

INDUSTRY TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE
MORE EFFECTIVELY

- North Vietnam -

Following is a translation of an article by Nguyen-van
-Tran in the Vietnamese-language publication Hoc Tap
(Study), No.2, Hanoi, February 1964, pages 37-46/

Expand industry by making agriculture
the base and giving industry the leading role

As the 3rd National Congress of the Party pointed out, "Industry and agriculture are the two principal elements of the national economy with the closest relationship. Industry, especially heavy industry, has the leading role while agriculture is the base on which industry develops." (1) Taking the resolution of the 3rd Party Congress as a basis, the 8th Plenum of the Party Central Committee emphasized that "Heavy industry should be developed first and foremost and in a rational manner while efforts should also be made in light industry and attention focussed on directing industry toward supporting agriculture more effectively. Agriculture should be developed into an all-round, vigorous, and stable one as well as a good base for industrial development."

Industry in the leading role and agriculture as the base for industrial development, such is the guiding principle for expanding our national economy. This principle is reflective of the country's true conditions and of the needs that socialist construction entails in an agricultural country that bypasses the capitalist development phase to socialism.

Whenever we want to develop our economy or, more specifically, our industry, agriculture is where we must begin. Ours is a backward agricultural country 90% of whose population are peasants. Over half of the

(1) Văn Kiện Đại Hội (Compilation of Documents) published by the Central Executive Committee of the Vietnam Lao Dong Party, 1961, Volume I, page 182

total production of the North consists of farm products, and over 70% of the raw materials for the light industries is supplied by agriculture. An important part of our exported goods consists of agricultural products. Agriculture provides foods, raw materials, and manpower to industry and also is a consumer of industrial products. For all these reasons an expanding agriculture is a good base for an expanding industry. Experience has taught the Party that it pays to reform and develop the country's agriculture into an all-round, vigorous, and stable one. When he was summing up the Party's 30 years of activity, President Ho said in 1961: "In our North, agriculture accounts for a major part of the economy and small production accounts for a major part of agriculture. Agriculture being the source of all foodstuffs and raw materials and an important producer of export goods, and the rural areas being so far the largest of all markets, it is essential to reform and develop agriculture if we want it as a base from which to expand all other sectors of the economy.

"Agriculture must be reformed and developed to pave the way for the industrialization of the country, for industry develops only to the extent that agriculture itself develops." (2) With this concept as a basis the Party constantly directs all sectors of activity and particularly the industries toward supporting agriculture effectively. Throughout our economic rehabilitation and the period of economic reform and development the Party stipulated that industry should concentrate on manufacturing production materials for the support of agriculture. During the first 5-year plan the Party again stressed that industry should serve agriculture more effectively.

Under the enlightened leadership of the Party, a cooperativized agriculture has taken shape in the Northern part of our country. It has basically replaced the old individualistic, ill-coordinated agriculture and is exerting its greatest effort to becoming the worthy foundation on which industry will develop. This is the greatest and most heartening victory our people has ever won. The reality of life has given us more insight into how agriculture will affect industry. After 3 years of economic reform and development and cultural development (1958-1961), and after 3 years of implementation of the first 5-year plan, agriculture, in spite of its relatively strong development, is still unable to cope with all demands as we try to expand our economy and raise the people's living standards. Moreover, agriculture has over the past few years been suffering one bad crop after another because of droughts, typhoons, floods, etc. resulting in numerous difficulties currently for our supplying food to the people and raw materials to the industries. The consequence is that consumption of manufactured goods falls off while capital accumulation decreases. Of the entire economy the key problem is, at present,

Hồ-chí-Minh: Tuyển Tập (Selection), Sự Thật (Truth), publisher, Hanoi, 1960, page 773.

the problem of food -- a problem on which we shall have to concentrate and with which we must deal in a satisfactory manner.

Industry should look upon agriculture as its base and be mindful of its own leading role. It can never develop without a developing agriculture. The extent to which industry will develop must be dictated by the prevailing conditions in the food, foodstuffs, agricultural raw materials, and manpower supplied by agriculture. The 14 million northern peasants should represent for industry the object it is constantly endeavoring to serve. For the present, industry must support the campaign for "Improving cooperative management and techniques and developing an all-round, vigorous, and stable agriculture." Now that our cooperativization is basically over, contradictions appear between the advanced relations of production and the lagging material and technical base of agriculture. Seeking a solution to these contradictions, we are left with no alternative other than to start building a material and technical base for agriculture. This proves a formidable task. Unless help is forthcoming from industry and especially the heavy industry, there is no possibility that agriculture by itself will ever discharge such a difficult task, much less progress further.

