

Alexander Zambard von

M. Gerschenbrun



report on the
FOURTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

delivered by
NIKOLAI A. VOZNESSENSKY

CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

**before the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.
March 15, 1946**

HC335

1946

1946
1946
1946

(1946)

Published by the Information Bulletin
Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Washington 8, D. C.

April, 1946

Five-Year Plan for the Restoration and Development of the National Economy of the USSR for 1946-1950

Comrade Deputies!

THE peoples of the Soviet Union were able to switch over to peaceful labor as a result of a great historic victory—the smashing of Hitlerite Germany and the defeat of Japanese imperialism.

This victory could have been achieved only on the basis of the preliminary preparation of all the country's material resources for active defense. The material prerequisites of our victory were created on the basis of the consistent policy of the industrialization of our country and the collectivization of agriculture.

The gross output of large-scale industry (in stable prices) in 1915-1917 in Russia amounted to 33,000 million rubles. In the period from 1942 to 1944 (in the main in the eastern regions of the country) it amounted to 361,000 million rubles, i.e., it increased nearly elevenfold. The output of marketable grain increased correspondingly by two and one-half times. The average annual railway freight traffic grew by 3.4 times.

During the First World War practically no tanks or planes were built in Russia; in the USSR during the last three years of the Great Patriotic War more than 30 thousand tanks and self-propelled guns and some 40 thousand planes were built annually.

The average annual production of guns in Russia during the last three years of the First World War was about 3,900; in the USSR during the last three years of the Great Patriotic War some 120,000 guns, that is, more than 30 times as many, were built.

In Russia during the last three years of the First World War there were manufactured about 8,900 light and heavy machine guns annually; in the USSR, during the last three years of the Great Patriotic War, some 450,000 machine guns, or more than 50 times as many, were manufactured annually.

In Russia, during the last three years of the First World War, 1,050,000 rifles were produced annually; during the last three years of the Great Patriotic War in the USSR five million rifles and tommy guns, that is, almost five times as many, were produced annually.

During the last three years of the First World War, Russia annually produced about 6,200 mortars; in the USSR, during the

last three years of the Great Patriotic War, 100,000 mortars per year, or more than 16 times as many, were produced.

The annual production of shells, bombs and mines increased respectively from 16,300,000 in the last three years of the First World War to 240,000,000 in 1944, that is, almost fifteenfold.

Such were the results of the development of the productive forces on the basis of socialist production, revealed in the period of the Great Patriotic War, in spite of the temporary occupation of a considerable part of Soviet territory containing highly developed industry and agriculture.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is confidently marching forward along the road of the further consolidation and development of the socialist system. It fears no economic crises, depressions or unemployment. It is consistently reconstructing the national economy and increasing the rate of rehabilitation and development, on the basis of the State Plans, which in the Soviet Union have the strength of laws of economic development.

In future, too, the USSR will continue to develop economic relations with foreign countries, while maintaining the well-tryed policy of the Soviet Government aimed at ensuring the technical and economic independence of the Soviet Union.

I.

MAIN TASKS OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The main economic and political task of the Five-Year Plan for 1946-1950 is to rehabilitate the affected districts of the country, restore industry and agriculture to the prewar level and then considerably to surpass this level. Accordingly, the Five-Year Plan for the Restoration and Development of the National Economy comprises the following tasks:

First, to increase industrial output by nearly 50 per cent compared with the prewar level, ensuring the rehabilitation and development of heavy industry and railway transport in the first place.

Second, to achieve the growth of agriculture and industry producing consumer goods, to ensure the material welfare of the peoples of the Soviet Union and to create an abundance of main consumer goods in the country.

It is necessary to surpass the prewar level of national income and national consumption, and to abolish the rationing system at

the earliest possible date, replacing it by highly developed Soviet trade.

Special attention is to be paid to the development of the production of consumer goods and to raising the living standards of the working people by means of the steady reduction of commodity prices. These tasks call for the consolidation of the monetary circulation and of the Soviet ruble.

Third, to ensure further technical progress in all branches of the national economy of the Soviet Union, as the prerequisite for a powerful rise of production and of labor productivity. For this purpose we must in the nearest future not only come level with, but also surpass, the achievements of science beyond the borders of the USSR.

