

Central Committee of Soviet Union To Discuss Chemical Industry

By DANIEL F. GILMORE
United Press International
MOSCOW (UPI) — "Chemistry," said Nikita Khrushchev, "is a mint which turns out gold."

In the coming week, the Soviet premier and party leaders plan to build a new mint, and it appears they need one. The setting will be a plenary meeting beginning Monday of

the Central Committee of the Communist party of the Soviet Union. Officially, it was summoned to discuss the problem of developing a more powerful So-

viet chemical industry, the third such meeting within five and one-half years. It will mark a dramatic attempt by Khrushchev and the top men of the ruling Central Committee to

find ways of curing five years of chronic agricultural troubles, and of relieving growing consumer goods.

The chemical industry is to be re-vitalized at the staggering cost of 40 billion rubles (\$44 billion) over the next seven years, along with a long-range irrigation project estimated to cost up to 20 billion rubles (\$21 billion).

Meanwhile, a not insignificant bill for wheat being imported or on order from Canada, Australia and the United States is piling up to the \$1 billion mark to make up for this year's poor harvests alone.

Something Must Give
Something in the massive Red economy will have to give, in the face of these awesome figures, either in heavy industry, space or defense, observers here claim.

Decisions made this week will have far-reaching repercussions in the Soviet Union and abroad. The chemical targets are to be spelled out in a major report presented by Khrushchev at 10 a. m. Monday to a plenum of the Central Committee.

Khrushchev To Enumerate Plans

MOSCOW (UPI) — Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev will enumerate his plans for an economic revolution through chemistry from a platform in the 19th century Grand Kremlin Palace, an assembly hall of monumental proportions built in 1939.

are expected to judge the plan with a critical eye. The central committee's job is to direct the party's work between party congresses, which are supposed to be held every four years. Day to day administration is delegated to the Presidium and the Secretariat, headed by Khrushchev.

Before then, the plenum met Nov. 19-23, 1962, when a number of radical changes were ordered in party economic organizations. The organizational changes were put forward in a 30,000-word report by Khrushchev and his chemical message could run as long.

Among new appointees at the November, 1962, plenum was Pyotr Demichev, 44-year-old member of the Secretariat, who was named to the new

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central committee bureau for the chemical and light industries. The spotlight will be on Demichev with the new emphasis on chemicals.

When this plenum ends, it will be followed by the session of the Supreme Soviet Dec. 16. Described as a two-house parliament, the Supreme Soviet includes the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities.

(The Soviet of the Union has 791 members, one for each 300,000 inhabitants of the country, elected for four-year terms. Elections are due next year. Also elected for four-year terms are the 652 members of the Soviet of Nationalities. Each of the USSR's 15 republics has 25 deputies, each autonomous republic has 11, each autonomous region five and each national area one.)

Used as Springboard
Khrushchev used the last session as a springboard for a major foreign policy speech in which he replied at length to Chinese and Albanian allegations that the Soviet Union was following a policy of "appeasement" toward the United States during the Cuban crisis.

A year later, China is continuing to rail at the Soviet Union for its "kow-towing" to America and Khrushchev is still standing firm on his professed policy of co-existence and negotiations to ease tensions.

The coming weeks will see, in the aftermath of the new Johnson administration in the United States, how strongly this will be reaffirmed.

Enormous Sum
"This is an enormous sum," Khrushchev himself said of the funds for the development of the chemical industry. But he claims the Soviet economy can shoulder it with minor adjustments and no effect on space or defense.

"Perhaps it will be necessary to slow down somewhat the development of some branches in order to give priority to the development of chemistry in the next 3 to 4 years," he told a group in late October.

Defense Said Necessary
"This will not come off... what is necessary for defense we have done and we are doing."

To put it in a nutshell, expenditures on the development of chemistry will not affect our defense. This year, certain difficulties have arisen here, but we will overcome them."

The weather has not been kind to the Soviet Union this year. A very cold winter with harsh frosts destroyed winter crops. Spring crops gave lesser yields.

The summer was dry and hot and large areas of "virgin land" in Siberia and Kazakhstan and a considerable part of European Russia and the Ukraine suffered severe drought.

Russia has come a long way since the days when millions were allowed to perish in famines. Khrushchev is not the least embarrassed to buy in the west. With characteristic bluntness he said in late October:

Don't Have Enough
"If we purchase wheat from capitalist countries, this means that we don't have enough wheat of our own this year. If we had enough wheat of our own, we would not buy it... our wheat shortage this year is explained by the extremely unfavorable climatic condition... the party and government are now taking measures which in the future will guarantee the necessary quantities of grain."

"One of the secrets of American farming is that in the United States large quantities of mineral fertilizers are fed to grain crops," Khrushchev said.

"And in our country, that was not done hitherto. That is why harvests largely depend on rain-fall. We want to get rid of the fatal influence of the whims of nature, to make sure of raising stable harvests. For those purposes we must take advantage of science, chemistry and irrigation."

Khrushchev is proposing a crash program, the vastness of which he has described on a number of occasions to visitors, newsmen and in speeches to farmers. He told a top level group of American business executives Nov. 6: "We shall raise our level of productivity in agriculture to the level obtained in the United States." How?

"It all boils down to the need for more mineral fertilizers and this entails the need for capital. We have capital," Khrushchev said.

"Gentlemen capitalists," he interrupted himself, "you shake your heads skeptically. But I nod my head and I say it will be done."

One source of investment funds Khrushchev has mentioned is a bonus of 40 billion rubles (\$44 billion) he says has

resulted from over-fulfillment of the current seven year plan for the development of industry. Agriculture has not been as fortunate.

"For 1964 and 1965 we are adjusting our original plan for fertilizers and agricultural machinery. For the next five year plan which is now under development, we envision a greater share for chemicals, plastics, artificial fibers, mineral fer-

tilizers... The plastics will be used in industry but items such as synthetic fibers, artificial leathers and so on will mainly go to satisfy needs in the field of consumer goods."

Indicating even greater urgency to get on with his program, Khrushchev told the American businessmen he would like to buy mineral fertilizers, synthetic resins, fibers and the like from the United States.

Such vast future programming would seem to demand a fairly stable period of international relations, in view of experts here.

So a sheaf or wheat — or the lack of it—could keep pressure off Berlin. It could also explain the Kremlin's almost stoic patience in the face of vitriolic and vicious attacks from the men of Peking.

Khrushchev, with pressing domestic projects, would not seem anxious to push a two front cold war with China and the United States.

But he claims there will be no slackening of the Soviet space program or relaxation of the U.S.S.R. military posture.

"How much of that is whistling in the dark," as one diplomat put it, "is anyone's guess."

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