A more effective support from industry is by no means the requirement of agriculture alone but it is also the pressing need of industry itself, because part of the current industrial problems stems from agricultural troubles. It follows that trying hard to develop an all-round, vigorous, and stable agriculture means precisely to give industry itself a strong impulse. The worker-peasant alliance will also benefit by this parallel development of industry and agriculture. Between the two a basic relationship exists which is decisive throughout our period of socialist industrialization. This mutual assistance reflects the close ties between the working class and the peasantry and constitutes a positive way to eliminate contradictions that may beset this relationship. Industry must depend upon agriculture for its development. On the other hand, should technical equipment fail to come forth from industry, agriculture would hardly be in any position to re-invest its proceeds and to expand itself. In the North, agriculture is still unable to satisfy the needs of industry, but neither is industry able to meet the demands of agriculture. Trying to resolve this dilemma is a long-range task of extreme importance for the country's socialist construction.

In the world's countries generally speaking, agricultural production is currently faced with a good many problems. In the capitalist countries agricultural growth has been very slow for the past few decades. From 1953 to 1961 the average rate of growth in the socialist countries was 3.2% for agriculture and 13% for industry. Although agriculture's growth rate in the socialist countries is higher than in the capitalist countries, it does not mean that we have no more problems to deal with, the fact is that no country has as yet solved the food problem basically. In our North during the period from 1955 to 1960, agricultural production

increased 6.5% annually on the average, and industrial and handicraft output shot up 38%. Even though this is a rather high rate for agriculture, food problems still are besetting us.

The agricultural situation both in the world and at home has pointed up all the more clearly the importance of agriculture. It also shows that developing an agriculture is far from an easy task. Any nation in the world that aspires to a civilized life must build up and develop its industry, but never should it neglect its agriculture because of that. Our own experience and the experience of the brother socialist countries permit us to assert that industry and agriculture must expand simultaneously and that the former can never be independent from the latter.

The current situation in our industrial and agricultural production demands that we understand better the Party's view on how the relationship should be between industry and agriculture. Thanks to our correct implementation of the Party's line, we have been able to score great accomplishments in industry and agriculture. However, while engaged in building up and developing our industry we failed to see the real importance of agriculture. We belittled it and did not set industry on a course that would produce more effective support for agriculture. Complete separation between industry and agriculture causing the former to turn out products that the latter does not need, or things of that sort, is curtailing our accomplishment, keeping us from giving fuller play to the leading role of industry, and lessening our ability to expand agriculture. That such shortcomings exist at all is because some cadres do not realize that "Developing industry by giving it the leading role and making agriculture its base" is the Party's fundamental line for swift, steady socialist industrialization.

What can industry do for agriculture?
What is required of industry?

Not all societies have the power to so direct their industries as to serve their agriculture effectively. Utter exploitation of the farm laborers; reckless, profit-motivated use of the land; failure or refusal to apply advanced techniques to agriculture whenever mechanical means are not cheaper than manual labor, etc. are hindering agricultural development under capitalism and leaving agriculture lagging far behind industry. It is only under socialism that we are in a position to consciously and actively resolve the contradictions born of the relationship between industry and agriculture. The clearcut superiority of the system of public ownership of production materials creates the necessary conditions for industry to be channeled into effectively supporting agriculture. These conditions are: following the cooperativization of the farms our rural market was considerably broadened with mounting demands for production materials and consumption goods and an increasing purchasing power among the peasants; capital accumulation by the cooperatives and aid from the State to the cooperatives are rising. A cooperativized agriculture

is opening up for industry vast fields of activity and demands in return that industry give agriculture further and greater support. Industry for its part is rapidly built up with the material conditions for serving agriculture better. The conscious action of men who are trying to apply the objective economic laws of socialism will also help industry's support for agriculture.

To a certain extent, industry's support for agriculture is affected by how thoroughly industrial plans are implemented, how successfully the industries are managed, how well their manufactured products are sold, and so forth (in order to sell the products must be good, they must answer current demand, their prices must be low, and the peasants must have the necessary cash, and so on.) In this connection, a contradiction develops between production and consumption. Naturally, high quality and large quantities and a great many choices of items are in the long run decisive factors in enlarging consumption. In some specific cases, however, contradictions arise between production and consumption and often manifest themselves in various, interacting aspects -- when crops are bad, consumption in industrial products usually decreases; poor industrial management results in low quality which means unsaleable products. For such specific cases, specific solutions will be called for. At any rate, industry should give fuller scope to its leading role and take the initiative for expanding its market and for overcoming its overreliance on agriculture. The fact must be borne home to us that it is our responsibility to constantly strive for a higher quality of products, lower costs, and for more and newer items in support of agriculture.