The history of our country knows many innovators and revolutionaries in science and technology, who made discoveries of world importance. It is sufficient to mention Popov, outstanding physicist and inventor of radio which to this day continues to revolutionize science and forms the basis of the most modern radio location technique; Mendeleev, the world's greatest chemist, who discovered the Periodic Law—the basic law of chemistry—which to this day helps scientists to discover the secrets of atomic energy; Zhukovsky, who laid the theoretical foundations of modern aero-dynamics and aviation; Tsiolkovsky, who developed the theory of reactive movement, which forms the basis of modern reactive movement technique, and who forestalled similar researches abroad.

Provided proper assistance is rendered to our scientists, Soviet science will be able to surpass the latest achievements of science beyond the borders of the Soviet Union.

Fourth, to ensure a high rate of socialist accumulation of capital and to provide for centralized capital investments in the rehabilitation and development of the national economy during the next five years to the amount of 250,000 million rubles, and to provide for the launching of restored and new enterprises valued at 234,000 million rubles.

Along with rehabilitation of the national economy in the affected districts, the Five-Year Plan provides for the further development of the national economy in all the Union Republics and economic districts of the USSR. As the result of the execution of the plan of capital construction, the basic funds of the Soviet national economy will not only be restored but even increased in 1950 to 1,130,000

million rubles (in stable prices). that is, eight per cent above the prewar level of development of basic funds in the entire territory of the USSR.

To accomplish the program of capital construction, we must create a powerful building industry and ensure an annual margin of increase of about 12 per cent in the volume of capital construction.

Fifth, our task is to raise further the defensive power of the USSR and to supply the armed forces of the Soviet Union with the most modern military equipment. The Soviet people wish to see their armed forces even more strong and powerful, in order to guarantee the country against any accident and to safeguard peace.

In the East and West the historical boundaries of the Soviet Union have been restored. From now on, in the East, Southern Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands will no longer serve as a means of isolating the Soviet Union from the ocean or as a base for a Japanese attack on our Far East, but as a means of direct access of the Soviet Union to the ocean and as a base for the defense of our country from Japanese aggression. From now on the free and democratic Polish State is no longer a base for German attack on our western frontier, but our ally in defense against German aggression.

Comrade Stalin has warned us, however, that "in days to come the peace-loving nations may once more find themselves caught off their guard by aggression, unless of course, they work out special measures right now which can avert it." (Stalin's speech on November 6, 1944.)

One should not forget that monopolistic capitalism is capable of breeding new aggressors. To avert new aggression it is necessary to disarm the aggressive nations completely, to place them under military and economic control and to have in the United Nations organization an organ which will guard world peace and security and will be capable of defending peace and opposing new aggression.

We must strengthen the armed forces of the Soviet Union; we must work tirelessly to provide them with the most modern equipment and to strengthen further the military and economic power of the Soviet State.

Ensuring the rehabilitation and development of the national economy in the Soviet Union, the Five-Year Plan at the same time continues the course of development of Soviet society outlined by

the Eighteenth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and temporarily interrupted by Hitlerite Germany's treacherous attack on the Soviet Union.

This course envisages the completion of the construction of a classless socialist society and the gradual transition from socialism to communism. It envisages the solution of the main economic task facing the USSR—that of overtaking and surpassing the main capitalist countries in respect of economy, i.e., in regard to industrial production per head of the population.

II.

PLAN FOR PRODUCTION, BUILDING AND RESTORATION

In regard to the main economic and political tasks of the new period of peaceful development of the USSR, the Five-Year Plan defines the tempo and the level of production for 1946-1950.

A. Industry

The gross output of the entire industry of the USSR in 1950 is fixed at a sum of 205,000 million rubles (at 1926-1927 prices), i.e., 48 per cent above the prewar level, while in districts affected by occupation the prewar level will be exceeded by 15 per cent. In the period of 1946-1950 we must ensure an annual absolute increase of production by 15,600 million rubles. The rate of growth of the output of means of production somewhat exceeds that of the output of articles of consumption.

In the iron and steel industry, on the growth of which depends the restoration and development of the entire national economy of the Soviet Union, it is planned to increase the output of pig iron to 19.5 million tons, and of steel to 25.4 million tons. That is to say, the output of iron and steel must increase to 35 per cent above the prewar level.

To restore and develop the iron and steel industry, 45 more blast furnaces, 180 more open-hearth furnaces and converters, 90 more electric furnaces and 104 more rolling mills will be put into operation.

