THE ASSIGNMENTS OF THE NINTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN HAVE BEEN FULFILLED SUCCESSFULLY

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The year 1975, the crowning year of the Ninth Five-Year Plan, the same as the preceding years, has been met with the selfless labor of workers in the petroleum refining and petrochemical industry in bringing to life the decisions of the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and in fulfilling the assignments of the Five-Year Plan.

In 1975, the target figures were exceeded by 1% in production volume and by 0.5% in labor productivity; the growth in labor productivity has been responsible for about 80% of the increase in production volume. Here the growth rates in production volume and labor productivity are respectively 8.8 and 6.8% above those for the preceding year.

Production in excess of the plan assignments has included hundreds of thousands of tons of automotive gasolines and diesel fuels, more than one hundred thousand tons of mineral fertilizers, tens of thousands of tons of synthetic rubbers, hundreds of thousands of automotive tires, and many other products.

As a result, the industry has fulfilled the additional socialist obligations it has accepted, toward a worthy greeting to the 25th Congress of the Communist Party of the USSR.

The next accomplishment in the course of the Party in increasing production efficiency through strengthening the intensive factors in the growth of productive forces of the industry branch was a pledge that the industry could increase the production potential to give an incremental production volume at the level of the directives of the 24th Party Congress and the assignments of the Five-Year Plan with respect to primary crude oil processing, boiler and diesel fuel production, and the output of mineral fertilizers, pneumatic tires, and other types of products, with a significant improvement in the indices of operation in comparison with those for the Eighth Five-Year Plan.

While advancing from year to year in the planned growth rate in production volume, the petroleum refining and petrochemical industry has furnished significant amounts of additional products to the national economy and has fulfilled the assignments of the Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule with respect to realized production volume.

Thanks to the growth in introducing advanced production processes, the relative share of high-octane gasolines has increased by a factor of 1.5; this includes a factor of 1.9 for A-76 gasoline and a factor of 10 for Al-93 gasoline. The relative amount of new synthetic rubbers to replace natural rubber, out of the total production volume, has increased from 33.2% in 1970 to 75.6% in 1975; a new line of special-purpose rubbers has been developed to satisfy the requirements of a number of branches of industry; and new designs have been developed and production has been organized for automotive tires with better mileage, as well as rubber and asbestos mechanical goods with improved service characteristics. More than 2000 new types of products have been put into production, and more than 300 obsolete types have been withdrawn.

By the beginning of November 1975, we find that 54 plants out of 220 had already fulfilled the requirements of the Five-Year Plan in accordance with the Directives of the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

"The year of 1975," so spoke Comrade Brezhnev in a speech given in Kishinev, "will be, however, not only the crowning year of the present Five-Year Plan. This is also the eve of the 25th Congress of our party, for which we must define the prospects for further growth of our nation. And it is natural that we are now thinking no longer of just what has been achieved today, but also of what we must do in the future, which paths we must tread in order to move forward with greater success."*

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Having concluded the assignments of the Ninth Five-Year Plan, the workers of the petroleum refining and petrochemical industry are ready to embark on the first year of the Tenth Five-Year Plan, which will be five years of efficiency, five years of quality, and five years of further growth in the national welfare.

A characteristic feature of further growth in production efficiency is found in the fact that our industry, under conditions of a smaller increase in the volume of crude oil process than was provided in the annual plans of the Ninth Five-Year Plan, must furnish a greater output of motor fuels and petrochemical feedstocks.

Thus, the problem consists of this: We must increase the degree of recovery of white products (distillates); and, with smaller expenditures of materials, we must provide further growth in the production of petroleum products, synthetic rubbers, tires, and mechanical rubber goods. This must be accomplished on the basis of a further increase in product quality so as to increase the service life of the articles and improve their endurance.

Increasing the quality of products—this is the key problem of the present day; in order to resolve this problem, it is necessary, within the plan, to set up assignments on increasing product quality such that fulfillment of these assignments, with an appropriate system of economic stimulation, must provide the following:

(a) an increase in the technoeconomic level of the manufacturing processes and of the resulting products, in the design stage;

(b) performance of systematic work in standardizing product quality and in certifying products, with a determination of the effects on the national economy;

(c) the formation of incentive funds in the All-Union production associations and in the plants, tied in to fulfillment of the assignments on improving product quality.

When these measures are accomplished, we will be able to achieve the goals that have been mapped out toward increasing the output of products in the top quality category.

The Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry of the USSR has at its disposal the great commercial potential of this industry.

The tasks are to provide a sharp increase in the efficiency of utilizing the existing production capacity; to improve the geographical location of productive forces, so that the production of petroleum products that are used very widely will be brought near the regions of mass consumption; and to introduce manufacturing schemes through which we can increase the depth or severity of crude oil processing in the refineries.

An essential contribution to the matter of increasing tire mileage is a further increase in the production of tires made in new and improved designs, primarily Type R tires in which the cords are located radially in the carcass; these tires have a service life 40-60% longer than that of bias-belted tires.

It is well known that the 24th Congress of the CPSU has pointed out the need for concentrating and specializing production, as the most important condition for increasing the efficiency of general production.

Considerable experience has been accumulated in the petroleum refining and petrochemical industry on designing and creating such large commercial complexes as the production associations "Bashneftekhimzavody," "Kuibyshevneftekhimzavody," and "GrozneRekhimzavody."

Large production complexes are also being created in the synthetic rubber, tire, and mechanical rubber goods industry. Here we are speaking of the Nizhnekamsk Petrochemical Combine and the tire production complex at the same location, as well as the Belotserkovsk Combine for the production of tires and rubber and asbestos mechanical goods.

During the years of the Ninth Five-Year Plan alone, the average refinery capacity in the USSR has increased by one fourth and now exceeds the average crude oil capacity of refineries in the USA by a factor of three; the average capacity of synthetic rubber production plants has been increased by 30%, manufacturing plants for technical-grade carbon by 37%, and tire plants by 18%.

In accordance with the decisions of the 24th Party Congress and the resolution of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministries of the USSR "On certain measures toward further improvement in administration of industry," a general scheme has been developed and put into effect for the administration of the petroleum