When studying industry's support for agriculture, we must first study the situation of our country's agriculture.

The most salient fact in this respect is that, with the socialist transformation of agriculture basically completed, we have turned agriculture from an individualistic to a cooperativized one. By so doing we have eradicated rural exploitation, made possible a more rational utilization of manpower, systematized production, and allowed fuller play to the ardor of the collective owner of the land to work for himself. These are positive but nascent factors, however, without much effect on the matter; the negative factors in the meantime are still waiting to be eliminated. Cooperative organization is still poor, farm techniques are lagging, the level of socialist consciousness is low in the peasant-cooperative member who is still under the influence of the individualist way of life. This results in a sluggish rate of capital accumulation which in turn makes modernization of techniques unrealizable so far.

With little land to work on and a large population to feed, our country averages less than 3 sao of tillable land per capita. Its climate has as many advantages as it has disadvantages. While the land can be farmed throughout the year, droughts, waterlogging, typhoons, and floods, on the other hand, are in permanent succession. For want of

conservation the soil is now discolored and eroded. Flooded, partitioned in tiny lots, not all of them on the same level, our fields have been producing for ages. Our farming tools are antiquated, electricity and mechanical equipment are practically not used for farm work. Insects are legion, but little insecticide is being turned out. Chemical fertilizer is available to us only in inconsequential amounts.

All these facts characteristic of our agriculture present industry with many problems to contend with: conditions for a higher farm output must be created; a pressing food problem and an industrial and export raw material problem must be solved; such natural calamities as floods, water-logging, droughts, typhoons, and insects must be fought vigorously; the question of insufficient land and huge population must be faced along with the fact that people are unevenly distributed over the country, that only little virgin land has been reclaimed, and that the selection of a reclaimable virgin tract is not easy; farm tools and farming techniques must be modernized and deep plowing must be practiced for higher yields. These are the major problems that industry must help solve if we are to develop an all-round, vigorous, and stable agriculture.

Essentially, making industry serve agriculture effectively consists in ENLARGING THE MATERIAL AND TECHNICAL BASE OF AGRICULTURE AND PROVIDING AGRICULTURE WITH MORE EQUIPMENT." To this end, the machine making industry must, as the resolution of the 8th Plenum of the Central Committee has indicated, supply agriculture with more pumps of all kinds, improved and mechanical farm tools, better transportations, food processing machines, and part of the needed farm machines of various kinds. The electrical industry must promptly set up power lines that penetrate deeper in to the delta and help irrigate and drain the fields with the most advanced methods and it must concentrate on installing small-scale power plants in the countryside and mountainous regions. The chemical and fertilizer industries must satisfy agriculture's need for phosphate and part of its demand in insecticide, and the nitrate plant must be stepped up, promptly completed and put in operation. The construction material industry must increase its output for the people's use, it must in particular supply all the lime needed for soil improvement. The processing of the subsidiary crops, the salt making industry, and fishery must be pushed by the food industry. To go deeper into the rural districts, to develop improved transportations, to broadened the movement for liberating man's shoulders as means of transportation are jobs that devolve on the transportation industry. With a view to bringing agriculture's material and technical base and using advanced farming techniques, the State will invest much more money in agriculture. In addition, more equipment and more long-term loans should be given to the cooperatives which should also be guided toward using more rationally its accumulated capital and manpower for more output.

The concrete directions and the major targets set by the 8th Plenum of the Party Central Committee show a measure of the Party's determination to develop agriculture and to give more active and fuller play to the leading role of industry.

So far we have made good on the set targets. In 1961-1962 the State delivered to the peasants 362,000 tons of fertilizer of which 180,400 tons were nitrate and 43,000 tons phosphate fertilizers. Electricity was extended to agriculture at a comparatively rapid pace: in 1962 only 8 million kilowatthours were consumed by agriculture, in 1963 as much as 18 million kilowatthours were consumed. During 1961-1962 the machine-making industry turned out 3,859,612 tools of various kinds and 2,196,323 or 4 times as many improved tools as during the 3 years from 1958 to 1960. The construction material industry produced 900 million bricks, 70 million tiles, and 231,000 tons of lime, meeting part of the demand from irrigation and rural construction works. These reflect the greatest efforts on our part. However, what hamper our ability to provide agriculture with a modern technique are the facts that there is little mechanization in our agriculture; that what machines we are using are not fully utilized; that the labor cost of plowing one hectare of land is still high; that due to the vast territory it must serve a machine station is often found to be poorly organized; that, although not mass produced, all the improved tools already manufactured are not being put to use, the result is unsold stocks and wasteful immobilization of money and materials for the factory. In the field of irrigation not much has been done to fight waterlogging and drought, and to water and drain the fields in the manner we wish would be carried out. While some good results have been accomplished in the manufacture of pumps and supplying of electricity to the farms, the demands are far from being met. Also needed are huge quantities of fertilizers.