The output of non-ferrous and rare metals will be increased so as completely to satisfy the requirements of the national economy by

means of home production alone. Compared with the prewar level, the output of copper will increase 1.6 times, that of aluminum 2.0 times, magnesium 2.7 times, nickel 1.9 times, lead 2.6 times, zinc 2.5 times, tungsten concentrates 4.4 times, molybdenum concentrates 2.1 times, tin 2.7 times. The production of new rare metals will be developed at a similar or even more rapid pace.

In the fuel industry, in 1950 the output of coal will be increased up to 250 million tons, or by 51 per cent above the prewar level. The mechanical equipment of the coal industry will increase three or four times compared with the prewar period.

During the five years, coal mines with an aggregate capacity of 183 million tons, 277 coal washing plants with an aggregate capacity of 184 million tons, and 26 plants for the production of coal briquettes with an aggregate annual capacity of 10 million tons of briquettes, will be launched.

New branches of the fuel and power industry will be created and developed, such as the production of synthetic liquid fuel to an amount of 900 thousand tons a year, and the gas industry producing 11,200 million cubic meters of gas per year.

Oil output will increase up to 35.4 million tons, which is 14 per cent above the prewar level. The share of the eastern districts of the Soviet Union in the total oil output will increase from 12 per cent in 1944 to 36 per cent in 1950.

In the sphere of electrification, the Plan provides for increasing the output of electric power to 82,000 million kilowatt hours, which is 70 per cent above the prewar level. Within five years, power stations with an aggregate capacity of 11.7 million kilowatts will be launched, including 3.3 million kilowatts provided by large and small hydroelectric power stations.

In the engineering industry the Plan provides for doubling the production of machinery and equipment in 1950 compared with the prewar level, while the production of equipment for the metallurgical industry will increase 3.7 times. The output of automobiles will increase to 500 thousand per year, or 3.4 times. The production of locomotives will increase 2.4 times, that of tractors 3.6 times, and that of electrical equipment 2.5 times.

In the chemical industry, production will increase in 1950 to 1.5 times the prewar level. The output of synthetic rubber will be doubled, that of paper will increase by 65 per cent compared with the prewar level.

The Five-Year Plan provides for the rapid rehabilitation and development of the timber and building material industry.

As regards the output of foodstuffs and consumer goods, the Plan provides for an annual increase of 17 per cent, in order not only to reach but to surpass the prewar level.

In conformity with the plan of growth of industrial production, the volume of capital investments in Soviet industry in the next five years is fixed at 157,500 million rubles. In the period of 1946-1950 we must restore, build and launch about 5,900 State enterprises, including 3,200 in the war-ravaged districts, small enterprises not included.

To ensure the realization of the capital construction program, the Five-Year Plan provides for the utmost strengthening and development of the building industry and an increase in the output of building machinery. The program of construction and assembly work for the next five years is estimated at a sum of 153,000 million rubles.

To carry out this Plan it is necessary to ensure wide mechanization of construction work. The Five-Year Plan provides for a thorough mechanization of labor processes, especially in the iron and steel, timber and fuel industries, and for an increase of labor productivity in industry during 1946-1950 by 36 per cent as compared with the prewar level.

This is to be achieved by means of increasing the amount of mechanical equipment per worker by approximately 50 per cent, by means of a wide program for raising the grades of workers, engineers and mechanics, and by full utilization of the eight-hour working day.

The further raising of the technical level of the national economy and the mechanization of labor is to be based on a highly developed engineering industry equipped with a sufficient quantity of highly productive machine tools.

The Five-Year Plan provides for increasing the number of metal cutting machine tools in the USSR to 1,300,000, i.e., approximately 30 per cent above the number of machine tools in the United States in 1940.

This is the most important foundation of the technical and economic independence of the Soviet Union and of further technological progress in all branches of the national economy.

Along with the extensive mechanization and electrification of

production, we must ensure the development of new branches of technology and production, such as:

(a) gasification and combined electro-chemical utilization of solid fuel, which replaces, by the distribution of gas through pipes and of power by wire, the transportation of enormous quantities of fuel;

(b) the use of electrical technology in the production of light and nonferrous metals, alloyed steels and chemical products, and in the treatment of metal;

(c) the production of synthetic materials—artificial liquid fuel, synthetic rubber and plastics, synthetic fiber, leather and alcohol;

(d) the introduction of oxygen in various industrial processes, first of all in the iron and steel and chemical industries;

(e) the transmission of direct high-tension current over long distances;

(f) the production of modern instruments, in particular for radio location and for use in the national economy;

(g) the development of reactive technique and the use of engines of new types producing new speeds and capacities;

(h) research work on problems of atomic energy for the needs of industry and transport.

