

Reds Tightening Belts Again

By ENDRE MARTON
Of the Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's too early to say about 1962, but information just now available indicates that 1961 must have been a year of disappointment for the Marxist economic planners of most East European countries.

The tempo of boom—to use an expression that smacks of capitalism—that characterized 1959 and 1960 in those countries changed in 1961 from rapid to slow.

The Communists may immediately retort that (1) the same was true for non-Communist Western Europe, and (2) their statistics still show a greater average rate of growth than those of the capitalist part of the continent.

U. S. specialists would have no great quarrel with such an argument. The first, they say, is unquestionably true. They do have some reservations concerning the second.

Although the statistics for calendar 1961, officials said, were compiled by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), and are the latest and best available, they are based on data submitted by the Communist countries themselves and at least some of them were obviously concocted for propaganda purposes.

Deceleration Clearly Shown

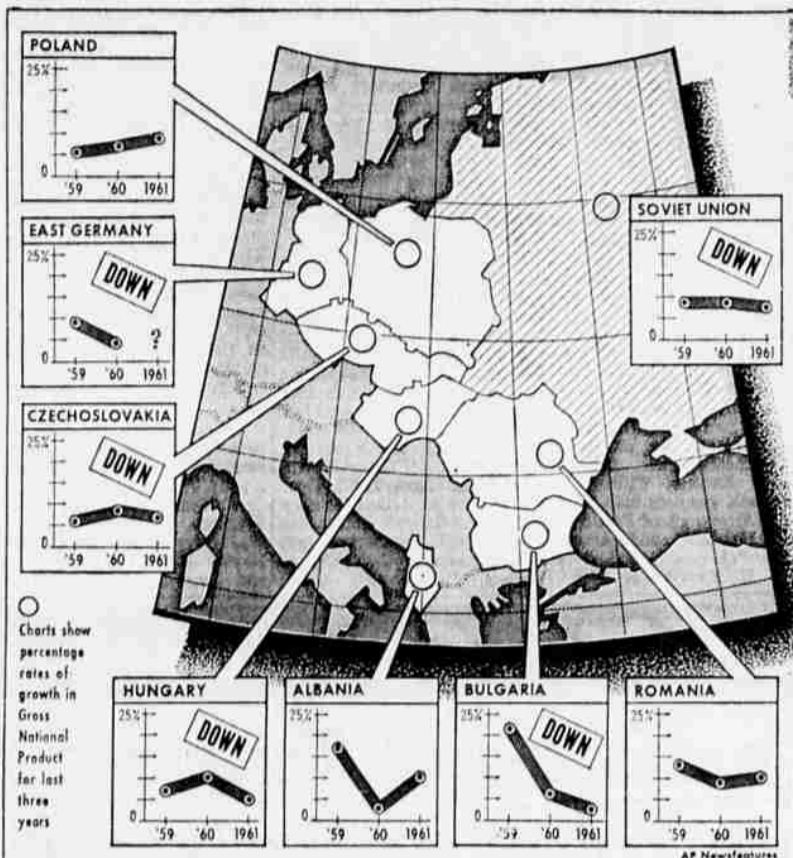
Another reason for reservation is more scientific. The basic principles of statistics are applied more loosely in the Communist countries than in the West. Therefore, Communist statistics of national income or indexes of industrial and agricultural output are often useless for purposes of economic analysis or for making comparisons between the Soviet bloc and the West.

For this second reason, U.S. economic experts are satisfied with ECE's handling of the statistics, which consists of comparative percentages only. These percentages, which appear on the accompanying map, clearly show the deceleration of economic growth in 1961, caused mainly by the debacle of agricultural production in what used to be central Europe's breadbasket.

According to this table only three nations out of the eight can boast of an increased growth in 1961: Poland, Romania, and Albania.

Worth Some Explanation

Agriculture was doubtless the major factor in the acceleration in Poland, the only Communist bloc country which has "decollectivized" its farms. Romania, on the other hand, is the only country in the area which enjoyed progress in industry and trade, mainly in oil. The favor-



Communist Agricultural Output

Country	1959	1960	1961
Albania	20	-7	-22
Bulgaria	18.1	3.1	-2.4
Czechoslovakia	-1.1	6	1
East Germany	Not Avail.	Not Avail.	Not Avail.
Hungary	6	-5	-1
Poland	-1	5.4	10.2
Romania	21	1.1	0
Soviet Union	Not Avail.	2.3	2

able figures in Albania are somewhat of a mystery considering the tiny "people's republic's" increasing isolation within the European Communist bloc.