This state of affairs stems from the fact that industry has failed to keep pace with agriculture and that it is turning out items unsuited for local use, low in quality, high in cost, and so on. On the other hand, agriculture is able to use modern techniques only in a very limited way. All these reasons account for the low economic efficiency attained. A higher economic efficiency calls for a much better way for industry to serve agriculture.

Under the beacon of the Party's resolution it is necessary, considering the peculiarities of the northern agriculture, that we set industry and especially the heavy industry on a course that will give agriculture the following effective support:

FIRST, industry must contribute an active part in expanding irrigation works. As the agricultural situation of the past few years has testified, the fight against drought and waterlogging in our country is of paramount importance. In spite of our great efforts, hundreds of thousands of hectares of ricefield still suffer from droughts and waterlogging, and in spite of the considerable amount of labor devoted to them our agricultural production plans are still threatened. The drought that plagued us early last year and the waterlogging of our fields that followed by midyear have frustrated us of hundreds of thousands of tons of paddy. Water conservation is now holding the utmost attention of the Party and Government and is considered the most important path toward agricultural

development. The Party and Government recently adopted a 2-year water conservation plan and launched a vigorous, broad, tumultuous mass movement to that effect. The building of water works will demand from industry huge quantities of construction materials, earth moving and transportation tools, accessories for installing wharfs, drains, and dams, machines and equipment for pumping stations, transformers and generators, and so forth. Irrigation also calls for more electric pumps of all kinds and more power networks. The production of waterwheels should be stepped up because these water elevating devices are most suitable to rural production skill: they are simple to manufacture, they are cheap and practical. All our energies should be devoted to the following targets: by 1965 we should be in a position to water 50% of our tillable acreage at any time we wish, to have enough water for 80% of our rice acreage and all industrial crop acreage, and to increase the subsidiary crops' share of water. Industry should have a program for producing pumps of all kinds, for both watering and draining, to suit every particular region. Electricity is economical for irrigation use (1 kwh is equivalent to the work of 8 men), but there should be an organization to advise the cooperatives on how to use electricity, how to do repair work and avoid waste. Experience shows that small electric pumps of about 10 horsepower are most popular with the cooperatives and that they should be in wider use on the outskirts of cities, towns, and industrial centers where electricity is readily available.

It is obvious from the foregoing that the mechanization of agriculture must begin with the mechanization of irrigation, and that it must not be confined to the mechanization of farm tools. We should control firmly the use of water and try to constantly lower watering cost. A plan should be established to conserve water and avoid using it as recklessly as in some instances.

SECOND, more importance should be attached to manufacturing fertilizers. It is common knowledge that fertilizer is the most important factor after water. A higher rice yield, a better soil, a higher coefficient of land utilization all calls for proper application of fertilizer. According to the first 5-year plan, organic fertilizers, especially stable manure, should be increased to approximately 8 tons per hectare by 1965. The use of silt and particularly that deposited by the Red River is economically effective to a high degree and should be exploited. Phosphate fertilizer should be more extensively used on trees; applied in combination with various green manures it is transformed into the best nitrate. Lime should be produced in quantities as each hectare needs from 500 to 1,000 kilograms of it. Beside speeding up the construction of the Ha-bac nitrate plant and stepping up production at the Phu-tho and Van-dien phosphate plants, fuller advantage should be taken of the regional manure and lime plants if agriculture's new demands are to be satisfied. To bring out the best in the various kinds of fertilizer, plans should be mapped to suit each region and fertilizer application should be done according to the best technique. Regions putting out the most marketable products should

be given the largest amount of fertilizer. We know from experience that phosphate is best for industrial crops and that, combined with nitrate, it brings the best results for tea, mulberry on reclaimed virgin lands. Production of insecticides should be stepped up to combat insect pests which damage hundreds of thousands of tons of our rice.

The practice of deep plowing for higher yields calls for the greatest attention to "water and fertilizer" -- the 2 most urgent, most easily satisfied factors that produce the speediest practical results. Water determines whether a crop will be good or poor, and fertilizer whether it will be bountiful or scanty. The advantages of mechanized pumps are many: prompt action, economy in manpower, technical simplicity. Chemical fertilizers, properly applied, act swiftly and extensively. For all these reasons industry must help actively in water conservation and in providing agriculture with chemical fertilizers.

