After considering the results of the All-Union socialist competition for early completion of the 1975 national economic plan and successful termination of the Ninth Five-Year Plan, the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, the USSR Council of Ministers, the All-Union Central Trade Union Council, and the Central Committee of the All-Union Leninist Komsomol League have declared a number of enterprises, including the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine, to be the winners in the field of industry and have awarded them commemorative badges of the Party Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the All-Union Central Trade Union Council, and the Central Committee of the All-Union Leninist Komsomol League "For prowess in the Ninth Five-Year Plan" and the Red Challenge Banners of the Party Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the All-Union Central Trade Union Council, and the Central Committee of the All-Union Leninist Komsomol League, with entry on the All-Union Roll of Honor at the Exhibition of Achievements of the USSR National Economy, for achieving the highest figures in completing the Ninth Five-Year Plan, improving production efficiency, raising productivity, and improving the quality of products for the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy.

COMPETITION: THE GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS

V. D. Yakimenko

Fifteen years ago, on demobilization from the forces, I came to tube-drawing shop No. 7 to work as a helper on the mills for cold rolling of tubes. This was the first shop in the Soviet Union to produce stainless-steel tubes. It was a difficult time because we had neither experience nor knowledge.

After a year I became a roller, but still had a feeling of lack of confidence. The technology had not been perfected, production norms were frequently altered, and there were many stoppages on the mills. I went to a metallurgical evening institute to improve my theoretical knowledge.

Time passed, I gained in experience and knowledge. In 1968 I was appointed foreman of that same tube cold-rolling section. Now, as before, came the search for the best methods and improved organization, but now with added responsibility for the team entrusted to me.

Before the start of the Ninth Five-Year Plan the brigade undertook new socialist obligations which were somewhat out of the ordinary. They differed from the preceding obligations in form and content and, more importantly, in their essential nature. Whereas previously we had undertaken obligations to increase output, reduce idle time, and the like, the socialist obligations now included terms (supported by technical calculations) concerned with improvements in technology and equipment. For example, a new high-speed modernized mill was being installed in the section, for us to work on! We wrote the following term into the obligations: "To master the mill and to provide for increased output norms on it of not less than 15% of the norms now in force. "Terms governing the mechanization of the output side of the mill with automatic tube cutting while in motion were included in the obligations on our own initiative; this improvement made the work of the roller and helper much easier. These obligations were successfully met.

Thus, we have undertaken specific obligations supported by accurate calculations since the first year of the Ninth Five-Year Plan. The brigade members began to put their interests and those of neighboring teams first and to take an interest in how many tubes had been rolled in the shift or in the month. What idle time had there been? Has everyone fulfilled the output norms today. In the Ninth Five-Year Plan, the section was fitted with modern equipment: In 1972 there were three high-speed mills in operation, five in 1973, and eight in 1974. The average output per mill rose by 20%, and the technology of tube production on
the mills was mastered. Everything was done by our rollers and helpers: R. M. Ishmaev, F. A. Likhonosov, B. I. Ugol'nikov, G. F. Zakharov, the senior roller K. K. Guloi, I. I. Komyagina, P. I. Babin, and many others.

However, we did more than strive to increase the output from the equipment. We made provision in our socialist obligations for measures to make work easier and to maintain safety. Following our proposals, the runout tables on the nine mills were automated, flying saws to cut the tubes while in motion were installed, the floors around the mills replaced, catwalks were built, and local and general illumination were increased.

In summing up the monthly socialist competition results, we shared our experience with others. The individual competition winners among the rollers and helpers were named, production work and social activity and behavior in everyday life being taken into account.

There is no absenteeism in our brigade, and we take pride in this. Once there was a case of breach of public order by a member of the brigade, but this was a lifelong lesson for him. The whole brigade condemned his behavior and the members of the brigade kept a check on him for a long time until they were sure that now everything would be normal.

The brigade took particular care in its preparations for adopting socialist obligations for the concluding year of the Ninth Five-Year Plan. This was a test for us, an examination to see whether we would maintain the rate set. Assimilation of the new twin-strand mill was the main point in these socialist obligations. The mill was erected in February, 1975. The school for exchange of experience among the rollers provided for in the socialist obligations was held prior to this.

The entire shop staff showed an interest in mastering the equipment on this mill. Much valuable advice was given by G. S. Borozdin, R. M. Ishmaev, and rollers from other shifts. The collective labor of the operators and the mechanics became a collective victory; the mill ran evenly, without breakdowns. Its output was 40% higher than that of a similar mill designed by the All-Union Scientific-Research Institute of Metallurgical Engineering and Design and 100% higher than that of ordinary mills.

By the middle of the concluding year of the Ninth Five-Year Plan we had completed our socialist obligations in terms of productivity and were still gathering speed. The roll changing time norms and output norms were reviewed, on the initiative of the rollers. In August productivity rose by 8.1%, and by 10.6% in October, a record for the drawing shops at the plant. On the eve of the anniversary of the October Revolution our brigade reported to the Motherland that the Ninth Five-Year Plan assignments had been completed ahead of schedule.

Our brigade will have to do even more in the first year of the 10th Five-Year Plan. In this we will be helped by the competition which has developed from our initiative at the enterprise, to make a worthy contribution to the 25th Party Congress and to overfulfill the tube production plan in the first year of the 10th Five-Year Plan.