation, not only for individual productive processes, but for whole industries. In the 12th Five-Year Plan, there will be a 1.5- to 2-fold increase in the use of progressive technologies, essential to each branch of industry. A noteworthy place will be held by fundamentally new technologies, like membrane, laser, and plasma technologies, technologies using super-high pressures and pulsed power, etc. The scale of their use will grow by several-fold, which will, undoubtedly, have a tremendous economic effect. . . .

KGB chief: U.S. spies uncovered

This speech was delivered Feb. 28 by KGB chief B. M. Cherbrikov:

. . . Unfortunately, the leading imperialist states are not displaying any inclination to stop the arms race, and are continuing to carry out their policy "from a position of strength." The pivot of this policy is open anti-Sovietism, feverish efforts to achieve military superiority over the U.S.S.R. And it is the U.S. administration which is setting the tone for this. Washington is continuing to interfere in the affairs of sovereign states, and is conducting a policy of state terrorism. A special role in the practical realization of this, is played by the American secret services, in whose activity political and armed provocations, as well as ideological and economic diversions, are playing a greater and greater role.

A special target of the intelligence activities of the imperialist states, of various foreign subversive centers and organizations, is the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Our enemies have not renounced the intention to liquidate socialism as a social system. The secret services of the U.S.A., of various other NATO countries, are undertaking persistent efforts to compromise the domestic and foreign policies of the U.S.S.R., carrying out actions aimed at undermining the Soviet economy. They are poking into our political, military, economic, and scientific-technological secrets, striving to penetrate our state institutions, important military objectives, and scientific research institutions. Using the proliferation of international ties, the imperialist intelligence services are seeking out the social degenerates, the politically immature and morally corrupted people in our society, and through bribing officials are trying to get from them information which is a secret of the state or of the services.

Most recently, in several ministries and departments, a number of agents of the imperialist intelligence services have been uncovered, renegades who have sold important secrets to foreign organizations. The people concerned, having committed a state crime, were dealt with severely but justly, in accordance with the law. Such an inglorious end awaits all who betray the interests of the Motherland. . . .