THIRD, more improved tools should be manufactured and the first steps should be taken toward replacing manual by mechanized labor through the use of semimechanized and mechanized tools. The present conditions being what they are, the most suitable of the improved common tools are the medium and small models, for they not only utilize the potentials of the central and regional industries but they also are compatible with the purchasing power and technical know-how of the peasant. The manufacture and servicing of these tools can be organized inexpensively by the co-operatives themselves in cooperation with one another. Food processing machines of all kinds should be turned out since they constitute an important factor in our effort to increase subsidiary crops. Experience shows that the manufacture and use of semimechanical and mechanical tools are very complicated because we need motive power, we also need a great variety of such tools, technical skill, and servicing facilities. A number of such tools are now under study. From this study a decision should be reached as soon as possible for each kind of farm tools, and the best direction of production promptly charted for making them. Hasty decisions which could lead to the mass manufacture and use of unsuitable tools should be avoided. For the present we should have plans for turning out such common farm tools as sickles large and small, picks, other earth moving and transportation implements, food processing machines, etc. all of which will enable us to expand farm acreage, to effect timely and prompt harvests, and to economize manpower. The smaller iron tools should be made with good grade steel if we want them to be long lasting and effective, they should be adapted to the customs and practices of each region. Farm product processing machines, vehicles for transportation, waterwheels, etc. should be made partly of iron, they should run on ballbearings if they are to be long lasting and effective. More tractors should be supplied to provide tractive power and extend the machine-plowed acreage. Inasmuch as tractors are limited in number, and using them being a complicated job they should be concentrated on places where manpower is scarce and conditions lend themselves to the use of machines. They should be given greater care, used to fuller capacity, and result in lower plowing cost.

The mechanization of agriculture is a long-range and difficult task because of the need for capital and technical skill. This notwithstanding we still must go ahead with it step by step.

To mechanize our agriculture we must bear in mind the following points:

a) Concentrate on small, multipurpose machines. Our fields come in small, flooded patches. Larger machines or tractors require that the conditions of the fields be first thoroughly studied, and that a watering system exists that could operate at our best convenience.

b) develop an electrification network aimed at gradually achieving the combined mechanization and electrification of agriculture. This can first be applied to regions fringing the outskirts of cities. A research project should be set up to explore the possibility of developing such a network taking into account the peculiar conditions of this country.

c) The problem of a motive power to suit individual regions should now be studied -- the sea coast, the plains, the midlands, and the highlands -- centering on the tractor as the main source. With the direction for using tractors in each region laid down, we shall proceed with the manufacture of such farm machines as pumps, insecticide sprayers, husking, threshing, seeding machines, food processing machines of all kinds, and so forth, not to mention the use of tractors for transportation. The above approach necessitates little capital outlay while achieving high economic efficiency.

FOURTH, in addition to such technical assistance we must not neglect to provide the peasants with consumer goods. In this connection, a direction should be charted for the production of consumer commodities. Their poverty and low purchasing power cause the peasants to prefer ordinary, everyday articles that are good, long lasting, and cheap. The fallacy that "high quality can only be found in high class goods" must be exploded. At a time such as this producing high class items would not be consistent with either the peasants' demand or his purchasing power. In order to make good but cheap products, industry must naturally make greater efforts, try harder, and improve itself in many ways. Parallel with helping agriculture, the State will push ahead with the purchase of farm products. The peasants' purchasing power will continue to rise, and the rural districts will demand more manufactured products: construction materials of all kinds, consumer goods, processed food, and so on. Supplying these items means not only improving the lot of the peasants and consolidating the worker-peasant alliance, but it also leads to a larger consumption market for industrial products. Conversely, should we fail to provide the peasants with sufficient industrial products or should we give them only poor but expensive products, the effect on industrial production would be negative.

In summary, agriculture is demanding all the help industry can

muster. On the basis of agriculture's need and industry's own capability industry should find ways and means to support agriculture as laid down by the 8th Plenum of the Party Central Committee. In the coming years we shall devote ourselves to supporting agriculture in the following ways: irrigation, chemical fertilizers, insecticides, implements for plowing, harvesting, threshing, transporting, machines for processing farm products, building materials, and essential consumer goods for everyday use. With this accomplished industry will be able to bring its leading into play and add tremendously to the potentialities of our socialist industrialization.

