As the last lecturer on today's agenda, I have not to be very eloquent and I'll try to keep myself from speaking too long. What we heard yesterday and today facilitates my task. Some of my conclusions were anticipated by other speakers. I was especially stimulated by the inaugural address by Professor Rao.

Let me now explain in a rather general way the attitude of Soviet scholars to the main issue of our Congress.

The development of agriculture historically served as the springboard of industrial progress. The separation of handicrafts from agriculture and their growth into manufacturing industries gave rise to further major shifts in the social division of labour. Its continuous development is resulting today in high technology industries, the sphere of production and social services playing an ever greater role. Agriculture, though remaining in the orbit of these changes, has found itself, nevertheless, in the group of 'old' branches of the economy whose share is diminishing. This has its own sociopsychological repercussions. Thus, modern conceptions of socioeconomic progress, strengthening of the national economic potential and improvement of the national economic well-being are associated with industrialisation. Indeed, with the exception of New Zealand, it is difficult to find an example of how a country drawing mainly upon its agriculture and the processing of its products could reach the level of per capita national income of the industrially developed countries of the West. Does this mean that agriculture has lost its exceptionally important role in the present-day economy? In my opinion, successful development of agriculture even today is one of the indispensable
preconditions of general economic progress. This holds true for all groups of countries, irrespective of the level of their development and social organisation. Half the world population still lives on income from agriculture, while in developing states this proportion is considerably higher (FAO, 1982, p. 1). Providing the world population with foodstuffs, and industry with agricultural raw materials, has become one of the most acute global problems of our times, whose solution calls for internationally co-ordinated efforts and determines, in a large measure, the prospects of human civilisation.

Technological progress is making rapid inroads in agricultural production. Many countries, including India, have felt the beneficial effect of the Green Revolution. Despite this, however, the agrarian sector of the economy nearly everywhere exhibits considerably less dynamism and greater conservatism in its structures as compared to industry. In most cases it has a lower level of labour productivity than in industry, less concentration of production and a smaller output per unit of capital investment. It is becoming ever more evident that industrial progress by polluting the environment and by reducing the productive farm areas hampers the growth of the production of foodstuffs. Coupled with this is the great dependence of agriculture on climatic conditions and the instability of agricultural markets. Are not these the reasons responsible for the fact that in many developing countries and in some socialist states the agrarian sector is the 'bottleneck' in the economy, and that in the industrially developed countries of the West the high level of agrarian production is based to a great extent on enormous state subsidies?

What should be the balance between industry and agriculture in our day? The contemporary world is multi-faceted and the levels and conditions of development of individual countries generally differ. It is impossible therefore to answer this question unambiguously. It is clear that on the global level there is no balance. In the past few decades the annual increase in food production only insignificantly surpasses the growth rate of population. Starvation and malnutrition of hundreds of millions of people in some parts of the planet are combined with 'overproduction' of foodstuffs in other areas. The above-mentioned balance is absent in many cases on a national level too.

The general dependence between the economic growth of a country and the development of its agriculture are well known today and mathematically described, thanks first of all to the works of Professor S. Kuznets (Kuznets, 1964). The development of the non-agricultural