The real trouble in 1961 was in agriculture. The serious drought in most countries depressed production in the first year of virtually complete collectivization (except in Poland) throughout the region.

Confidence Melts Away

Stock Drop Worst In About 30 Years

NEW YORK — As confidence continued to melt away, the stock market last week took its worst weekly loss in about 30 years.

The comparison had to be approximate because weekly statistics on stockmarket moves were not kept at the Associated Press and Dow Jones & Co. Inc. prior to 1932.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 30.75 to 640.63. This put the Dow 94.28 below its historic high of 734.91 reached last Dec. 13.

The Associated Press average of 60 stocks fell 11.00 to 236.10. No weekly break in the past 30 years was larger than the decline of 9.40 in the week ended July 22, 1933, in the days of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal.

Averages Much Lower

Without much doubt there were greater weekly declines in the black days of the 1929 decline, both on a point basis and, much more so on a percentage basis, because the averages were much lower at that period of stock market history. It was the market's third straight weekly decline and stocks fell in spite of generally encouraging news about the economy. The continued retreat also flew in the phase of various technical signs used by professional security analysts to calculate probabilities in the market.

and state-owned farms, was only 13 per cent in Poland, it was between 86 per cent (in Bulgaria) and 99 per cent (in the Soviet Union) elsewhere. The fact that only Poland — and again Albania — were the exceptions to the general picture of stagnation in agricultural production might be a great satisfaction to those who maintain that no indoctrination or pressure can "persuade" the farmer to toil harder on the field which does not belong to him.

(The table below the map accompanying this article shows the region's global output in agriculture, again in annual percentage rates of growth.)

The Polish phenomenon is worth some explanation. Besides the human factor, the Polish farmer's obvious greater interest in tilling on his private plot, the regime of Vladyslaw Gomulka has recognized that it could secure a more stable growth concentrating on animal husbandry, especially pork, poultry and egg production, while importing whatever the country needs in grain.

A Note of Caution

This, on the other hand, explains Poland's greater concern about the common market. Forty per cent of Poland's exports go to the capitalist countries and the common market's external tariff wall, protecting the agriculture of the six member nations, could have disastrous consequences to the economy of Poland.

Diplomats of these two countries do not conceal their concern. They hint that loss of their Western markets could force Poland to seek closer economic ties with Moscow. That such closer ties would also mean greater dependence on the Kremlin goes without saying.

Although the agricultural picture was and remains rather gloomy in the area in general, there is NO question of people going hungry, officials caution. There is enough to eat, but the quality of the products is appallingly low even in such a well-favored agricultural country as Hungary.

But while nobody is starving, there is—and always has been since the Communist take-over in the late 1940s—a frustrating lack of one commodity or another; one day there are no eggs, another day butter disappears.

President Praised

NEW DELHI — President Kennedy has sent a message congratulating Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his election as president of India, praising him as "an eminent statesman and an outstanding cultural leader."

Church Dedication

The dedication of the Open Bible Standard Church in Dexter will be held Monday at 7 p.m. standard, 8 p.m. daylight.

Saturday's Register-Guard church page erroneously reported the dedication as Sunday.

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Union Steps On Agenda For Meeting

FOREST GROVE — Steps toward creation of the Oregon Conference of the United Church of Christ will be taken next week at the 114th annual meeting of the Congregational Conference of Oregon.

The United Church of Christ has been formed on the national level by merger of the Congregational and the Evangelical and Reformed churches.

The three-day meeting will begin Monday afternoon at the First Congregational Church in Forest Grove. About 300 delegates will attend.

For the first time, delegates from the seven Oregon E & R churches will attend the meeting. There are 49 Congregational churches in the state.

The conference will vote on a resolution that the Oregon Conference of the United Church of Christ be created. Then a committee will write a constitution for the new body.

Government Makes Forecast Of More Irrigation Water

SEATTLE — Federal government agencies forecast more irrigation water for most farmers in the Columbia River watershed, but stream flow in Western Washington rivers used for power generation will be less than normal.

A long succession of dry years east of the Cascades has "definitely been broken," the Soil Conservation Service said in its Columbia River report.

Water supplies in most rivers of Eastern Washington, Idaho and Western Washington were reported close to normal. The Yakima River was an exception, however, rated at 57 per cent.

Inland reservoirs generally are well supplied with storage water from early runoff. While carryover storage may be below normal at the end of the irrigation season, it cannot drop as low as it was last fall, the Conservation Service said.

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