Principle and experience of leadership

A few guiding principles consistent with the country's peculiar conditions have accounted for our ability to achieve a correct relationship between industry and agriculture. After years of struggle and hardships we have come to recognize these principles more clearly and we have gained further experience in guiding industry in its support for agriculture. Let us review the following questions of major importance.

FIRST, the question of achieving a correct relationship between production and consumption, a problem brought up by the peculiarities of our agricultural and industrial production. We all know that the land problem is a complex one in our country and that, due to different farming conditions in different places, each region has its own particular needs. The same type of pump cannot be used as effectively on low-lying fields as on high-lying ones, a model of farm tool is suitable for one region and may not be so for another, and so forth. Consequently, it is necessary that we investigate each region as to its farming conditions and needs if we are to find suitable solutions for their problems. Furthermore, agricultural production changes with the seasons, requiring that supplies be available with definite periods of time -- a fact calling for plans that co-ordinate demand and supply. Such phenomena as supplying manufactured goods at the wrong time and having too many of them unsold while the farms need them badly are but the consequences of our inability to solve the foregoing contradictions. When we try to reach a solution we usually find ourselves up against the following problems: prior to a season the peasants need production materials but are short of cash; following a season they have the money but do not need materials badly. As a result the State should, beside advising the co-operatives to make more rational use of their accumulated funds, loan money to the peasants so that production materials may be acquired when they are needed. Production materials should be made available before a season begins and consumption materials after it when the peasants have completed their harvests and sold the crops. Only so will we produce a beneficial effect. Industry must therefore approach the problem in such a way as to meet the demands of each individual region including its seasonal needs, grasping the crux of the problem, concentrating on solving one question at a time, avoiding hastiness and carelessness. We at present have little capital with which to work but must cope with formidable demands. Whatever

capital we have should not be spread too thin. In the coming years we are determined to find solutions to the questions of water conservancy, chemical fertilizers, and farm tools. These are all feasible and all beneficial to agriculture.

In another connection, the products manufactured by industry must be good and inexpensive. Quality and inexpensiveness constitute an important target and a criterion upon which to test the worth of industry's support for agriculture. Only if industry fulfills this requirement will it be of any practical value to agriculture. The relationship between quality and inexpensiveness, between quality and quantity is very much dialectical. When the production materials delivered to agriculture are good and longlasting, they will help spur labor efficiency and lower production costs. On the other hand, if its products are poor in quality and high in cost, industry will not be able to sell them and will be its own first victim. Poor quality and high costs at present account partly for the unsaleable production materials in many places. For these reasons we must grasp the crux of the problem and solve it one point at a time so as to satisfy the requirements of each region and each season, and to put out products in sufficient quantity, adequate quality, and low enough price. These are the principles and also the most economically effective course of action for supporting agriculture.

SECOND, the question of achieving a correct relationship among industry, transport and communications, and commerce. We are all aware that supporting agriculture is a task common to all these fields, and that it also demands the closest co-ordination between economy and finance as well as between the people's own ability and the State's assistance. Only if this is understood shall we be in a position to resolve the contradictions between goods production and circulation, contradictions that often arise in the common support all extends to agriculture.

Further efforts should be directed toward an overall, consolidated plan and a well co-ordinated leadership for implementing all production, transport, consumption, and utilization plans. The Ministry of agriculture should scrutinize the utilization plan and set forth proper requests. The ministries of various industries should bear in mind what agriculture actually needs and organize production for speed, quantity, quality, and low costs. The Ministry of Communications and Transport should organize itself for prompt delivery thereby solving agriculture's transportation problems. The Ministry of Foreign Trade should assure industry and agriculture that imported articles answer their production requirements, and the Ministry of Internal Trade should see to it that these imported items are promptly delivered to their users in time for the production season. The peasants' money shortage should be settled by the Ministry of Finance and the State Bank. All activities should be perfectly co-ordinated under the unified leadership of the Party and Government. All plans should be consistent with the principle of co-ordination with agricultural production in the best interests of the peasants. It is well to bear in

mind that we shall find ourselves up against quite a few problems trying to have all plans in perfect co-ordination. This is due partly to our own agricultural economy and partly to the deficiencies and shortcomings in the management of our plans, economy, and finances. The situation therefore calls for us to deal with and promptly readjust and correct all discrepancies encountered, and to keep them from harming production.

