

4 juni 1959

U 6255/59 - C 46 - P4/PS9.

PA 9723/12

GEHEIM

Land: Sowjet-Unie.
Onderwerp: Soviet Central Committee Meeting.

Referenties:

Datum van
waarneming: Medio mei 1959.

Bron: Van bevriende zijde.

Opmerkingen:

Verzonden aan: de Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken.

Aan Zijne Excellentie Prof. Dr. J.E. de QUAY
Minister-President

Plein 1813 no.4

'S-GRAVENHAGE.

4 Juni 1959

U 6755/59 - C46 - 72/15g

SOVIET CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

GEHEIM

A Soviet party central committee plenum has been scheduled for 24 June. According to the 9 May announcement, it will discuss implementation of the decisions of the 21st party congress to increase mechanization and automation in Soviet industry and the program for expanding the chemical industry, which is to receive an investment of 15-20 billion dollars under the Seven-Year Plan.

The advance public announcement of the June meeting and its main agenda topics is a further step in stripping some of the secrecy from central committee sessions so that greater propaganda use can be made of them. In the present instance, fuller publicity will help goad economic officials to maximum performance.

The quality of Soviet industrial technology varies widely among the within industries. In addition, because of their rigid production quotas, Soviet plant managers have frequently delayed the introduction of new technology if doing so would jeopardize current output goals.

The goal of "catching up" with the West, however, is compelling the USSR to reduce the time lag between scientific development and industrial application, especially in view of the decreasing availability of labor for industry and the rapid depletion of easily developed natural resources. In March a new State Committee for Automation and Machine Building was established, a move which indicated recognition of the importance of mechanization and automation in meeting the Seven-Year Plan goals.

Although Soviet chemical output reportedly increased 13 percent in 1958, the rates of increase for the few products listed was generally below that required for Seven-Year Plan fulfillment. The plan for construction of chemical plants fell short of fulfillment by a considerable margin because of a lack of equipment, the tardy receipt of technological data, and unsatisfactory work by contractors.

In order to mitigate the strain on domestic producers of chemical equipment and to save time required to develop new processes, the USSR has been attempting for the last few years to purchase equipment from the West.

Fulfillment of Seven-Year Plan goals is unlikely without substantial imports of equipment and technology. Under existing trade pacts with Western countries, Moscow already has planned to import \$100,000,000 worth of chemical plants and equipment, but its recent drive to secure credits in the West indicates that its requirement is greater than its ability to finance through current Soviet exports. The plenum undoubtedly will attempt to deal with this situation.

The central committee may again take up the case of the "antiparty group," although such was not announced on the agenda. This topic was left undecided despite considerable discussion at the central committee plenum in December 1958 and the party congress in January 1959.

Khrushchev, however, may have been referring to the "anti-party group" when he announced at the close of the congress that appeals had been received "on decisions concerning removals from the party, impositions of party punishment, and other personal party matters." The congress charged the central committee with answering these appeals. Khrushchev may feel that further moves against members of the group and others linked with its activities are now desirable.

Although the central committee has little or no substantive role in the formulation of foreign policy, the meeting in June will provide the Soviet leaders with an opportunity to review the results of the Geneva conference and explain the USSR's position prior to a summit meeting.