

Russia Leads as Iron Curtain Gains On Output of Steel

Cleveland, Ohio—Russia led the way as Iron Curtain countries gained on the free world in 1958 by inching up their share of the world's steel output.

Steel magazine reported Russia broke its steelmaking record for the 14th consecutive year as the Communist bloc nations produced 29 per cent of the 1958 world total. Last year it was 25 per cent. The bloc still produced less than the United States alone in a slow business year.

World output of steel in 1958 was 294,437,230 tons, down 8 per cent from 1957. This was the first time since 1954 that the 38 steel producing nations of the world failed to set a production record.

The nine Iron Curtain countries made 83,933,190 tons, up 4,462,190 tons from 1957. Only one country, North Korea, showed a decrease.

The free world turned out 210,444,040 tons, down 31,148,956 tons from 1957, as only 11 countries of the 29 gained in output.

U. S. Production Down
The U. S., world leader in steel production, contributed

45 per cent of the free world output. Its furnaces produced 24,750,000 tons of steel, down 27,964,996 tons from 1957, as operations averaged only 60.2 per cent of 1957 capacity.

Russia, which made 71 per cent of the Iron Curtain steel, was in second place in world production. Its 1958 output of 59,524,200 tons was 3,306,200 tons more than was produced in 1957. Observers believed Russia was producing as much as its capacity will permit.

The weekly metalworking industry magazine noted that in two decades the Soviet Union has changed from a predominantly agricultural nation to one which today is second only to the U. S. in economic strength. In 1930, when the first five-year plan was launched, Russia produced only 6.4 million tons of steel.

Germany's West zone ranked in third place in 1958 with a production of 26,175,220 tons of steel, down 838,780 tons from 1957.

Among the free world nations which increased production during 1958 over the previous year were South Africa, Australia, Mexico, Spain, Yugoslavia, France, Saar, The Netherlands, Norway, Argentina and Formosa.

Decreased outputs were registered by the U. S., Canada, Great Britain, Japan, India, Brazil, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, West Germany, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Turkey, Rhodesia and Colombia.

The eight Iron Curtain countries which upped production were Russia, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, China and Bulgaria.

Heifer Reported Killed and Stolen
A red shorthorn heifer owned by Pete R. Bateman, 3088 Table Rock rd., was killed and taken from the Bateman corral sometime during Dec. 26 or 27 according to a report given the sheriff's office.

Brand Inspector Rex Woodward is investigating.

The owners reported that the heifer, weighing between 400 and 450 pounds, was killed and bled in the corral before it was removed.

Belgian Congo is larger than the U.S. east of the Mississippi.

"No thanks, Lady. These aren't SANTIAM BLUE LAKE STRINGLESS GREEN BEANS!"



STRAIGHT-STRINGLESS ALL MEAT TENDER GREEN BEANS



Russia's Seven-Year Plan Promises More for Citizens

Moscow—If Russia's new seven-year plan to be launched next year succeeds, the Soviet citizen will be somewhat better off in 1959 than he was in 1958.

He will have more food and clothing, shorter work hours and more elbow room. His children will have only eight, instead of 10 years of compulsory schooling so they can start to work at the age of 15 with the opportunity to continue their education in night schools.

At the recent meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee, ordinary citizens were promised an upsurge of agricultural and other consumer goods, better housing and higher real wages.

But the political developments of 1958 in the USSR do not give hope of lessening tensions in 1959, with the constantly shifting focus of crisis—the Far East, the Middle East and now Berlin.

Any agreement on disarmament, which doesn't seem to be in the cards now, would materially aid Soviet economic progress.

Same Foreign Policy
Therefore, during 1959, the Kremlin will continue to plug disarmament and a summit conference as the solution to Berlin, and mid-Eastern and Far Eastern problems, though there is little prospect of success.

The year 1958 was marked by uninterrupted domestic, economic and political triumphs for the leadership of Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

He has been an unchallenged, dominating figure since the June, 1957, Central Committee meeting with the expulsion of the powerful opposition group of V. M. Molotov, Georgi Malenkov, Lazar Kaganovich, Dmitri Shepilov and Nikolai Bulganin.

The December Central Committee meeting laid the groundwork for the forthcoming Communist Party Congress in late January with the final disgrace of the opposition group and the absolute consolidation of Khrushchev's position and policies.

Communist Party control of all instruments of Soviet power—the state apparatus, armed forces and security organs—seems assured.

Khrushchev made a short shrift in 1958 of the last challenger of party control, Marshal Georgi Zhukov, who's been easily thrown into the limbo of forgotten men.

Control of Arts
The party this year also tightened its control of literature, the arts and sciences. This was evidenced in the December Congress of the Writers' Union of the Russian Republic which reaffirmed its principle that art is a weapon and writers are the Communist Party's first assistants in the construction of communism.

In science, Trofim Lysenko, who audaciously criticized the august Academy of Sciences from the platform of the Central Committee, will apparently again play an important role during the coming year.