To ensure further technical progress it is necessary to expand existing, and to create new experimental plants, designing bureaus and scientific research institutes, and to give every material encouragement to the work of scientists, engineers and technicians in the sphere of science and invention.

B. Agriculture

In agriculture, the Five-Year Plan provides for the rehabilitation and further development of soil cultivation and animal breeding in order to surpass the prewar level of agricultural production in the USSR as a whole.

If the gross agricultural output in 1932 (in the First Five-Year Plan) is taken as 100, then in 1937 (in the Second Five-Year Plan) it amounted to 153; in 1940 (in the Third Five-Year Plan) to 177; and in 1950 it will amount to 225. By the end of the five years, the gross grain harvest will increase to 127 million tons i.e., 7 per cent above the 1940 level.

As regards industrial crops, the gross yield of sugar beet will increase to 26 million tons, i.e., 22 per cent above the prewar level;

the raw cotton yield will increase to 3,100,000 tons, i.e., 25 per cent above the prewar level; the flax yield to 800 thousand tons, i.e., 39 per cent above the 1940 level; and the yield of sunflower seed to 3,700,000 tons, i.e., 11 per cent above the prewar level.

In livestock breeding the Five-Year Plan provides for the restoration of the prewar herds of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs, and envisages an increase within five years in the number of horses by 46 per cent, of cattle by 39 per cent, of sheep and goats by 75 per cent and of pigs by 200 per cent as compared with 1945.

The cattle herds of the collective farms will increase to 25.9 million head, i.e., 29 per cent above the 1940 level; the number of sheep and goats will increase to 68.1 million, i.e., 62 per cent; and of pigs to 11.1 million head, i.e., 35 per cent above the 1940 level.

To ensure the rehabilitation and further development of agriculture, the Five-Year Plan provides for a considerable increase in the supply of tractors, agricultural machinery and mineral fertilizers to agriculture. Within five years agriculture will receive 720 thousand tractors (reckoned on the basis of 15 horsepower units) as against 512 thousand tractors supplied under the Second Five-Year Plan. The countryside will receive agricultural machinery to the value of 4,500 million rubles (at stable 1926-1927 prices), as compared with 1,900 million rubles under the Second Five-Year Plan.

The Five-Year Plan provides for the growth of the irrigated area by 656 thousand hectares (1,620,976 acres) and of the drained area by 615 thousand hectares, (1,519,665 acres.)

Along with the further mechanization of agricultural production, electrification will be continued on a larger scale. The Five-Year Plan provides for the construction in the villages of small hydro-electric stations with an aggregate capacity of one million kilowatts. This ensures electrification not only of machine and tractor stations and of State farms, but of many thousands of collective farms as well.

C. Transport

To ensure the outlined program of material production and construction work, the Five-Year Plan provides for an increase in the freight turnover of railway, water and automobile transport from 483 million ton-kilometers in 1940 to 657,500 million ton-kilometers in 1950, i.e., 36 per cent above the prewar level.

The Plan provides for the capital restoration of the railways in the formerly occupied districts, the construction of new railway trunk lines and the technical re-equipment of railway transport to ensure its steady work, especially under winter conditions.

In accordance with these tasks, the Five-Year Plan provides for increasing the number of locomotives of the country's own production by 6,165 steam locomotives, 555 electric locomotives and 865 diesel locomotives, as well as an increase in the rolling stock by 472 thousand freight cars.

Along with the capital restoration of the railway network in districts affected by invasion, new railway lines totaling 7,230 kilometers (4,510 miles) will be constructed, including 3,550 kilometers (2,200 miles) in Siberia. Electrification will be applied to 5,325 kilometers (3,310 miles) of railways, including those in the Kuznetsk Basin—Urals direction.

The Five-Year Plan provides for the capital investment of 40,100 million rubles for the restoration and development of railway transport.

As regards water transport, the Five-Year Plan provides for an increase of river transport freight traffic by 38 per cent and of sea transport freight traffic by 2.2 times in 1950 as compared with the prewar period.

In 1950 the building program for ocean-going vessels will be 2.5 times as great, and the river shipbuilding program will be four times as great as in 1940.

The Five-Year Plan ensures the construction of a powerful Soviet fleet, as well as the restoration of existing, and the construction of new sea and river ports.

