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The petroleum-refining and petrochemical workers of the Ukrainian SSR are celebrating a great holiday of the Soviet people—the 50th anniversary of the founding of the USSR—with new achievements of labor. Having taken part in the socialist competition in honor of the glorious celebration, they were obligated to fulfill the yearly production plan for petroleum products and petrochemicals ahead of time, by December 28, 1972, and to produce a considerable quantity of products over and above the plan, including consumer goods.

Above-plan production is designated for a considerable quantity of automotive gasoline (especially high-octane), low-sulfur diesel fuel, waxes for the food industry, electrode coke, synthetic fatty acids, lubricating-cooling fluids, greases, and many other products.

The toilers of Glavneftekhimperekotka [Central Administration of Petroleum and Chemical Processing] of the Soviet of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR were obligated in 1972 to increase labor productivity by 10.4% in comparison with the first year of the five-year plan, and to obtain an above-plan profit by 2.0 million rubles.

With the aim of an increase in the technical level of production, growth in labor productivity, product quality improvement, and cost reduction, socialist obligations provided that the number of process units that went on stream in 1972 should be brought up to design capacity a month before the original target date. Provision was also made for increasing the capacity of existing units by modernization and operating at more severe conditions.

According to preliminary data, the workers of this branch of industry are successfully fulfilling their obligations.

In the successful fulfillment of the increased obligations accepted by the workers of the branch, a decisive role was played by the historic resolutions of the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (KPSS), which clearly defined the aims and tasks of economic development of the country and inspired the entire Soviet nation to feats of labor. Also of great importance has been the fraternal help of the other Union republics in realizing the grandiose program of growth in the petroleum refining and petrochemical industry of the republic, particularly in the design and construction of such major installations of the modern petroleum refining industry as the Kremenchug and Lisichansk refineries.

It is hard to overestimate the importance of the successful growth of the petroleum refining and petrochemical industry for the Ukraine.

The high technical and economic level of development of the republic predestined a high density of petroleum product consumption. For example, the total consumption of petroleum products in 1970 was eight times the prewar level, and nine times the 1950 level.

Along with the changing trend in engine building, particularly dieselization and the transition of the locomotive, marine, and river fleet to diesel propulsion, significant changes have appeared in the structure of petroleum product consumption.

The relative amount of diesel fuel in the light oils produced (automotive gasoline, tractor kerosene, and diesel fuel) has increased by a factor of more than 20 during the postwar years, with a corresponding decrease in the relative amount of tractor kerosene; the consumption of diesel fuel in the Ukrainian SSR increased by a factor of 274 in comparison with 1940, and a factor of 25 in comparison with 1950.

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Very marked changes have occurred in the consumer demand for petroleum product quality, especially for automotive gasoline, diesel fuel, and lubricating oils.

All of these factors, as well as the demand for a continuous, rapid increase in the efficiency of collective production, have set a high level for the technical and economic growth of the petroleum-refining industry of the republic.

The tempo and character of the growth of the republic's petroleum-refining industry has been influenced markedly by the rapid development of its own raw material base, the high-quality features of Ukrainian crude oils, and the geographic features of industry location. It will be sufficient to note that such a generalizing index of refinery location efficiency as the density of petroleum product consumption had increased by a factor of 2.1 in 1960-1970 and now is five times the USSR average.

The successes in growth of the refining industry of the Ukraine become very perceptible when viewed on the background of the difficulties encountered in this growth - an extremely unbalanced distribution of the refining industry in prerevolutionary Russia, the occupation and ravaging of the national economy of the Ukraine by fascist aggressors.

Before the Revolution the petroleum refining industry of the Ukraine was represented by 60 small, technically obsolete plants processing about 1 million metric tons per year.

Even though the average refinery capacity had tripled by the time of reunification of the West-Ukrainian land with the Soviet Ukraine, the total capacity of all refineries remained at the 1907-1908 level, owing to a reduction in the number of refineries. However, even these small refineries were running below capacity because of the drop in oil production at the end of 1938 and the beginning of 1939. Some of the refineries were mothballed.

After reunification of the West-Ukrainian land with the Soviet Ukraine, all plants were put on stream at full capacity.

The Ukraine before the revolution and in the first years of Soviet power up to September 1, 1939 did not have a single petroleum refinery. The beginning of growth of the refining industry of the Ukraine in the years of Soviet power was marked by the mid-1937 startup of the Odessa cracking plant, built in a very short time (plant construction started in August of 1935). The Odessa cracking plant was technically very advanced for its time. The construction of a two-furnace cracking unit of the "Nefteproekt" system in this plant was a major achievement. In later years, similar plants were built in Kherson and Berdyansk.

The growth of the republic's refining industry was interrupted by the treacherous assault of the fascist army on the Soviet Union. During the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, some of the refineries were demolished, others dismantled.

Immediately after the war, with the help of workers from the refining industry and machine builders of the RSFSR and the Azerbaijan SSR, restoration of the ravaged refineries was started. The first to go on stream in the Ukraine were the Drogobych, Nadvornaya, and L'vov refineries. In May of 1949, the first products came from the Odessa refinery, and from the Kherson refinery in 1951.

In Berdyansk, on the site of a cracking plant that had been dismantled during the war, a large plant for grease production was built. In 1948-1949, the restoration of the petroleum refining industry of the Ukrainian SSR was complete.

A major role in the restoration of the war-ravaged refining industry of the republic was played by veterans of labor such as the Odessa refinery director and Hero of Socialist Labor V. I. Korchagina, the Nadvornaya refinery director Yu. V. Soldak, the Drogobych I refinery director V. Ya. Rudakova, the Drogobych II refinery director V. G. Romanov, the Kherson refinery director V. N. Demidov, the Berdyansk ONMZ (petroleum lube oil pilot plant) director S. A. Stepanyants, and also I. G. Lugovskoi, F. Kh. Sharf, I. G. Ashkinazi, and others.

The Ministry of Higher Education of the USSR in 1945 opened a petroleum department in L'vov Polytechnic Institute that, beginning in 1950, turned out annually some 75-100 engineer-technologists in petroleum and gas processing.

Major contributions in the preparation of engineering personnel were made by S. M. Yampol'skii, T. T. Gonta, S. N. Popov, D. A. Strom, I. G. Triandofiliidi, V. I. Borodkin, and others.