The relationship between industry and agriculture is essentially that of an exchange of goods: the peasants sell the products of their farms to and buy manufactured goods from industry. Of considerable importance is a form of exchange not involving merchandise, that is, the assistance from the State. A system of business contracts should be instituted between the State and the cooperatives, specifying the kinds of commodities to be exchanged between industry and agriculture. Such exchanges, carried out on the basis of equal values, are mutually profitable and compatible with the interests of the State, those of the collective and those of the individuals. The best advantage should be taken of the law of values and its effects, and each purchase and sale of merchandise should be made to benefit the economy and to work toward redistributing the people's and society's incomes. In this respect, parochialism should be thwarted along with all tendencies to rely on the State expecting the State to purchase farm products at high prices and sell production materials at low prices. For the production materials a rational pricing policy should be established which will stimulate agriculture into acquiring modern equipment. The State should help the cooperatives when they are short of money -- a step of considerable importance in our effort to solve agriculture's problems.

THIRD, the question of achieving among various sectors of industry a correct relationship wherein the division of labor is consistent with the ability of each sector and the potential of all sectors is mobilized to the fullest for the support of agriculture. In the machine making industry, for instance, the central enterprises should assume the responsibility of putting out semimechanical and mechanical farm implements, while the regional plants should be oriented toward servicing, setting up a service network in the districts and hamlets, turning out more parts, accessories, farm tools, and common tools of various kinds. The regional enterprises should also look further into their own need and possibilities in raw materials, manpower, and finances in order to determine its own direction of production, avoiding all precipitate courses of action which could result in high costs and low quality. Production in the central and regional enterprises should be organized toward gradual specialization whence high labor efficiency and high product quality can be expected. A few years ago, a same farm tool was manufactured by several plants at the same time, regional enterprises turned out semimechanical implements just as the central enterprises with the result that a same item could be excellent and inexpensive at one plant but poor and expensive at another -- a poor state of affairs.

FOURTH, the question of achieving a correct relationship between

modern technology and the peasants' low technical and cultural level. As we all know, modern technology requires a certain scientific and technical skill, which means that we must organize ourselves for training enough technical cadres to advise and help the peasants in this respect. Here, we have experiences to draw on. When the phosphate fertilizer put out by the Lam-thao plant was first tried, many people thought the fertilizer unsuitable for their regions. With proper guidance, however, they all admitted to the phosphate's beneficial action and are now quite used to it. As with phosphate fertilizer, so with other improved farm tools. One thing is clear, an age-old farming custom cannot be changed swiftly and readily, so we must be steadfast in our effort to educate and help the peasants in the introduction of new techniques. Here, a great responsibility devolves on those organizations whose job it is to disseminate science and technology. There should be set up organizations to take care of and service farm machines and insure their efficiency. The various departments should share this job. The State should control the highly technical farm machines such as tractors, large pumps, large food processing machines, and so forth. The regional industrial bureaus should control the production and servicing of common farm tools. The production of other small, crude tools, and minor servicing should be entrusted to the districts to answer the peasants' needs promptly.

During the 1963 fight against drought and waterlogging, the Party and Government dispatched a number of technicians to guide the peasants in the use of electric pumps and other semimechanical farm implements. The impact of such a step was tremendous. Thanks to it the worker-peasant solidarity was strengthened, modern techniques were more widely applied, labor efficiency rose, and production cost were cut. Some factories now send their own men along with the pumps to the country, in order to initiate the cooperatives in the use of this new technique, with the best results. These are good experiences from which we should learn.

To find a correct solution to the relationship between industry and agriculture is a long, involved proposition. So, in order to achieve the highest economic efficiency in our support for agriculture we should avail ourselves intelligently of the experience already gained.

For substantial support to agriculture
Ideological uplift in industry necessary

The prime requisite for industry to extend more effective support to agriculture is to drill into the industrial cadres and workers a correct ideological thinking. In other words the men must understand the Party and Government's line on agricultural development, they must perceive clearly the importance of agriculture in the socialist industrialization of a backward agricultural country which emerges into socialism without going through the stage of capitalist development. This well understood, they will realize where their responsibility lies and resolve to back agriculture accordingly.

In the North, the socialist revolution is going through hard, fierce struggles. We are limited in tillable land; the new relation of production in our countryside is by no means completed and consolidated; agriculture's material and technical base is still weak, and so forth -- all of which does not permit agriculture as yet to serve as an effective base for industrial development. There lies the root of part of industry's troubles. But precisely for the same reasons industry should work in such a way as to help agriculture all the more to advance if industry itself is to progress at all. To strive to support agriculture in the most effective way is in the best interest of industry itself. It is also its duty. Only if this fact is driven home to us shall we work with determination, uniting our efforts with those of the peasants, toward achieving a technical revolution in agriculture. Only so shall we be in a position to surmount such erroneous tendencies as: looking down on agriculture, severing all ties between industrial production and agriculture, considering support for agriculture industry's "secondary" task or a mere "service rendered" and so on. And only so shall we be able to eliminate those irrational business practices that tend to make the consumer bear the burden of all the costs, and those high-handed transactions that are in no way motivated by the desire to serve agriculture and the peasants.

