

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Record Soviet Harvest

Soviet agricultural production in 1958 has set a new record. The volume of grain production is apparently about the same as in 1956--the best previous year--but the amount of grain procured by the state is about 6 percent greater this year than in 1956, partly as a result of lower harvest and post-harvest losses. Khrushchev will again be able to point with pride to the harvest obtained from his virgin-lands program.

Production of other crops has ranged from good to record for sugar beets, oil seeds, and fodder. According to Mikoyan's remarks in his anniversary address on 6 November, total Soviet milk output in 1958 will equal US milk production. The record amount of roughage and silage stored for livestock promises sizable gains for the output of livestock products next year, bringing the USSR a little closer to Khrushchev's still distant goal of catching up with the United States in per capita production.

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