The development of highway transport will continue; the country's automobiles will be doubled as compared with the prewar period, and air transport will be rapidly developed.

D. Reduction of Production Costs

The postwar reconstruction of the national economy requires the enhancement of the part played by economic levers in the organization of production and distribution, such as prices, money, credit, profit and premiums.

The systematic reduction of production costs is a law of socialist production. The total sum saved through reduction of production costs in industry, transport, machine and tractor stations and State

farms as compared with the 1945 level will amount to nearly 160,000 million rubles in the period of 1946-1950.

III.

PLAN FOR IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS

The peoples of the Soviet Union experienced incalculable material privations during the Patriotic War and made great sacrifices to ensure our country's victory. Improvement of the material, living and cultural conditions, worthy of a victorious people, is one of the most important tasks of the Five-Year Plan.

The growth of material production ensures a considerable rise in the national income, which in 1950 will surpass the prewar level by 38 per cent.

In 1950 the number of workers and employees occupied in the Soviet national economy will reach 33,500,000. The total payroll of workers and employees occupied in the national economy will increase in 1950 to 252,000 million rubles as against 162,000 million rubles in 1940.

The average annual wages of workers and employees occupied in the national economy will grow parallel with the growth of labor productivity, and in 1950 will surpass the 1940 level by 48 per cent.

The Five-Year Plan provides for an increase in State expenditure for the cultural and material needs of the working people in town and countryside (State expenditure for urban construction not included) to 106,000 million rubles in 1950, i.e., 2.6 times as much as in 1940.

In 1950, the number of elementary seven-grade schools and secondary schools will increase to 193 thousand, i.e., to the prewar level, and the number of pupils to 31,800,000. The number of students in higher educational institutions will increase to 674 thousand and in special secondary schools, to 1,280,000.

It is planned to increase the number of children in kindergartens to 2,260,000 in 1950, i.e., double the 1940 figure. Orphans of the Patriotic War will be fully taken care of at orphanages at the expense of the State.

The number of hospital beds will increase in 1950 to 985 thousand as compared with 710 thousand in 1940; and the number

of places in permanent nurseries to 1,251,000, as compared with 859 thousand in 1940.

The network of rest homes and sanatoriums for workers, peasants and intellectuals will be completely restored and medical treatment for disabled ex-servicemen is ensured.

The number of cinema installations will increase in 1950 to 46,700 as compared with 28 thousand in 1940. All theaters, clubs and public libraries in town and countryside will be completely restored.

Within five years it is planned to invest 42,300 million rubles in housing construction and to put into use 72,400,000 square meters of State-owned living floor space in towns and workers' settlements.

The retail trade turnover of State and cooperative stores will increase in 1950 to 275,000 million rubles, i.e., 28 per cent above the 1940 level. The prewar level of per capita consumption of basic foodstuffs and consumer goods will not only be attained but even considerably surpassed.

The Five-Year Plan provides for the abolition of the rationing system and the change to highly developed Soviet trade. It is planned to abolish the rationing of bread, flour, cereals and macaroni in 1946, and rationing of all other goods in 1946 and 1947.

The development of Soviet trade on the basis of the abolition of rationing and a steady reduction of commodity prices will strengthen currency circulation and will greatly increase the significance of the Soviet ruble in the country's entire economic life.

IV.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRODUCTIVE FORCES

With regard to the distribution of productive forces in the Union Republics and the economic districts of the USSR, the Five-Year Plan proceeds from the necessity of rehabilitating the districts affected by the invasion, of developing further the national economy of all the Union Republics and economic districts, and of bringing industries supplying raw materials closer together with regions of consumption.

In connection with this task the Five-Year Plan provides for an increase of capital construction in all of the Union Republics and

economic districts of the USSR, especially in Siberia and the Far East.

Of the total volume of capital investment in the national economy of the USSR, 115,000 million rubles are allocated for the rehabilitation of the districts affected by the invasion, and about 135,000 million rubles for the development of the national economy in other districts of the country.

In Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Kharkov, Rostov, Gorky and Sverdlovsk the construction of new enterprises will be restricted. The Five-Year Plan provides for the construction of industrial enterprises in new districts and towns possessing the requisite fuel, power and raw material resources.

In the districts of the USSR which were under the temporary rule of the fascist bandits, we face the task of restoring demolished towns and villages, industry, transport, agriculture and cultural institutions, and of creating normal living conditions for Soviet citizens delivered from fascist slavery.