Under the Party's enlightened leadership industry over the past few years has been scoring many accomplishments in its effort to support agriculture. These accomplishments are daily multiplying and constitute the salient fact of present day industrial production. However, we must never be subjective and become complacent about past achievement. Evaluating our own score, we must also list our deficiencies implacably in order to enhance our will for struggle and to fulfill victoriously the task entrusted to industry by the Party and Government.

All sectors of industry, whether they are directly or indirectly engaged in supporting agriculture, should well understand their duties in this matter. Those industries serving agriculture directly should overcome their own deficiencies -- putting out poor quality, high cost products, products not conform to specifications; reluctance to do minor servicing jobs that are important to agriculture.

Our erroneous ideological thinking is also reflected in the fact that some production units still have no plans and courses of action for backing agriculture. Going about their daily activity, many cadres are unwilling to go on fact-finding tours of the countryside, trying to understand its real conditions, what it needs for production, and comparing experiences with the peasants. Indulging ourselves in bureaucracy; staying snugly in our offices and guessing at what agriculture must be needing, and then drawing up plans, "inventing, designing products" or "demanding that the countryside and cooperatives satisfy the research requirements of the offices" are not unusual phenomena. Those who suffer from the above deficiencies are by no means acting in the interest of the revolution, nor are they looking from the viewpoint of the working class in efforts to solve the question of support for agriculture. Such nega-

tive, passive attitude, such absence of fervor for a technical revolution in agriculture will never result in revolutionary actions for the support of agriculture.

The Party is currently heading the workers and peasants in two large revolutionary campaigns: the "Three Builds, Three Supports" campaign in industry, commerce, communications and transport, and so on, and the campaign for "improving cooperative management, improving techniques for developing an all-round, vigorous, and stable agriculture" in agriculture. The two campaigns are interrelated and mutually strengthening. In conjunction with the "Three Builds, Three Supports" campaign, and in order to implement the latter properly, we should educate and mobilize the workers of all industries for a more effective support for agriculture. This means that we must struggle for higher labor efficiency, higher product quality, lower costs, more choice of commodities for agriculture, and that we must contribute to strengthening the new relation of production in the rural districts and to improving the lot of the peasants. In the years ahead, we should direct industry toward providing more support to agriculture and turn the whole thing into a continuous, vigorous revolutionary campaign among the workers. These are the essential conditions for stepping up socialist industrialization and for improving the people's living conditions.

The resolution of the 8th Plenum of the Party Central Committee has wrought changes for the better among the cadres and workers of industry and handicraft. Many ministries and regional authorities have dispatched their cadres and technicians to find out about the conditions in agricultural production, gathering ideas from the cooperatives, developing directions for production for the respective industries and handicrafts, putting out more choices of product, raising quality, improving their techniques to suit the requirements and conditions of farming work in each region. Some ministries, provinces, and enterprises have established sworn-brotherhood with the cooperatives or are sponsoring them. The provincial and city industrial bureaus are actively engaged in setting up intermediate and small machine stations in districts and hamlets, training technicians, and guiding the peasants in the use of modern techniques. Helping the districts and hamlets with facilities, raw materials, and supplies for servicing common farm implements is off to a good start.

Also forging ahead is specialization in the manufacture of products destined for specific sectors and specific regions of agriculture. The "19 September" machine plant for instance went down to the cooperative where it designed a small coal burning gas-generator for use in irrigation and rural transportation works. The "1 May" machine plant is perfecting the production line of fishing boats for a cooperative. The "30" enterprise sends technical cadres down to the rush-producing area in order to design a rush-working machine; it has completed manufacture of feed-processing machines of all kinds for stockbreeding. Many enterprises are engaged in making improved transport vehicles and rice mills for agriculture.

All this constitutes a good start, an achievement from which we should learn and improve.

The prospects are bright for industrial and agricultural production whose difficult, major problems are gradually being solved. In this respect, many things work in our favor. The Party and Government have set forth resolutions, policies, and courses of action for supporting agriculture more fruitfully. Provided all departments concerned unite strongly and strive for realizing the Party and Government's resolutions, it will not be long before the situation in our agriculture experiences a fundamental change for the better.

Industry to support agriculture more effectively -- such is the slogan of our revolutionary struggle on the industrial production front.