Advocates of technocracy—engineers, economists, technicians—who bade for increased political authority a few years ago haven't been much encouraged.

Professional Leaders
The key figures of the Presidium Central Committee's Council of Ministers are all professional party leaders, although many had engineering or economics training.

One of the last professional specialists to have headed an important power organ was General Ivan Serov, removed in December as head of the security police. His successor is Alexander M. Shelepin, a young Communist Party official.

The 21st Communist Party Congress in January probably will be styled "the congress of conquerors." It will claim

Russian Time Bomb in West Berlin May Give West Gravest Crisis of '59

London—Russia left a six-month time bomb ticking in Berlin today that will confront the Free West in 1959 with its gravest crisis yet.

The Western Allies were pledged solemnly to remain in the isolated city in defiance of Moscow's ultimatum to them to get out.

But they still had to find the answer to the question of how they would do it without risking World War III.

The Kremlin touched off the slow-motion Berlin crisis Nov. 10. In a speech in the Polish capital of Warsaw, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev denounced existing four-power East-West agreements on Berlin and announced Russia was handing over to the East German Communists "those functions in Berlin which are still wielded by Soviet organs."

In a follow-up note on Nov. 27 the Soviets handed the West a six-month ultimatum. It called on the U.S., Britain and France to get out of Berlin within that time and proposed turning the anti-Communist Western sectors into a "free city," guaranteed by the four powers and the United Nations.

The West's reply was short and tough.

The North Atlantic Treaty (NATO) Council meeting in Paris Dec. 16 rejected the Soviet ultimatum. It did so after U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles told the 15-nation body that Russia would not risk a nuclear conflict over Berlin.

But the West left the door open to East-West negotiations with the Soviets—not on the Berlin question alone but on the entire Germany problem, coupled with the other major issues of disarmament and European security.

Whether the Soviets would agree to such talks remained doubtful. Only two days before Christmas as they announced their readiness to discuss European security. But they said there must be no tie-in with the German reunification issue, as the West always has insisted.

Questions Unanswered
Despite the West's tough talk, there still was no answer to the question: How can the Western allies supply their 100,000-man garrison and the 2,500,000 West Berliners if the Soviets pull out.

In practical terms, what is likely to happen is that the Soviets one day will pull out and hand over control functions to the East German Reds. That means control not only of the 110-mile railroad and Autobahn (super highway) links between West Berlin and West Germany, but the three air corridors as well.

The West is reported set to mount a new airlift, similar to that which beat the Berlin blockade in 1948 and 1949. But the Reds have warned they will not tolerate one this time. A new airlift, they have said, will be regarded as military aggression not only against Communist East Germany, but against the entire Communist Warsaw pact bloc.

Would the West defy these warnings and risk having its planes shot down? Would it send in tanks to keep open the land lines to West Berlin? Would it take such action at the risk of touching off a nuclear war over Berlin?

Those questions are at the heart of the dilemma the West faces in 1959 and for which no answers yet have been found.

Woman Killed As Jet Fighter Hits Buildings

Ipswich, England—One person was killed and several others injured Monday when a flaming U.S. Air Force jet fighter sliced between a group of houses and slammed into a garage at Kesgrave near here.

The pilot, 1st Lt. Charles L. Prescott, Santa Monica, Calif., ejected himself from the F100D Super Sabre and parachuted to safety before a local hospital for shock and minor injuries.

Two houses and the garage were destroyed by fire, and several other houses and a group of unoccupied trailers were damaged. A number of dogs were killed when debris plunged into their kennel area.

On Training Flight
Prescott was on a training flight from Sutton Heath Air Base, which is shared by the U.S. Air Force and the Royal Air Force.

The crash occurred five and a half miles from the base.

The body of a young woman was recovered from the wreckage of the garage struck by the plane. She was identified as Mrs. Elizabeth Aggis, 28, Kesgrave, who worked at the garage as a clerk.

A deep crater was left where the plane dove into the rear of the garage, and wreckage was strewn over a wide area. Police moved in to guard the scene of the crash.

District Court Issues Warrant

A district court warrant charging grand larceny has been issued for "Dustin Steele" in connection with the theft Christmas night of a \$100 television set and an \$18 radio from a room at the Wheel Inn motel, 525 South Riverside ave.

The warrant, signed by A. Eugene Plazzi, judge pro tem, sets bail at \$1,500.

According to Medford police records, Steele registered at the motel as an employee of Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company, Sacramento. He was reportedly driving a 1958 Chevrolet, dark blue or black, bearing Nevada license, W-122232.

Valley Peach-Pear Growers to Meet
Grant Merrill, Red Bluff peach grower, and Harry O'Reilly, plant pathologist at the University of California at Davis, will be among speakers at the annual meeting of valley peach growers here Jan. 27. County Agent Don Berry will be in charge.

The annual pear growers meeting is scheduled for Jan. 26, according to County Agent C. B. Cordy.

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