During the Patriotic War, thousands of industrial enterprises were already partly restored in those districts, as well as more than 1,800 State farms and three thousand machine and tractor stations, 85 thousand collective farms, about six thousand hospitals and more than 70 thousand schools.

An area of 17,900,000 square yards of living floor space has been restored in the towns and 1,260,000 houses have been rebuilt in villages formerly occupied by the enemy.

However, only the smaller part of the restoration work required has been carried out in the districts of the USSR affected by enemy occupation.

The main tasks of the Five-Year Plan in the rehabilitation of the districts of the Russian Federation and of the Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Lithuanian, Moldavian, Latvian, Estonian and Karelo-Finnish Republics affected by occupation are as follows:

First, to attain the prewar level of industrial output and a further development of the national economy on the basis of thorough mechanization of labor and the introduction of the most modern technique. This means that within five years the industrial production in these areas must be increased 3.9 times, the output of coal 2.9 times, pig iron 5.1 times and power 4.4 times.

Second, to restore the network and carrying capacity of the railways, waterways and motor transport to ensure the attainment of

the prewar level and a further increase in trade turnover, for which purpose we shall have to increase railway freight traffic in the affected districts 2.3 times and river freight traffic 6.5 times within five years.

Third, to restore agriculture, which implies in the districts listed above an increase in the production of grain by 87 per cent, in the yield of sugar beet by 3.2 times, and in that of sunflower seeds by 73 per cent in the next five years; while the cattle herds must increase by 52 per cent and the number of pigs by 220 per cent.

Fourth, to rebuild the towns and villages demolished by the invaders, dwelling houses in the first place, which calls for putting into use a living floor space of 33,200,000 square meters (Government owned alone) within five years; a rise of the people's standard of living, with a simultaneous growth of labor productivity; the restoration of the retail trade turnover of State and cooperative stores, which will require the turnover to become 2.2 times as great within five years; the restoration of the prewar network of schools, cultural and public health institutions.

Voznessensky then dwelt in detail on the basic tasks of the Five-Year Plan for each of the 16 Union Republics and the most important economic districts. In concluding his report he said:—

V.

SPEED OF ECONOMIC PROGRESS

After the termination of the First World War and the Civil War, it took the USSR about six years to restore industrial production to the prewar 1913 level. The Five-Year Plan envisages the restoration of industrial production in the Soviet Union to the prewar 1940 level by 1948, while by the end of the five-year period this level will be greatly surpassed.

Thus, we intend to carry out industrial restoration twice as rapidly as after the termination of the First World War and the Civil War.

The industry of the Urals and Siberia is of paramount importance for speeding the pace of the restoration of our national economy.

In 1945 the industrial output in the Urals was more than three times as great as in 1940; the pig iron output had nearly doubled, the coal output had more than doubled and power production had doubled.

The industry of the Urals and Siberia is the pride of Soviet industry and our task is to strengthen and develop it in every way.

We have everything necessary to carry out the rehabilitation of our national economy at a rapid pace. We have reared the necessary cadres, cadres of Soviet intelligentsia. The peoples of the Soviet Union have grown culturally and passed through the historical school of socialist construction.

The industrial base in the eastern and central districts of the USSR has grown and gained strength.

Exploiting classes have been eliminated in the USSR, and an unparalleled moral and political unity of the peoples of the Soviet Union has been achieved. The trust and prestige enjoyed by the Communist Party and the Soviet Government, headed by our leader, Comrade Stalin, are exceptionally high. In this lies our strength and the earnest of victory.

We shall have to develop production in industry, agriculture, transport and construction at a rapid pace. To slow the pace of rehabilitation and further development of the national economy of the USSR would mean to fall behind, and those who fall behind are beaten. This is why we must achieve the pace of development envisaged by the Five-Year Plan.

Guided by Lenin's and Stalin's precepts forbidding any complacency after the achievement of victory, we must call upon workers, peasants and intellectuals to give all their strength to the cause of the earliest rehabilitation and further development of our national economy, the raising of the material and cultural standards of life of the Soviet people.

Comrade Stalin warns us that we must not confine ourselves merely to the consolidation of a victor's position, as this would lead us to stagnation. We must move forward to create the prerequisites for a new powerful rise of the national economy.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party the new Stalin Five-Year Plan will be successfully fulfilled and exceeded by the peoples of the Soviet Union.

Forward to new victories under the leadership of the great Stalin!

(Stormy, prolonged applause turning into an ovation.)

