

soviet union

Soviets Attack Heavy Industry Blockages, Ignore United Europe Solution

June 29 (IPS) — June 21 the Central Committee of the CPSU published a resolution on serious problems in the ferrous metallurgy and heavy industry sectors of the Soviet Union's economy. The strongly worded message accuses three Government ministries (responsible for steel production, power and transport-machine building, and special construction work) of wasting metal and running production inefficiently. Many plants and construction sites are cited for allowing "gross infractions of state standards and plant discipline...in the use of ferrous metals."

Underproductivity in these sectors is a major cause of Soviet economic problems, especially in the crucial task of maximizing the harvest. June 14, for example, *Pravda* reported that as many as half of the harvesting machines in the important black-soil regions are still out of repair. The infrastructure for agricultural transport is also in bad shape. Both depend chiefly on the machine-building and special construction sectors and steel production which supply them.

The only competent approach to ending this critical breakdown is increased economic cooperation and trade with a Western Europe free of Rockefeller domination — especially around the joint development of nuclear fusion power. But the Soviets are still denying reality — that they can only save themselves from Nelson Rockefeller's designs for world fascism by repudiating David Rockefeller's seductive offer of development by U.S. firms bent on destroying the Socialist bloc.

Political Maneuvers

The resolution is timed to make fullest use of the current state of mind of the Soviet working class. A month of official campaigning for the Supreme Soviet slate has just ended in the national voting day holiday. Since it is impossible to ignore these formalities, most

Soviet workers have just gone through a month of speeches and press articles celebrating their own productive abilities. The resolution serves as a mobilization challenge to the Soviet heavy industry worker, who is encouraged to locate his social identity in the production successes of his shop, plant, or sector.

The text of the resolution, as it appeared on the front page of *Pravda*, reveals a Party attack chiefly on the government's ministerial and subsidiary levels. Three ministers are mentioned by name, suggesting that the Party leadership will hold their sections of the managerial bureaucracy personally responsible for continuing deficiencies of production.

There is no doubt that the underproductivity of heavy industry is a major sore spot in the Soviet economy, limiting its ability to sustain the working class. Soviet technological progress in this field, which includes some of the world's most advanced smelting techniques, has not been realized in the productive process. The Soviet state is too crippled by shortages of capital goods and skilled labor and the massive top-heavy bureaucracy to put it to use. The solution lies in the expanded cooperative division of labor — extending into especially the highly developed West German sector. Neither Stakhanovite exhortation of the working class nor impotent invocation of "scientific progress" is appropriate to the world facing the CPSU leadership. Real application of the principle of necessary scientific progress dictates immediate development of fusion power technology as the basis of expanding production on a new qualitatively higher level. The ICLC United Front proposal for a fight against Rockefeller, and for the Europeanwide Golden Snake and fusion power, familiar to several members of the CPSU Central Committee, defines the concomitant political necessity for the international working class.